Rights-Based Approaches to Development

Introduction by Sarah Hamilton
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This digest offers a multidimensional, well-chosen, and timely compilation of resources analyzing the myriad relationships between fields devoted to the realization of human rights and human development. I appreciate having the opportunity to introduce the issue for two reasons. First, the contributors perform a tremendous service to both fields. They have created an accessible pathway to works that engage: the normative, substantive, and empirical dimensions of the human rights/development nexus; key debates among theoreticians, policy-makers, and practitioners concerning this nexus; inclusive analysis of institutional frameworks and actors; and attention to both opportunities for, and challenges to, the realization of increasingly holistic and converging visions of human rights and sustainable human development. This contribution is invaluable. Second, introducing this issue allows me to highlight briefly some of the bases for the mutual understanding and cooperation needed to realize common human rights and human development agendas.

On the development side of the movement toward convergence is an increasingly broad acknowledgement that economic growth does not inevitably lead to gains in human development (encompassing freedom to promote and maintain human dignity and to realize one's potential, material quality of life, non-exploitative employment, productivity, socio-political participation, and security, among other dimensions) for a majority of the populations in countries experiencing even relatively long-term growth. Thus, economic growth cannot be viewed as the measure, or even the linchpin, of sustainable development, which (for at least the past two centuries) has included social as well as economic ends. At the level of the state, sustainability rests not only on the use of economic gains for investment in human development, but for a distribution of such investment that serves to decrease inequality in assets and access to institutions of power. The growing emphasis on equity and human development (albeit at times using an efficiency-based argument) has been complemented by a more holistic view of both the ends and means of development that takes into account environmental sustainability issues; roles for civil society and the private sector; community-based approaches; and explicit attention to racial, ethnic, social and bio-social (e.g., women and children) groups that are most marginalized from the intended benefits of development. Development is now broadly defined as a field of endeavor that aims to further indivisible human rights, as codified in international standards.

Growing attention to issues of inequality and discrimination brings development thought and practice to the shores of human rights discourses, which emphasize not only the ends, but also the means, of development processes. Human rights also provides a framework for rights-based development efforts to hold both state and non-state actors accountable for protection of economic, political, social, and cultural rights of their client populations. Indeed, a human rights focus encouraged development institutions to greatly increase efforts in the areas of civil and political rights as integral to the development process. Development has become a field of action
encompassing not only the capacitation of marginalized groups, but also of those actors engaged in establishing, monitoring and enforcing rights regimes. In turn, development brings to human rights perspectives grounded in long-term observations of social, political, economic, and cultural dynamics that act to support or constrain the realization of rights. At the level of implementation, the fields offer complementary institutions, tools, and other resources that can produce an effort greater than the sum of its parts.

As example, the United Nations Development Programme, discussed below, presents a vivid challenge to proponents of human rights: “The torture of a single individual rightly raises public outrage. Yet the deaths of more than 30,000 children every day from mainly preventable causes go unnoticed. Why? Because these children are invisible in poverty. Poverty eradication is a major human rights challenge of the 21st century” (Human Development Report 2000: 8). Readers of this issue will be directed to cumulative evidence, critical analysis, and creative proposals aimed at strengthening human rights through genuinely rights-based development.
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The African Union
by Makaria Green

The African Union (AU) was established on July 8, 2001. Its predecessor was the Organization for African Unity (OAU)—established in 1963. The charter that created the OAU was the result of several multinational African conferences held in the 1950s and 1960s aimed at supporting Africans who were still under colonial rule to incite change through non-violent means. The OAU had just four organs: the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers, the General Secretariat and the Commission of Mediation, and Conciliation and Arbitration. On September 9, 1999, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government issued a Declaration (the Sirte Declaration) calling for the establishment of an African Union, with a view, *inter alia*, toward accelerating the process of integration in the continent, and also address the social, economic and political problems that derive from globalization. The main objectives of the OAU were, *inter alia*: to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity among African states; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States; and to promote international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.

To address issues of development, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) was established in 2001 by the AU. According to NEPAD, their mission “is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world.” The unity provided by the AU, and African leaders—increasingly being elected by democratic means—will likely provide more stability to the African continent, thus making it more appealing to foreign investment. According to NEPAD, Africa’s natural and human resources could lead to equitable and sustainable growth if harnessed properly, reversing the impoverishment caused by slavery, economic mismanagement, and corruption. NEPAD is currently focused on the following sectors: agriculture; human development with a focus on health, education, science and technology and skills development; building and improving infrastructure, including information and communication technology, energy, transportation, water and sanitation; promoting diversification of products and exports, particularly with respect to agro-industries, manufacturing, mining, mineral beneficiation and tourism; accelerating intra-African trade and improving access to markets of developed countries; and improving the environment.

One of the key objectives of the AU is to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States. Yet, the AU is currently having difficulty achieving this objective. The most pressing need for peacekeeping and security intervention exists in Darfur. More than two months ago, the AU’s Peace and Security Council decided to send 120 military observers, and 270 troops to protect them, to Darfur, but the full contingent only arrived the last week of May, 2006. In early May the AU promised to send two thousand more troops to serve as peacekeepers. It also proposed the mission’s mandate be extended to protect civilians, yet the government of Sudan, which is an AU member, rejected the proposal except to protect the observers. The Sudanese government has yet to produce sufficient evidence that it has disarmed the militia in Darfur.

The AU does intend to have an African Standby Force by 2010. In fact, written into the AU Constitutive Act is a clause granting it the right to impose sanctions on member governments.
should they not comply with the Act, to include infractions of not paying dues, or other actions
deemed as violations. Despite advances and marks of progress, the Organization of African Unity
continues to face difficult obstacles as it strives to provide a better life for all African people.

**General Resources**


Abstract: Focuses on the current issues highlighted in the African Peer Review Mechanism report involving Rwanda and Ghana. Firm and concrete actions sought by the very least donor countries to stop fiscal indiscipline or impropriety and human rights violation; Aim of Ghana President John Kufuor to correct the path in terms of governance and good leadership for economic development; Optimism of Rwandan President Paul Kagame on working with others to carry out measures in identifying the country’s weaknesses.


Abstract: The article reports that Stephen Lewis, one of Canada’s most respected commentators on social issues, international development and human rights, will deliver the general-session address at IABC’s 2006 International Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 6 June. Lewis, the director of The Stephen Lewis Foundation, which is dedicated to easing the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa, has been a special United Nations envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa since 2001. He is also a commissioner for the World Health Organization’s Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Last year, Time named him one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World,” and in 2003 Maclean’s chose him as its inaugural Canadian of the Year. From 1995 to 1999, Lewis was deputy executive director of UNICEF at its global headquarters in New York City, acting as a passionate spokesperson for the agency’s advocacy for children, especially in the developing world. In 1997, he was appointed by the Organization of African Unity to a panel of eminent personalities to investigate the genocide in Rwanda. Lewis was the Canadian ambassador to the U.N. from 1984 through 1988.


Abstract: The article presents information according to which the Third Committee of the United Nations deals with myriad topics related to social development, advancement of Women, international drug control and human rights issues. Delegates meet, discuss and debate these issues and work to forge resolutions that enjoy unanimous support. For if this is not possible can be voted upon. The United Nations Children’s Fund estimates that more than 200,000 children are enslaved through cross-border smuggling in West and Central Africa. On the important issue of trafficking, the Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution on “Trafficking in women and girls.” Since 1995 when the Philippines first led the tabling and negotiations on a draft on trafficking, the text has enjoyed the broadest support from U.N. Member States.

Abstract: This article outlines principles, which, shortly before taking office in 1994, the ANC said would be the foundation for its future foreign policy. The ANC stated that its core concern was the pursuit of “human rights,” which were directly related to the promotion of democracy. Other principles included respect for international law, support for peace and disarmament, and universality. These were to be pursued in four settings. First, the global division between the First and Third Worlds as the government was concerned about economic inequality and unjust global trading systems. Second, international organizations such as these were seen as central to the search for human rights, peace and equality. Third, demilitarization resulting in South Africa’s forces being used for self-defense and peacemaking/keeping only. The government believed that this would produce savings that could be redirected into social development. Finally, supporting the rest of Africa, as the ANC believed South Africa could not flourish if surrounded by poverty. The article examines how far the ANC governments of Presidents Mandela and Mbeki have succeeded in implementing these principles, and how far they have fallen short. The article also includes a discussion of Mbeki’s policy towards Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.


Abstract: Focuses on the evolution of human rights as an activity in the West and in Africa. Details on the ethical standing of a movement for peace, rights or socio-political emancipation; Development of an international human rights movement; Discussion of the principle and aspects of human rights.


Abstract: Replaces Organization of African Unity (OAU); established - 8 July 2001; aim - to achieve greater unity among African States; to defend states’ integrity and independence; to accelerate political, social, and economic integration; to encourage international cooperation; to promote democratic principles and institutions; members - (53) Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.


Abstract: Partnership has become such a hackneyed term that the question may legitimately be asked whether it is a fruitful concept or a mere slogan. However, the term is of interest not from the semantic but rather from the developmentalist standpoint, since the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul) raised
it to the rank of a strategy in the context of its world action plan aimed at securing “adequate shelter for all” and “sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world.” In the final analysis, partnership serves to strengthen the legitimacy of public policy-making through a greater involvement by the agents of development in the definition and implementation of the policies that concern them. As such, it has undeniable heuristic values in Third World countries in general, and in Africa in particular, where the existence of economic, cultural, and social imbalances seriously jeopardizes the development policies being implemented. Only the under-developed states have in common certain ills, namely, extreme poverty, lack of economic and financial resources, the anarchic occupation of space and the spread of shantytowns that is blighting the habitat.


Abstract: South Africa is a nation of immense variety. It has rich cultural diversity, an enviable climate and an abundance of natural resources. However, it is also a nation with vast economic disparities and a highly unequal distribution of income. Hence, in spite of abundant resources and a seemingly vibrant economy, South Africa still faces an enormous poverty problem that is fundamentally no different from that of other African countries. As in many other African countries this problem of poverty is compounded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic; by high levels of unemployment; by low levels of education; and by a number of other factors. Today, South Africa has one of the best constitutions in the world and a Bill of Rights that contains an array of justifiable socio-economic rights. The South African government has also attempted to alleviate poverty and mitigate its effects through progressively developing and expanding a social welfare system and other programs such as the Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) strategy. The purpose of this article is to analyze the role of human rights (specifically the Bill of Rights in the Constitution) and government efforts to alleviate poverty (through certain program and service delivery) in the face of adverse socio-economic realities in South Africa.


Abstract: This work examines the role of the Organization of African Unity, now the African Union, and how it has dealt with human rights since its inception in 1963. It considers the role of its main institutions both under the OAU and its transformation recently into the African Union. The book is divided into chapters examining various themes including the rights of women, the rights of the child, the concept of democracy and the right to development. Written by a leading human rights scholar, this book is essential reading for lawyers acting for African states, and for foreign governments and NGOs active in Africa, as well as being of interest to international and comparative human rights scholars.


Abstract: This article presents an interview with Christopher Mutsangwa, ambassador of Zimbabwe to China, about his views of China’s African Policy. Mutsangwa answered criticisms of the China-Africa relationship by Western countries that tie cooperation to democracy and human rights. He expressed his views about the development of Sino-African cooperation.

Abstract: The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, speaks to many elements of the Commonwealth Secretariat’s work, including substantial programmes on conflict prevention and resolution, governance, human rights, trade, finance for development, gender mainstreaming, health and education. More deeply integrated approaches addressing all three pillars of sustainable development are needed and these programmes will be reviewed in the light of priorities identified by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and considered within relevant Commonwealth Ministerial fora. This article focuses on environment-related work that could be implemented by the Secretariat in response to the Summit, and reviews recent work linked to specific aspects of the Plan of Implementation across all three pillars of sustainable development.


Abstract: This study seeks to explain the variation in Japanese official development assistance (ODA) in 35 African countries for the period of 1979 and 1998. It tests for the effects of several new variables not examined previously in the quantitative aid literature on Africa, including human rights, democracy, and varied U. S. strategic and economic interests. The findings suggest that humanitarian interests, as measured by poverty, human rights, democracy, and food insecurity, figure prominently in Japanese aid decisions. In addition, we find that Japan’s trade with recipient countries and some U. S. security interests have shaped the pattern of Japanese ODA in Africa, although U. S. economic reform initiatives and oil exports were found to have little effect. While previous studies have emphasized the importance of Japanese national economic interests as determinants of ODA disbursements, our results suggest that humanitarian concern and certain U. S. strategic interests are also important in understanding Japanese aid decisions in Africa.

Political Development


Abstract: This article reports on a disappointing effort of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development to improve African governments. Two years ago, when the African Union launched a plan to promote better governance in Africa, its centerpiece was a “peer review” mechanism, designed to force corrupt, incompetent, or authoritarian regimes to shape up. Unlike previous plans, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (Nepad), brainchild of South Africa’s president Thabo Mbeki, was to have teeth. Last weekend, at a summit in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, those teeth were finally bared, and they were less than fearsome. The peer-review mechanism will consist of “panels” that will help countries conduct “self-assessments”, which their rulers will “consider.” Reviewers will not examine whether countries are meeting acceptable standards of clean government, democracy and human rights, but only whether they are moving towards these goals. Final reports will not necessarily be published.


Abstract: Debates concerning democratisation and development increasingly engage with what are termed as “human rights-based approaches.” As such, whilst critical accounts are correct in cautioning against Rights-Based Development (RBD) in an era of rampant neo-liberalism and donor-driven agendas, the paper proposes that not only are more progressive and political readings of RBD necessary, they already exist “on the ground.” The
dramatic u-turn in the South African government’s policy concerning HIV/AIDS treatment, for example, is, arguably, situated at the confluence of rights-inspired struggles and the politics of governance. The policy shift therefore provides an opportunity to assess how rights-based approaches to development (RBD) can, under specific conditions, widen critical political space and enable more inclusive governance. The key issues posed in the paper are, first, how the South African government’s HIV/AIDS policy can only be properly understood when placed in the context of the broader rhythms of post-apartheid transition and discursive fault-lines underpinning understandings of the epidemic. Second, as embodied through the Treatment Action Campaign “a social movement in South Africa” the paper seeks to explore how human rights principles deployed in a context of social mobilisation and people-driven access to institutional channels, have the potential to impact upon policy-making. Third, setting out the guiding principles of one particular right, the right to health, allows better understanding of RBD more generally. Finally, and by way of conclusion, RBD’s contribution to widening inclusive political space does not have to end at policy-making but can also impact upon rights-based approaches to service delivery. Above all, this case study offers more general theoretical and practical lessons for conceptualizing both RBD and the role of alternative social actors and movements in this.


Abstract: This article outlines principles which, shortly before taking office in 1994, the ANC said would be the foundation for its future foreign policy. The ANC stated that their core concern was the pursuit of ‘human rights’, which were directly related to the promotion of democracy. Other principles included respect for international law, support for peace and disarmament, and universality. These were to be pursued in four settings. First, the global division between the First and Third Worlds as the government was concerned about economic inequality and unjust global trading systems. Second, international organizations as these were seen as central to the search for human rights, peace and equality. Third, demilitarization resulting in South Africa’s forces being used for self-defence and peacemaking and keeping only. The government believed that this would produce savings which could be redirected into social development. Finally, supporting the rest of Africa as the ANC believed South Africa could not flourish if surrounded by poverty. The article examines how far the ANC governments of Presidents Mandela and Mbeki have succeeded in implementing the principles, and how far they have fallen short. The article also includes a discussion of Mbeki’s policy towards Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.


This volume of specially commissioned articles is devoted to a consideration of how the subject of human rights impacts on contemporary politics and on the discipline of political science. It assesses the role of human rights in political theory, international law and international relations and in relation to the politics of different regions of the world. An international group of contributors includes political scientists, political philosophers, academic lawyers and those with experience of human rights campaigning.


Abstract: The article examines the viability of the African Peer Review Mechanism for the African heads of state and government, the end product of the 2002 Summit of the African Union in Durban, South Africa.
African leaders and their government committed to adhere to international standards on democracy, good governance, peace, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The union agreed to hold each other accountable for the development of a socio-economic and political environment conducive for economic growth.


Abstract: The evolution and eventual adoption by African heads of states of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) in 2001 in Abuja, Nigeria, marked an important landmark development in the set of changes in South Africa’s economic relations with the rest of the continent. As a development framework, NEPAD aims among others to: put Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus halt its marginalization in the globalization process; eradicate poverty; promote the role of women in all spheres of society; as well as the promotion of peace, security, good governance, human rights and sound economic management. The evolution and eventual adoption of NEPAD by African heads of state have generated a lot of debates around its process, content as well as relevance for Africa’s problems. Numerous reflections have emphasized the neoliberal character of the economic strategy underpinning NEPAD and its resemblance to the economic structural adjustment programmes of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.


Abstract: Mbaku, Saxena, and their contributors examine the problems faced by Africa as it decides what to do to improve its ability to contribute to and benefit from the new globalization. Today, the continent stands at a crossroads; it must choose between joining the new global society and pursuing a process of internal self-reliance. The dilemma the continent faces is how to participate in and benefit from the new global economy as well as retain and also benefit from its emerging regional economic and political schemes.


Abstract: Can the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union and the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) really make a difference for human rights on the African continent? This article sets out the commitments of the new African continental instruments in relation to democracy and the rule of law and concludes that they are useful and important—also that NEPAD in particular has significant deficiencies. The second half of the article sets out five themes that should receive greater attention if true effort is to be made to address Africa’s problems.


Abstract: In 1999, NATO members used force in the Kosovo Crisis without Security Council authorization. In 2003, the United States led a small coalition against Iraq, again, without Security Council authorization. Some commentators have called these “failures” of the Security Council to act. This article argues they are examples of Security Council success. Using force against Serbia and Montenegro in the Kosovo Crisis and against Iraq was inappropriate. The aftermath of force in both cases makes that apparent. The Council’s decision
not to authorize force in these cases should lead us to conclude that the Council’s design remains sound. If we wish to improve the Council, it is not the design that should be changed but the level of Council adherence to the law of the Charter and general international law. Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change has endorsed a view largely compatible with the one advocated here. The Panel wants no change in the role of the Security Council as the sole body to authorize the use of force in cases other than self-defense. The Panel does call for stricter adherence by the Council to such general international law principles as proportionality.

Economic Development


Abstract: This article focuses on the endorsement of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development program by the United Nations. The commitment of African leaders to creating an enabling environment for economic development, their responsibility for promoting and protecting democracy and human rights, and the capacity of Africa to enforce a legal framework are emphasized.


This paper focuses on power pools in Africa: status, plans of action, further developments, and recommendations. First, the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) formation, current status, and future challenges are addressed. Then the Central Africa Power Pool (CAPP), the economic community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is examined. CAPP is a new sub-regional institution, created in Brazzaville in April 2003, under the auspices of ECCAS that is presently the focal point for discussions on regional power markets, particularly as the Ingar hydropower complex when developed could generate close to 40 GW. Security issues of power system interconnections in Africa are then reviewed. Also discussed is the current status and developments of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) and the East Africa Power Pool (EAPP). Also considered is Hydropower and African Grid Development in relation to a rights-based perspective. Finally, the future of SAPP, CAPP, WAPP, and EAPP is examined.


Abstract: The paper uses a simple macroeconomic model to estimate the impact of debt relief and terms of trade shocks on growth and poverty in African countries. For the 18 heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) that reached the enhanced HIPC decision point by end-December 2000, the basic quantitative findings are that HIPC debt relief has boosted economic growth in these countries by an average of 2.9 percent per annum and that the computed result of this increase in growth is a reduction in poverty by an average of 2.2 percent per annum. However, the paper shows that recent deteriorations in the terms of trade have counter-balanced these positive effects by lowering growth by an average of 2.0 percent per annum and by increasing poverty by an average of 1.3
percent per annum. Clearly, much of the positive impact emanating from the HIPC Initiative has been eroded due to recent deteriorations in the terms of trade. The paper also estimates the net effect on growth and poverty of the recently agreed 100 percent multilateral debt relief. This is predicted to boost economic growth by an average of 5 percent per annum and reduce poverty by about 5.3 percent per annum for the group of all African HIPCs. The paper concludes that 100 percent debt relief is crucial for Africa, but that more aid and policies need to be focused on a long-term development strategy that fosters the necessary structural transformation.


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**Abstract:** This Comment explores the content, legal forms, and implications of recognizing an international human right to water. The concept of water as a human right developed from the recognition that treating the right to water as an economic good may result in an affordability problem for some communities, depriving them of access to water. To counter these effects, a human right to water is being developed. This human right to water, though not fully defined by existing international law or practice, has been protected as necessary to secure other human rights, such as those to health, well being, and life. Given the structure of international law, State obligations depend upon which human right a right to water is found to support or whether such a human right to water is ultimately found to be a separate and independent human right from other recognized human rights. Whether a human right to water is ultimately established as a right subordinate to other human rights or as an independent human right, recognition of a human right to water will have far-reaching effects. This Comment analyzes legal developments in South Africa, India, and Argentina to illustrate some of the ways in which States have implemented a legal right to water. The Comment then identifies some of the key challenges and development constraints in ensuring a right to safe water within reasonable distance for all persons. These challenges include modifying riparian and prior-appropriation systems of water rights, defining and limiting impacts upon other legal doctrines, and making economic adjustments associated with providing water to meet the “basic needs” of all persons. The Comment concludes that while recognition of a human right to water is necessary, its implementation is fraught with difficulties.

Abstract: The article focuses on the need for the trained lawyers who can use the women’s human rights framework to ensure that women’s rights are provided, protected, and promoted in the context of their own culture and society. International as well as internal pressure and support are making inroads on behalf of these women, who are slowly reasserting their rights, and are now assuming positions in the interim government. To foster true democracy and development, women’s human rights lawyers must also play a significant role in the reconstruction process. It also describes the “Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa” (LAWA) program and recommends such in-depth human rights training programs as a key building block to ensure women’s human rights. Important component of the program is to ground the training in practical legal approaches and include exposure to different methods of legal activism, so that fellows are able to use their training to successfully challenge women’s rights violations.


Abstract: Mbaku, Saxena, and their contributors examine the problems faced by Africa as it decides what to do to improve its ability to contribute to and benefit from the new globalization. Today, the continent stands at a crossroads; it must choose between joining the new global society and pursuing a process of internal self-reliance. The dilemma the continent faces is how to participate in and benefit from the new global economy as well as retain and also benefit from its emerging regional economic and political schemes.


South Africa is a nation of immense variety. It has rich cultural diversity, an enviable climate and an abundance of natural resources. However, it is also a nation with vast economic disparities and a highly unequal distribution of income. Hence, in spite of abundant resources and a seemingly vibrant economy, South Africa still faces an enormous poverty problem that is fundamentally no different from that of other African countries. As in many other African countries this problem of poverty is compounded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic; by high levels of unemployment; by low levels of education; and by a number of other factors. Today, South Africa has one of the best constitutions in the world and a Bill of Rights that contains an array of justiciable socio-economic rights. The South African government has also attempted to alleviate poverty and mitigate its effects through progressively developing and expanding a social welfare system and other programmes such as the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) strategy. The purpose of this article is to analyse the role of human rights (specifically the Bill of Rights in the Constitution) and government efforts to alleviate poverty (through certain programmes and service delivery) in the face of adverse socio-economic realities in South Africa.

Abstract: Focuses on the need for governments to respect, protect, promote and fulfill reproductive and sexual health rights. Details of the World Conference on Human Rights (the Vienna Conference), the International Conference on Population and Development (the Cairo Conference) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (the Beijing Conference), during which reproductive and sexual health rights were discussed; Belief that evaluating access to safe and legal abortions is a gauge to measure the progress of nation states in securing reproductive and sexual health.


Abstract: Untold Stories is an attempt by African media scholars to fill the void created by the dearth of research and publications on emerging areas of African journalism. This scarcity makes it difficult for students of African media to fully appreciate how African media organisations and journalists have covered the continent’s protracted economic crises, reform programmes, governance issues, and the current push towards globalization.


Abstract: Provides insights into the workings of institutions intended to humanize public international law through the development of international human rights law. Regional protection in the Inter-American hemisphere; System of human rights protection in Africa; Important exchange of experiences between the various regional courts.


Abstract: African NGOs have created an awareness of the rule of law. These NGOs follow the Wiseberg-Scoble typology of documenting violent violations. There is a long relationship with European NGOs, as European NGOs opposed slavery. Yet, suspicion of foreign NGOs in Africa is based partly on the history of colonialism and slavery, whose legacy continues. This was dramatized initially with the documentation of the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia’s mass murders. Africa has weaker human rights networks than for Latin America and Europe. At the end of the Cold War, the deterioration of the postcolonial states dominated by one or two political forces has left a vacuum of Cold-War-era weapons; the great powers that provided those guns and polarized political confrontation, and contributed to their ungovernability, have retreated in their preference. More of the aid to African NGOs has come not from the U. S. government but from the Ford Foundation and the Scandinavian, Dutch and German governments. The International Commission of Jurists paid attention to Africa in the 1960s and 1970s when other NGOs were not paying any attention. NGOs have not stopped the decline in the rule of law in Africa, though they may have reduced the decrease. They do not have the capability to press for prosecutions in regimes that do not prosecute and where patrimonialism inhibits the development of such institutions so that rulers exempt themselves through this solvent.

Abstract: The current international trading system is stacked against developing countries, a situation that severely hampers development and ongoing attempts to eradicate poverty. Trade for Development presents the framework necessary to correct this imbalance and give developing countries greater economic growth potential and a more effective capacity to defeat poverty. Action on trade, such as the progressive elimination of remaining trade barriers in goods and services, with rich countries leading by example, coupled with enough support for poor countries to bear adjustment costs and build export capacity must be part of the international effort to defeat poverty. The UN Millennium Development Library: Trade for Development, in conjunction with the flagship publication Investing in Development, is one of 13 thematic publications that comprise the UN Millennium Library. This set of reference handbooks charts world progress and presents strategies for dramatically reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions - income poverty, hunger, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter - by 2015, while promoting gender equality, education, health and environmental sustainability. This Library is the official, comprehensive point of reference and action plan for achieving the fundamental development objectives embodied in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by the UN and world leaders in 2000. Readership: Policy makers and aid and development organisations.

Impact of Conflict and War on Human Rights


Abstract: This article presents some key provisions in the Declaration and Program of Action from the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa. It defines victims of racism and racial discrimination, and discusses the development of strategies to protect refugee discrimination. Human rights education is also emphasized.


Abstract: Politically and economically weak states are often vulnerable to political disasters which pose considerable challenges to multilateral interveners. During such disasters, the infrastructure of a country can be paralysed and in the emerging chaos, forces of hostile opposition might mobilise in order to take over the government, or people might lose faith in government altogether. This article seeks to analyse the dynamics of such situations by using Liberia and Sierra Leone’s complex political emergencies (CPEs) as empirical studies. Here, I analyse the impact of these two CPEs on the collaborative intervention schemes initiated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the UN to prevent basic governmental institutions from falling apart. Despite the intentions underlying such intervention schemes, efforts at resuscitating governance structures do not come without difficulties and challenges. In this article, I analyse some of the different discourses concerning the role of international actors during conflicts and the manner in which such assistance can be exploited by ruling elites to maintain themselves in power in situations of civil wars.


Abstract: In 1999, NATO members used force in the Kosovo Crisis without Security Council authorization. In 2003, the United States led a small coalition against Iraq, again, without Security Council authorization. Some commentators have called these "failures" of the Security Council to act. This article argues they are
examples of Security Council success. Using force against Serbia and Montenegro in the Kosovo Crisis and against Iraq was inappropriate. The aftermath of force in both cases makes that apparent. The Council’s decision not to authorize force in these cases should lead us to conclude that the Council’s design remains sound. If we wish to improve the Council, it is not the design that should be changed but the level of Council adherence to the law of the Charter and general international law. Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change has endorsed a view largely compatible with the one advocated here. The Panel wants no change in the role of the Security Council as the sole body to authorize the use of force in cases other than self-defense. The Panel does call for stricter adherence by the Council to such general international law principles as proportionality.


This article analyses the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) with regard to refugee witnesses, and in particular to the claims for witness protection for such persons before the Tribunal. It also examines whether the Tribunal has the power to order states or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to grant or facilitate refugee status to witnesses as a protective measure so as to ensure their appearance before it. It looks at refugee protection and witness protection as they relate to the mandates of ICTR and UNHCR.


Abstract: This article focuses on the lack of proper care in professional mental-health services for refugee children and women in Africa. The author argues that the assistance given to women and children is based on meeting their basic survival needs such as food, shelter, and basic medical care, but falls terribly short in terms of professional and specialist mental-health assessments. Epidemiological studies indicate that mental illnesses are as frequent in Africa as they are in the developed world. The article informs that the mental-health needs of refugee children and women in Africa is not the duty or responsibility of only one humanitarian organization, such as the UNHCR and its implementing non-governmental agencies. The development of mental-health services requires a multi-disciplinary and professional approach that involves social workers, primary health-care workers, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, and the active involvement of the refugees and international professional organizations to engage in social and political advocacy on behalf of these vulnerable groups of people.

Protection of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights

The AU is operating under the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, which was adopted by the OAU in 1981, and entered into effect in 1986. The preamble of the Charter “recogniz[es] on the one hand, that fundamental human rights stem from the attributes of human beings which justifies their national and international protection and on the other hand that reality and respect of people’s rights should necessarily guarantee human rights.” In Article 2, the Charter confirms that “every individual shall be entitled to enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the present Charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, color, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status.”


This article presents some key provisions in the Declaration and Program of Action resulting from the ‘World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance’ held in Durban South Africa. Includes definition of victims of racism and racial discrimination, and development of strategies to protect refugee discrimination. Human rights education is emphasized.


This volume of specially commissioned articles is devoted to a consideration of how the subject of human rights impacts on contemporary politics and on the discipline of political science. It assesses the role of human rights in political theory, international law and international relations and in relation to the politics of different regions of the world. An international group of contributors includes political scientists, political philosophers, academic lawyers and those with experience of human rights campaigning.


Abstract: The dual campaigns of Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have made universal primary school enrolment for boys and girls a priority for developing countries. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has affected millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa and has depleted the teaching corps. As a result, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has pushed the targets of EFA and MDG further out of reach for many medium and high HIV-prevalence countries. The provision of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in developing countries, however, has given hope to thousands who have not had access to treatment. The Commission on Human Rights in 2001 and again in 2002 confirmed that access to AIDS medication is a key component of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This article explores how scaling up of HAART for teachers can make the EFA and MDG targets attainable. A HAART programme for teachers can produce substantial fiscal savings in sick leave pay, the cost of training new teachers, and funeral expenses, even under high HIV-prevalence situations.

Can the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union and the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) really make a difference for human rights on the African continent? This article sets out the commitments of the new African continental instruments in relation to democracy and the rule of law and concludes that they are useful and important—but also that NEPAD in particular has significant deficiencies. The second half of the article sets out five themes that should receive greater attention if true effort is to be made to address Africa's problems.


South Africa is a nation of immense variety. It has rich cultural diversity, an enviable climate and an abundance of natural resources. However, it is also a nation with vast economic disparities and a highly unequal distribution of income. Hence, in spite of abundant resources and a seemingly vibrant economy, South Africa still faces an enormous poverty problem that is fundamentally no different from that of other African countries. As in many other African countries this problem of poverty is compounded by the HIV/AIDS pandemic; by high levels of unemployment; by low levels of education; and by a number of other factors. Today, South Africa has one of the best constitutions in the world and a Bill of Rights that contains an array of justiciable socio-economic rights. The South African government has also attempted to alleviate poverty and mitigate its effects through progressively developing and expanding a social welfare system and other programmes such as the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) and the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) strategy. The purpose of this article is to analyse the role of human rights (specifically the Bill of Rights in the Constitution) and government efforts to alleviate poverty (through certain programmes and service delivery) in the face of adverse socio-economic realities in South Africa.


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ensures that institutions can obtain resources, effectively manage them, and respond cohesively while rapidly scaling up services. Kenerela, a Kenya-wide network of religious leaders from all faiths living with AIDS, is one such organization. Formed in January 2004 with twenty members, Kenerela’s membership grew to more than 1,000 in just six months. Despite this success, there were conflicts, and the network recognized the need to improve its leadership and management capabilities to create a successful network and to influence stakeholders to better support people living with AIDS. From March to June 2004, four Kenerela members participated in the first-ever Virtual Leadership Development Program for HIV/AIDS organizations in Africa. Developed by Management Sciences for Health’s Management & Leadership Program (VLDP) and funded by the USAID Office of Population and Reproductive Health, the VLDP is an integrated program that provides leadership development opportunities to health managers and teams in developing countries, many of whom cannot attend offsite training.


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An analysis of the impact of human rights on relations among states concludes that provision for subsistence rights has significant priority over other human rights.


Africans have typically been distrustful of external NGOs due to remnants of colonialism and slavery. Also, unequitable Cold War policies and post-Cold War abandonment created further integrity loss of infrastructure leading to accelerated declines in the rule of law. NGOs have helped to minimize the damage. However, NGOs are not impowered enough to initiate prosecutions and do not have an official role in maintaining rule of law.
Health Implications

Addressing the dire health crises of Africa, in 2000 the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) brought together the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, for the African Development Forum II on “AIDS: the Greatest Leadership Challenge.” For the following two years the OAU/AU met in Abuja, Nigeria and committed to numerable, yet attainable, targets in fighting against AIDS and other deadly diseases. The AU collaborated with the ECA, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the World Health Organization (WHO), to put together the comprehensive report, “Scoring African Leadership for Better Health,” in 2004. The Abujas Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Other Related Infectious Diseases tasked AU, ECA, WHO, and UNAIDS to track progress made in the implementation of the targets previously set.

Theses organizations’ collaborative efforts exposed that in 2003, an estimated 2.3 million people died of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria caused 300 different illnesses, resulting in one million deaths, 70 percent being children under five years of age. Tuberculosis caused another two million deaths that year. Improvement is difficult, yet overall improvements are being made in the following areas: scaling-up interventions for HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria; reinforcing existing health systems; shifting government strategies; strengthening partnerships between states; making health part of development policy; mobilizing financial resources; increasing access to biomedical research and development.


Abstract: This article provides information about different organizations that are working for human rights. “Raising Voices” is a community-based organization, which works to create and promote community-based approaches to prevent violence against women and children predominantly in East and Southern Africa. The organization also aims to influence practice by engaging policy-makers, organizations, and stakeholders in dialogue on how they conceptualize violence programming. “Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice” is a network of individuals and groups, which aims to develop greater capacity among women in the use of International Criminal Court and other mechanisms to provide women with access to different systems of justice. Another organization, “International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission,” works to secure the full enjoyment of the human rights of all people and communities subject to discrimination or abuses on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and HIV Status.


The article reports on genital mutilation. In Sudan, they call it tahoor or “purification”. In Sierra Leone, it is known as bondo or “initiation”. But English has a grislier term for it: female genital mutilation. In its mildest form, a girl has the skin covering her clitoris nicked or excised. In the severest variety, called infibulation, her external genitalia are cut away and her vagina is sewn up. Female mutilation is not a rare practice. Although numbers are hard to come by, an estimated 130m girls and women now alive are thought to have undergone the procedure in more than two dozen African countries, as well as in parts of Asia, the Middle East and some immigrant communities in the West. There are certainly sound medical reasons for eliminating the practice. Immediate complications include heavy bleeding, infections—such as AIDS—transmitted by
unsterile knives, and a nasty condition known as urinary retention. And, not only does mutilation turn sexual intercourse into a numb or painful experience for women, but the more radical forms can lead to prolonged labour and potentially lethal complications during childbirth. The International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo ten years ago, launched a big push against mutilation. Since then, 13 African countries have passed legislation banning the practice. As Nahid Toubia, the head of Rainbo, a charity working against the practice, observes, stamping mutilation out is a slow process.


In response to the growing trend of millions dying in sub-Saharan Africa from fatal diseases such as Malaria, HIV/AIDS, and Tuberculosis, The Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Other Related Infectious Diseases, in 2001, tasked the AU, the Economic Commission of Africa, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the WHO, with tracking progress of implementation of Abuja pledges. This book provides statistics, outlines the problematic issues and barriers, and details progress or regression.


Abstract: The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS joined forces with the POLICY project with the aim of developing an advocacy agenda on sexual and reproductive health rights, and access to care, treatment, and support for women living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa and Swaziland. The process began with an assessment of the concerns and experiences of HIV-positive women, and the policy and institutional environment. A workshop was subsequently held in Durban, involving 45 HIV-positive women from Swaziland and South Africa, to discuss the assessment and identify priority issues for advocacy. The same group of women met two months later and produced a plan which directly addresses the reality of HIV-positive women’s lives.


Abstract: This article explores the content, legal forms, and implications of recognizing an international human right to water. The concept of water as a human right developed from the recognition that treating the right to water as an economic good may result in an affordability problem for some communities, depriving them of access to water. To counter these effects, a human right to water is being developed. This human right to water, though not fully defined by existing international law or practice, has been protected as necessary to secure other human rights, such as those to health, well being, and life, given the structure of international law. State obligations depend upon which human right a right to water is found to support and whether such a human right to water is ultimately found to be a separate and independent human right from other recognized rights. Whether a right to water is ultimately established as a right subordinate to other human rights or as an independent human right, recognition of a human right to water will have far-reaching effects. This article analyzes legal developments in South Africa, India, and Argentina to illustrate some of the ways in which States have implemented a legal right to water. It then identifies some of the key challenges and development constraints in ensuring a right to safe water within reasonable distance for all persons. These challenges include modifying riparian and prior-appropriation systems of water rights, defining and limiting impacts upon other legal doctrines, and making economic
adjustments associated with providing water to meet the “basic needs” of all persons. It concludes that while recognition of a human right to water is necessary, its implementation is fraught with difficulties.


Abstract: The authors analyse the experience of Tostan, a Senegalese NGO, with the abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC) in Senegal, the Sudan, and Mali. Tostan uses non-formal, participatory methodologies to support village-based social change, especially in the areas of human rights and women’s health. Following Tostan’s educational programme, some communities have declared a moratorium on the practice of FGC and have mobilised their families and villages to discontinue its use. This article describes the process used, considers issues that have arisen as the concept is marketed and disseminated beyond Senegal, and reviews implications for grassroots policy initiatives.


Abstract: Focuses on the results of a study on the lessons learned by activists in the Treatment Action Campaign, an organization that aimed to address the treatment of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Challenges facing Treatment Action Campaign activists in the region; Benefits of participating in the campaign; Relationship between HIV/AIDS and human rights according to activists.


Abstract: The article presents information on several issues related to overcoming iron deficiency. In 1985 the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted 523 studies and concluded that overall 30% of the global population had anemia, and that rates were as high as 50% in children in Africa and South Asia. WHO updated the figures in 1998 and found that the prevalence was not getting better. The current public health structure is comfortable with chronic diseases, injuries, violence, micronutrients of all kinds, and even issues of war, human rights, and poverty. A major development in public health is the way it has co-opted others in forming solutions. It has co-opted with the Women, Infant and Children program to deliver immunizations, with the law enforcement for injury and violence programs, and with unions and management for occupational health and injuries. Several new vaccines has been developed, including and anti-cancer vaccine against hepatitis B. There has been major programs to try to improve drugs to treat tuberculosis and for lymphatic filariasis control.


Abstract: In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS has proven to be the most challenging health and development issue of modern times. Its spread is related to poverty, power relationships between men and women, the availability and accessibility of basic services, sexual customs, and the evolution of traditional practices in modern society. Currently, most HIV/AIDS communication strategies are based on health education or behavior change models such as those designed to improve immunization coverage or eradicate polio. In UNICEF’s human rights approach to programming, communication is explicitly recognized as both a right and a means to claiming other rights. UNICEF is developing the concept and practice of communication from a human rights perspective as it responds to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Eastern and Southern Africa. As it does so, it is refining its
experience from other program areas, so that currently it is using a range of communication techniques. Hence, communication from a human rights perspective examines the context in which change occurs, broadening the responsibility for creating change from the individual to the community.


Abstract: In resource-poor developing countries, significant improvements in child survival, growth, and development can be made by: (a) shifting from sectoral programmes (for example, in nutrition or immunization) to holistic strategies such as the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and (b) improving household and community care and health-seeking practices as a priority, while concurrently strengthening health systems and the skills of health professionals. This article focuses on household and community learning, and proposes a communication strategy for implementing community IMCI (c-IMCI) that is based on human rights principles such as inclusion, participation, and self-determination. Rather than attempt to change the care practices and health-seeking behaviour of individuals through the design and delivery of messages alone, it proposes an approach that is based on community engagement and discussion to create the social conditions in which individual change is possible. The strategy advocates for the integration of sectoral programmes rather than the development of new holistic programmes, so that integrated programmes are created from multiple entry points. As integration occurs, the participatory communication processes that are used in sectoral programmes can be enriched and combined, improving the capacity of governments and agencies to engage community members effectively in a process of learning and action related to child health and development.


Abstract: The author of this article argues that more attention must be paid to the children of parents dying of AIDS in Africa. AIDS orphans as a group have received a good deal of international attention, but services for children whose parents have the disease are few. Living with a sick parent can negatively impact a child’s physical, emotional and mental development. Communities have drawn together to support these children while their parents are ill and after they die, but their efforts are mostly self-funded by the very people who can least afford it. The article calls for more governmental and organizational support for all children living in communities affected by AIDS.


Abstract: The article focuses on health care facilities in Africa as of June 2003. Fifty-five years after the constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) was written, and amid worldwide concern about human rights abuses in Africa, most Africans are still being denied the fundamental right of health. Yet it is well known that a population ravaged by disease retards economic development and makes it very difficult for any government to preserve domestic tranquility. The burden of disease and rates of death from a wide range of infections, communicable and some treatable diseases in Africa cannot be overemphasized. Health problems such as HIV, Aids, tuberculosis and malaria dominate the health agenda of Africa. Yet at the same time, there is an ever-widening gap of access to health facilities and medicine between the rich Northern countries and Africa. The WHO estimates that 29 million Africans are infected with HIV, yet only 5% of them get the chance to be treated. Often entire populations have no means and access to essential drugs. Even when available, the drugs are too expensive. Health systems needed to deliver them are inadequate or non-existent.

Abstract: Debates concerning democratisation and development increasingly engage with what are termed as “human rights-based approaches.” As such, whilst critical accounts are correct in cautioning against Rights-Based Development (RBD) in an era of rampant neo-liberalism and donor-driven agendas, the paper proposes that not only are more progressive and political readings of RBD necessary, they already exist “on the ground.” The dramatic u-turn in the South African government’s policy concerning HIV/AIDS treatment, for example, is, arguably, situated at the confluence of rights-inspired struggles and the politics of governance. The policy shift therefore provides an opportunity to assess how rights-based approaches to development (RBD) can, under specific conditions, widen critical “political space” and enable more inclusive governance. The key issues posed in the paper are, first, how the South African government’s HIV/AIDS policy can only be properly understood when placed in the context of the broader rhythms of post-apartheid transition and discursive fault-lines underpinning understandings of the epidemic. Second, as embodied through the Treatment Action Campaign—a social movement in South Africa—the paper seeks to explore how human rights principles deployed in a context of social mobilisation and people-driven access to institutional channels, have the potential to impact upon policy-making. Third, setting out the guiding principles of one particular right, the right to health, allows better understanding of RBD more generally. Finally, and by way of conclusion, RBD’s contribution to widening inclusive political space does not have to end at policy-making but can also impact upon rights-based approaches to service delivery. Above all, this case study offers more general theoretical and practical lessons for conceptualizing both RBD and the role of alternative social actors and movements in this.


Abstract: The dual campaigns of Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have made universal primary school enrolment for boys and girls a priority for developing countries. The HIV/AIDS epidemic has affected millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa and has depleted the teaching corps. As a result, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has pushed the targets of EFA and MDG further out of reach for many medium and high HIV-prevalence countries. The provision of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) in developing countries, however, has given hope to thousands who have not had access to treatment. The Commission on Human Rights in 2001 and again in 2002 confirmed that access to AIDS medication is a key component of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This article explores how scaling up of HAART for teachers can make the EFA and MDG targets attainable. A HAART programme for teachers can produce substantial fiscal savings in sick leave pay, the cost of training new teachers, and funeral expenses, even under high HIV prevalence situations.


Every year, WHO produces the World Health Report: the 2005 report concentrated on maternal, neonatal and child health. But what is the value of these reports? Are they ritualistic publications designed to promote WHO, or are they worthy of proper discussion and debate? One would think that given the current crises in global health, the annual report of the UN’s primary agency for health would be important. However, unless there is evidence that these reports are taken seriously, discussed and debated, and shown to have an effect, a conclusion might be drawn that they are largely insignificant. And that would consign WHO to a level of insignificance that it does not warrant. In this discussion of the 2005 report, I aim to provoke a response from both WHO and the international health community to demonstrate that the annual World health reports are meaningful. Furthermore, I suggest here that WHO shows its commitment to the recommendations of the 2005 report by monitoring how well recommendations have been taken forward.


In this collection of articles focusing on gender, development and HIV/AIDS, writers consider the role of development policy makers, practitioners, and researchers in addressing the pandemic. This ranges from work to prevent further infections, to giving support to those infected and affected by HIV.


Abstract: Focuses on the need for governments to respect, protect, promote and fulfill reproductive and sexual health rights. Details of the World Conference on Human Rights (the Vienna Conference), the International Conference on Population and Development (the Cairo Conference) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (the Beijing Conference), during which reproductive and sexual health rights were discussed; Belief that evaluating access to safe and legal abortions is a gauge to measure the progress of nation states in securing reproductive and sexual health.


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Abstract: This article focuses on the significance of effective leadership as response to HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. AIDS. Strong leadership at the community level helps families to obtain the medical and psychosocial support they need. At the national and international levels, leadership ensures that institutions can obtain resources, effectively manage them, and respond cohesively while rapidly scaling up services. Kenerela, a Kenya-wide network of religious leaders from all faiths living with AIDS, is one such organization. Formed in January 2004 with twenty members, Kenerela’s membership grew to more than 1,000 in just six months. Despite this success, there were conflicts, and the network recognized the need to improve its leadership and management capabilities to create a successful network and to influence stakeholders to better support people living with AIDS. From March to June 2004, four Kenerela members participated in the first-ever Virtual Leadership Development Program for HIV/AIDS organizations in Africa. Developed by Management Sciences for Health’s Management & Leadership Program (VLDP) and funded by the USAID Office of Population and Reproductive Health, the VLDP is an integrated program that provides leadership development opportunities to health managers and teams in developing countries, many of whom cannot attend offsite training.


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Women’s Rights


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Abstract: The article provides information about several training manuals and tool kits for different purposes as for promoting equal rights, for working of community based organizations and for preventing family violence. The first manual, “A Handbook to CEDAW,” aims to familiarize international development cooperation personnel with the human rights obligations of individual states with regard to women. CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), was created as a powerful tool for promoting equal rights between women and men, through recognizing and addressing gender discrimination and securing national governments’ commitments on equality. “Local Action/Global Change, Learning About the Human Rights of Women and Girls,” provides tools for women and men to critically examine the framework of human rights. Another resource guide “Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence: A Resource Guide for Organizations in East and Southern Africa,” is a tool for community based organizations working to prevent domestic violence.


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Abstract: The article examines an approach to communication that is based on community dialogue and the development of shared understanding, rather than on the dominant model of health communication regarding female genital cutting (FGC). In the dialogue approach, the role of the communication professional is to find ways to include all community groups in the discussion, especially the women and girls who are directly affected by FGC, facilitate discussion within and between the groups in a community so that all perspectives are heard and considered and introduce new information into the discussion so that action can be informed by knowledge as well as cultural preference. Respect for culture, however, is an important aspect of the communication strategy. Discussion that is based on an appreciation of local language and respect for a community’s traditions creates trust between insiders and outsiders, making it easier for outsiders to introduce new ideas into the conversation and to build energy for changes in practice. Effective communication for FGC abandonment must therefore go further than explaining why the practice is harmful and then persuading individuals to stop it. It must help them discover how they can stop, by facilitating a non-directive communication process to help them take collective action.


Abstract: This article discusses the development and agreement of the African Women’s Protocol, adopted by African Heads of State in 2003. The authors consider the experience of Oxfam GB in supporting the development and ratification of the Protocol. They make particular reference to the southern African countries of Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia.


Abstract: The article focuses on the need for the trained lawyers who can use the women’s human rights framework to ensure that women’s rights are provided, protected, and promoted in the context of their own culture and society. International as well as internal pressure and support are making inroads on behalf of these women, who are slowly reasserting their rights, and are now assuming positions in the interim government. To foster true democracy and development, women’s human rights lawyers must also play a significant role in the reconstruction
process. It also describes the “Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa” (LAWA) program and recommends such in-depth human rights training programs as a key building block to ensure women’s human rights. Important component of the program is to ground the training in practical legal approaches and include exposure to different methods of legal activism, so that fellows are able to use their training to successfully challenge women’s rights violations.


In this collection of articles focusing on gender, development and HIV/AIDS, writers consider the role of development policy makers, practitioners, and researchers in addressing the pandemic. This ranges from work to prevent further infections, to giving support to those infected and affected by HIV.


Abstract: Focuses on the need for governments to respect, protect, promote and fulfill reproductive and sexual health rights. Details of the World Conference on Human Rights (the Vienna Conference), the International Conference on Population and Development (the Cairo Conference) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (the Beijing Conference), during which reproductive and sexual health rights were discussed; Belief that evaluating access to safe and legal abortions is a gauge to measure the progress of nation states in securing reproductive and sexual health.


Abstract: This article focuses on the lack of proper care in professional mental-health services for refugee children and women in Africa. The author argues that the assistance given to women and children, is based on meeting their basic survival needs such as food, shelter and basic medical care, but falls terribly short in terms of professional and specialist mental-health assessments. Epidemiological studies indicate that mental illnesses are as frequent in Africa as in the developed world. The article informs that the mental-health needs of refugee children and women in Africa is not the duty or responsibility of only one humanitarian organization, the UNHCR and its implementing non-governmental agencies. The development of mental-health services requires a multi-disciplinary and professional approach that involves social workers, primary health-care workers, physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists and the active involvement of the refugees and the international professional organizations to engage in social and political advocacy on behalf of this vulnerable group of people.
International Organizations


Abstract: Presents a list of organizations that are respected for their humanitarian work in Africa. Description of Africare, an organization that works on projects including emergency aid and community development; Work of the Carter Center in Africa, including the repatriation of refugees and the eradication of infectious disease; Description of the Global Rights organization, which advocates for human rights; Report that the United Nations World Food Program feeds an average of 90 million people in more than 80 countries; Others.


Abstract: Focuses on the evolution of human rights as an activity in the West and in Africa. Details on the ethical standing of a movement for peace, rights or socio-political emancipation; Development of an international human rights movement; Discussion of the principle and aspects of human rights.


The management of international organizations is attracting growing attention. Most of this attention is highly critical of both the UN system and International NGOs. Sometimes, this criticism lacks depth or reflects insufficient understanding of these organizations, or is based on narrow, and sometimes biased, internal political concerns of a particular country. International relations theory has insufficiently studied the type of linkages that these organizations provide between international decision-making and Northern fundraising on the one hand, and practical action in the South on the other. As a result, current theory too rarely focuses on the inner functioning of these organizations and is unable to explain the deficiencies and negative outcomes of their work. While the authors identify and describe the pathologies of international organizations in, for example, international diplomacy, fundraising, and implementation, they also stress positive elements, such as their intermediary role. The latter form the basis for more efficient and effective policies and action that, in addition to some recent political trends also described in this volume, hold hope for a stronger functioning of these organizations in the future. This book presents a long overdue empirical and theoretical overview of criticism on and cures for these organizations. It provides a fundamental rethinking of current approaches to the management of international organizations.


Abstract: The authors analyse the experience of Tostan, a Senegalese NGO, with the abandonment of female genital cutting (FGC) in Senegal, the Sudan, and Mali. Tostan uses non-formal, participatory methodologies to support village-based social change, especially in the areas of human rights and women’s health. Following Tostan’s educational programme, some communities have declared a moratorium on the practice of FGC and have mobilised their families and villages to discontinue its use. This article describes the process used, considers issues that have arisen as the concept is marketed and disseminated beyond Senegal, and reviews implications for grassroots policy initiatives.

Abstract: Can the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union and the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) really make a difference for human rights on the African continent? This article sets out the commitments of the new African continental instruments in relation to democracy and the rule of law and concludes that they are useful and important—but also that NEPAD in particular has significant deficiencies. The second half of the article sets out five themes that should receive greater attention if true effort is to be made to address Africa’s problems.


Abstract: In 1999, NATO members used force in the Kosovo Crisis without Security Council authorization. In 2003, the United States led a small coalition against Iraq, again, without Security Council authorization. Some commentators have called these “failures” of the Security Council to act. This article argues they are examples of Security Council success. Using force against Serbia and Montenegro in the Kosovo Crisis and against Iraq was inappropriate. The aftermath of force in both cases makes that apparent. The Council’s decision not to authorize force in these cases should lead us to conclude that the Council’s design remains sound. If we wish to improve the Council, it is not the design that should be changed but the level of Council adherence to the law of the Charter and general international law. Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change has endorsed a view largely compatible with the one advocated here. The Panel wants no change in the role of the Security Council as the sole body to authorize the use of force in cases other than self-defense. The Panel does call for stricter adherence by the Council to such general international law principles as proportionality.


Abstract: The article focuses on humanitarian nongovernmental organizations (HINGO) and African conflicts. As the number of collapsing African states increases, HINGO, alongside the United Nations agencies and sub-regional organizations are increasingly being called upon to play more and significant roles in complex emergencies. Besides mitigating the social and economic consequences of collapsing states, HINGO are also implementing peace accords, promoting democratic and economic reforms, protecting human rights and encouraging the settlement of conflicts. Although scrutiny of humanitarian assistance was mainly focused on criticism of its delivery, analysis of its guiding principles and the evaluation of its position in the humanitarian-development continuum, there is now increasing concern over its adverse effects on its beneficiaries and on its role in prolonging or solving conflicts that produced them. There are now widespread indications that humanitarian assistance that is being delivered through HINGO may actually be prolonging conflicts. A humanitarian international NGO is a private, not-for-profit organization that engages in transnational activities to relieve human suffering wrought by human activities such as wars and by natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes.

Abstract: African NGOs have created an awareness of the rule of law. These NGOs follow the Wiseberg-Scoble typology of documenting violent violations. There is a long relationship with European NGOs, as European NGOs opposed slavery. Yet suspicion of foreign NGOs in Africa is based partly on the history of colonialism and slavery, the legacy of which. This was dramatized initially with the documentation of the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia’s mass murders. Africa has weaker human rights networks than for Latin America and Europe. At the end of the Cold War, the deterioration of the postcolonial states dominated by one or two political forces has left a vacuum of Cold-War-era weapons; the great powers that provided guns, polarized political confrontation, and contributed to their ungovernability, have retreated in their preference. More of the aid to African NGOs has come not from the U. S. government but from the Ford Foundation and the Scandinavian, Dutch and German governments. The International Commission of Jurists paid attention to Africa in the 1960s and 1970s when other NGOs were not paying any attention. NGOs have not stopped the decline in the rule of law in Africa, though they may have reduced the decrease. They do not have the capability to press for prosecutions in regimes that do not prosecute and where patrimonialism inhibits the development of such institutions so that rulers exempt themselves through this solvent.
International Monetary Fund
by Kris Kirby

Just as the United Nations (U.N.) was created in direct response to the human atrocities and international conflict of World War II, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was created to help repair the decimation that was experienced by the developed nations that became involved in the war. While both organizations have seemingly similar objectives (i.e., post-war reconstruction and creation of an environment for lasting peace), the Articles of Agreement of the IMF, however, contains no explicit mention of human rights.

After the reparation of the former Axis powers was accomplished, the IMF was left somewhat without purpose. Subsequently, the institution became involved in the financial matters of the developing nations as a regulator of fiscal policy, as well as delving into other domestic matters. Thus, one might say, the IMF became a sort of development agency.

The IMF is a U.N. specialized agency. As a result, Sigurn Skogly has argued that the IMF would be obligated to act in accordance with the U.N. Charter. More specifically, it might be suggested that the IMF should adhere to human rights standards of protection and promotion of such rights in keeping with the purpose of the international organization.

Looking to the literature, we find a number of pieces that discuss a human rights-based approach to development. Assuming that the IMF serves a developmental function, one might expect to find a portion of the literature treating the institution's role and participation in such a rights-based ideal. In fact, a number of authors deal with the subject, but only a few are built around an in-depth discussion of the IMF's human rights obligations, and others merely gloss over the topic in short.

As might be expected, the institution itself most often claims that human rights concerns are outside its scope. Some analyses focus on the IMF’s reaction to human rights prescriptions; others go to lengths to outline the IMF’s legal personality and legal obligations to uphold the ideals of the U.N. Charter. The IMF itself largely ignores the topic, while a number of NGOs repeatedly mention the human rights obligations and effects of the organization. Academics largely take a critical role in the discussion of the IMF and human rights-based approaches, suggesting that the organization is falling short of the mark.

General Resources


This volume reports that the IMF has been criticized by the U.N. General Assembly for having continued its lending relationship with South Africa in the atmosphere of sanctions. It also reports that IMF conditions are adversely affecting the poor and are violating ILO standards and human rights.

Project Bretton Woods. 2005. UN says World Bank and IMF “bound by international law.”
This piece cites areas where SAPs and IMF projects have violated human rights. Because the IMF is a U.N. agency, it is bound by international law. Thus, at minimum, the institution should refrain from having a negative human rights impact through its programs. The IMF response: it denies human rights responsibility based on its Articles of Agreement.


**Abstract:** *Focuses on the alleged lack of protection of basic human rights, particularly the right to health, by international organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Effect of policies instituted by these organizations on health care in less-developed nations; Criticism voiced by branches of the United Nations; Mention of a meeting which will challenge the notion that international financial institutions are above international human rights.*


“Development and Human Rights” by Danilo Turk relates that the IMF’s SAPs affect human rights. It is suggested that states need to regulate human rights and the IMF must assure that there is no negative impact of its programs. The author also suggests that there needs to be a strengthening of cooperation among U.N. human rights organs to assure that development programs avoid human rights violations.


Reports that human rights activists felt that transparency was essential in monitoring human rights.

Human Rights Watch. [The Oil Diagnostic in Angola: An Update](#).

This source states that the IMF required transparency aids in human rights protection.

Human Rights Watch. 1995. [RUSSIA](#).

This source reports that the IMF conditions loans on economic terms but refuses to consider human rights.

Human Rights Watch. 1997. [ZAMBIA](#).

Here it is reported that the IMF funding is claimed to be based on economic reform and not human rights abuse.


This source, compiled by the IMF, argues that local governments are responsible for respecting human rights as a prerequisite to sustainable development.

Suggests that human rights will not be implemented until the IMF stops implementing SAPs.


In this article, the IMF is cited as violating human rights through its practices. The authors suggest that the IMF might consider human rights within its “good governance” policies.


Abstract: The article focuses on the evolution of international human rights in the post-Cold War era. The end of the Cold War has presented both opportunities for and obstacles to the protection and promotion of human rights. The global resurgence of democratic forces has, in a context devoid of the bipolar balance of the Cold War rivalry, given rise to new international moral standards and rules. National and international politics show a shift towards globalization and the liberalization of access to knowledge. State sovereignty has invited the fiercest criticism from Western human rights scholars. States now face a complex array of choices, ranging from economic adjustments to political-legal maneuverings and ethical policy decisions. Globalization has also created new tensions over environmental responsibility. Economic intervention referred to as the International Monetary Fund’s interventions into the economies of other countries have been justified on the ideological grounds of economic neoliberalism. Legal enforcement of human rights must begin with the core human rights. Insistence and universal agreement on the core rights avoids the risk of undermining the legitimate, culturally based arguments.


Abstract: Focuses on the call of Jubilee 2000 campaign to cancel the unpayable debts of the poorest countries. Goals of Jubilee 2000; Status of human rights in indebted countries; Role of World Bank and International Monetary Fund in reckless lending and borrowing; Role of Jubilee 2000 in altering the balance of power between rich and poor nations.


The author relates that the IMF has been called upon by the U.N. to consider human rights. It is suggested that the IMF SAPs and conditionalities violate human rights. The IMF is said to have “total disregard” for human rights.


The author relates that the IMF has been criticised within the U.N. for ignoring human rights. It is suggested that the IMF conditionalities violate human rights. The IMF is said to have “total disregard” for human rights.

Argues that IMF conditionality policies do not work to promote human rights. It suggests that NGOs, in addition to the IMF, must begin to think in terms of laws and policies. The author maintains that a rights-based approach will require development agencies to engage in political dynamics with the IMF.

**Responsibility of IMF to Protect Human Rights**


This article relates how the IMF lacks a human rights policy. While the author states that the organization does have some responsibility in the arena of human rights protection, the article maintains that the IMF often ignores human rights issues. This ignorance is often cited as prudent based on the IMF’s interpretation of its Articles of Agreement, whereby the Fund assumes a prohibition against political involvement in receiving states. The author argues that this ‘prohibition’ is a mandate to include the receiving state’s perception of political issues as a strong consideration. The author suggests that the IMF is, in fact, a subject of international law and thus is responsible for human rights protection. The authors suggest that the organization might engage in human rights.


The authors suggest that the IFIs must consider human rights issues. It is held that the IFIs are responsible, under international law, for ensuring that recipient populations are granted participation in the design and implementation of programs. Because the IFIs regularly cite that their mandates command them to avoid political involvement, the authors suggest that it might be prudent to redefine the meaning of ‘political.’ Perhaps, in this sense, human rights are not necessarily political? The authors suggest that there is a necessity to implement a mechanism of human rights reporting in conjunction with IFI aid.


This book contends that the IMF preaches “good governance” but does not practice, at least when considering human rights issues. The IMF response is that human rights are outside its scope of functioning because they are not included in the Articles of Agreement of the organization. As the U.N. has required that no loans be granted to human rights violators, and because the U.N. policies are agreed upon by members of the Fund, the author argues that it is essential that IMF use human rights obligations as a normative framework.


Here, the IMF, as a U.N. organ, is said to have responsibility for human rights because the U.N. is bound to promote and uphold human rights. The IMF response is that it may not become
involved in political issues per its Articles of Agreement. The article cites that some IMF policies in Argentina violated the right to basic needs.


This piece discusses the IMF as a component of the U.N. system, thereby committing it to the UN’s purpose of upholding human rights. It analyzes a rights-based approach to development and suggests that such an approach would certainly include both participation and the consideration of civil and political rights. The author reports that the IMF officially addresses human rights indirectly.


The broader issue dealt with in the paper is to what extent multi-party development efforts are accountable to their intended beneficiaries. One mechanism for ensuring accountability is human rights. Traditionally, only states bear human rights obligations. International law has evolved, however, and now recognizes that human rights law also binds intergovernmental organizations, including the international financial institutions. To some extent, the World Bank’s creation of the Inspection Panel was a response to this shift. Beneficiaries can use the Inspection Panel to query compliance by the Bank with its own operational policies, some of which reflect human rights concerns.


This article presents common IMF responses to criticisms that the organization does not consider human rights. For example, it should not consider human rights because it is not a development institution, it cannot due to its Articles of Agreement, it does not need to because it is only concerned with long-term effects (whereby human rights will be attained through the programs), and it already considers human rights. The author maintains that the IMF should not support human rights violators in its policy decisions and calls on the IMF to implement a mechanism that guarantees human rights equality and fairness.


This article states that the IMF has little consideration for human rights. The article outlines the IMF response that consideration of such issues interferes with the guarantee of sovereignty. The author argues that the IMF is bound by the U.N. Charter and reminds the reader that the member states of the IMF are also parties to this agreement. It is suggested that the IMF include a minimum standard of human rights recognition in its programs.

This source cites that the formal agreements with international financial institutions do not necessarily include human rights.


The author argues that the IMF claims that it does not have the mandate to deal with human rights issues. Rather, the organization holds that the promotion of sound economic and social conditions through macroeconomic policies will lead to full realization of human rights.


This volume includes the statement that the IMF does not first consider human rights issues when granting a loan. It goes on to report that the member states of the IMF do not expect the organization to uphold human rights functions as they are outside the scope of the Fund. The author suggests that the member states of the Fund, as parties to international human rights treaties, are obliged to refuse aid to human rights violators parties, though it is not the responsibility of the IMF to act accordingly.


The need for a human rights dimension within the development process is recognized by a growing number of states and international organizations. The tendency so far has been to focus on rights in a general sense, although there is some recognition of the need to consider the rights of indigenous peoples in a development context. The integration of these rights into development programs can encounter difficulties partly because of the uncertainty surrounding the scope of some of the more important rights claimed by indigenous peoples. The article examines the scope of these rights under international law and explores some of their potential implications on the development process. It argues that while some of these human rights claims are not yet recognized under international law, the position is continually evolving. It also argues that the increasing recognition of several rights, especially the right to effective participation, may help to address the sense of marginalization traditionally experienced by indigenous peoples from the development process. This source also explains that the IMF sees human rights as outside its frame of reference due to the political neutrality clause in its Articles of Agreement. It suggests that the IMF refuses to address human rights issues.


This article identifies the effects of structural adjustment and stabilization policies (SAPs) on women, while focusing on poverty in several countries. It is now well-established that the structural adjustment and stabilization policies (SAPs) that developing countries undertake in
order to receive loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have exacerbated conditions of poverty and deprivation for large sections of the population. Several commentators have also shown that these macroeconomic policies are neither class-neutral nor gender-neutral. This article reports that the IMF needs to take responsibility for human rights of groups, such as women, who might be affected by SAPs. It suggests that the IMF claims its practices are non-political. The article holds that the IMF is responsible for human rights protection as a U.N. agency that is bound by the U.N. Charter.


This source, which is cited frequently in the literature, outlines the legal personality of the IMF. It suggests that the IMF is an agent of the U.N. and is bound by the U.N. Charter to uphold human rights.


Skogly outlines the legal responsibility of the IMF to consider human rights. The author reports that the IMF most often responds that the organization is not permitted to address human rights issues, as they are political in nature. The IMF maintains that it is not to become involved in political arenas within recipient states. The author suggests that the IMF should, at least, consider the human rights effects of SAPs.


The author treats the claim that the IMF impinges on human rights such as basic subsistence rights, the right to work and the right to education. It is maintained that there is trouble in defining human rights laws, and the reader is reminded that the UDHR is not an obligatory agreement but more of a wish list of sorts. Because there is trouble in defining human rights laws, it is suggested that the IMF is not clearly in violation of human rights. It is also suggested that states are responsible for the maintenance of human rights.


Here the author reports that the IMF has not adopted human rights rhetoric. It failed to follow suit in the withdrawal of South African aid in response to apartheid. The IMF holds that human rights concerns are beyond its scope.

**Country Specific Reports**


This report argues that IMF efforts to combat human rights abuses in Kenya by not renewing aid fell short of their objective.

Here HRW suggests that the IMF has done little to discourage human rights abuses in DRC by continuing to offer support to Rwanda.


In this piece, HRW supports the IMF’s “Oil Diagnostic,” citing that it will help to monitor human rights in Angola.


This report argues that the IMF refused to link the suspension of Russian aid to the human rights abuses in Chechnya.


Here HRW suggests that IMF monitoring of oil revenue in Angola is the first step toward transparency. Monitoring aid dispersal might help to decrease human rights violations that may be connected to such money.


This report claims that giving Kenya a loan signaled an end to human rights conditions placed on governments.


This source holds that IMF monitoring of oil revenue in Angola is the first step toward transparency that could help decrease human rights violations, which might be funded by such money. It cites that the IMF wants transparency for economic reasons.


HRW suggests in this piece that the IMF has continued to support Uganda in spite of human rights abuses in DRC.


Here it is reported that the IMF tried to address human rights problems through transparency policies in Angola.


Abstract: One of the most important aspects of the rise of post-1945 global capitalism has been the call for transnational corporations to conform to basic human rights principles. This chapter reviews the efforts within the oil industry (with a particular focus on their operations in the less-developed countries) to develop corporate social responsibility and the related development of voluntary, legal, and statutory programs by governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), civic groups, and multilateral agencies to ensure that the oil industry is
compliant with important human, social, political, and environmental rights. In reviewing these developments, I outline the current political economy of the oil industry, new bodies of research on the relations between oil, violence, and human rights violations, which include case studies of the human rights records of transnational and joint-venture oil operations.

Miscellaneous


Abstract: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the most prominent initiative on the global development agenda and have a great deal in common with human rights commitments. But neither the human rights nor development communities has embraced this linkage with enthusiasm or conviction. This article explores the reasons why the two agendas resemble ships passing in the night, even though they are both headed for very similar destinations. The empirical evidence examined includes analyses prepared by a range of human rights NGOs, the MDG National Plans adopted by many developing countries, and the relevant analyses undertaken by U.N. human rights treaty bodies and special rapporteurs. The author calls upon the human rights community to engage more effectively with the development agenda, to prioritize its concerns rather than assuming that every issue needs to be tackled simultaneously, and to avoid being overly prescriptive.


This volume holds that a rights-based approach should be the foundation of development efforts on the part of the IMF. The IMF needs to include participation in its PRSs and uphold the tenets of the MDGs. The suggestion is also made that the organization needs to make informed goals, which rules out some degree of participation as the participants might not always be well-informed.


Amnesty International suggests that the IMF should ensure the protection of human rights. The IMF is also urged to consider the human rights impacts of its investments.


This source calls on the IMF to account for human rights abuses in recipient states.


Abstract: States that Western governments appear unwilling to use financial leverage to deal with human rights abuses in Indonesia. The position that the International Monetary Fund is in to push for democracy; The worsening situation for human rights in Indonesia in the late 1990s; The history of abuses by President Suharto in the name of stability and cohesion; Why Indonesia has been reluctant to heed advice from international groups.

Reports that a British committee criticized IMF for ignoring human rights abuses in Rwanda. The committee calls on the IMF to begin consideration of such issues.

Development Catholic Agency for Overseas. CAFOD: Policy and analysis: Rouch Guides: Transparency.

This piece reports the need for transparency regarding IMF funds. This is a necessity to avoid the funds being used for activities that might result in human rights violations.


“A Creative Approach to Structural Adjustment: Towards a People-centered Development” by Marcos Arruda suggests that human rights be an integral component of macroeconomic policy in a people-centered approach to development. Such an approach focuses on empowerment and participation.

Christian Aid. 2001. Schorched Earth: Oil and War in Sudan.

Christian Aid urges the IMF to audit the Sudanese government to assure that funds are not being used for activities that might violate human rights.


This article calls for the IMF to consider human rights, especially basic needs. The IMF maintains that this is outside its scope as the organization is obligated to refrain from political involvement. The author suggests that the United States, as a large stake-holder in the Fund, can help to guide the consideration of human rights.


The author of this book maintains that it is the responsibility of the IMF to respect, protect, fulfill, and promote/uphold human rights. This responsibility comes to the IMF as a subject of international law. The book relates that SAPs can violate human rights and cites the case of India to illustrate this. The source examines the legal personality of the IMF and the sources of its human rights obligations.


This article briefly suggests that a human rights approach to development would include a paradigm shift in IMF policies.

This book suggests that the IMF should impose minimum human rights standards on its members. These standards should be designed to compliment and uphold the U.N. human rights treaties.


Report discusses IMF's Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency. The IMF worked with NGOs in Indonesia to be sure that ExxonMobil money was not being spent in ways that led to human rights violations.


This piece suggests that the IMF could make use of human rights benchmarks to measure progress. It cites Angola as a possible example.


This source suggests that the IMF should promote human rights by integrating human rights protection into its loan packages but that the organization has failed to do this thus far. The piece relays that the IMF has begun to promote human rights in the case of Angola. The response of the IMF has been that their focus is economic and that political issues are outside its scope. This claim, when considering Angola, is a source of inconsistency.


It is cited here that the IMF claimed human rights to be a critical component of its activities.


This source suggests that there is inconsistency in IMF policies regarding transparency for human rights abusers. Cites cases of Angola, Liberia, DRC, Sudan, and Kazakhstan.


States that IMF aid is likely to violate human rights in India. Suggests that IMF needs to include human rights in aid reform.


The authors suggest that the IMF should follow the U.N. promise to address human rights. It cites an instance when UNICEF criticises the IMF.


“The Human Rights Framework for Development” suggests that the IMF plans development without attention to human rights but that the IMF has expressed some interest in a “right to
development” approach. “The Right to Development and International Economic Regimes” suggests that the IMF is better suited to enforce human rights protections than are local governments.
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
by Robin Richardson

A rights-based approach to development is a conceptual framework for the process of human development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. Essentially, a rights-based approach integrates the norms, standards and principles of the international human rights system into the plans, policies and processes of development (The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights).

The mission of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is to “protect and promote all human rights for all and to prevent the occurrence or continuation of human rights abuses throughout the world.” The OHCHR works with governments, national institutions, civil society, and regional and international organizations in order to strengthen the United Nations human rights program. As a department of the United Nations, the OHCHR is mandated to promote and protect all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international human rights laws and treaties. This includes preventing human rights violations, promoting international cooperation to protect human rights, and attempting to integrate a human rights approach within all work carried out by United Nations agencies.

In particular, the OHCHR promotes the use of a rights-based approach to development not only because it supports human rights, but is also seen as more effective, sustainable, rational and genuine than other development processes. Although there is not one well-defined, universal rights-based approach, the OHCHR says this type of approach to development must include linkage to rights, accountability, empowerment, participation, and non-discrimination and attention to vulnerable groups. The documents found under the following four categories reflect the efforts the OHCHR has taken in promoting a rights-based approach to development.

Background Resources


In this article the author discusses the former High Commissioner for Human Rights’s view on the role of that office in promoting human rights both within the U.N. and worldwide. It provides historical background and practical prescriptions.


Abstract: The article focuses on the influence of the international human rights treaties of the United Nations (UN) on countries. The success or failure of any international human rights system should be evaluated in accordance with its impact on human rights practices on the domestic level. At the beginning of the new millennium, it is clear that the concept of human rights is widely. The conceptual battle is over, and the focus has shifted to the implementation of human rights. Universal ratification of the main U.N. human rights treaties might be appearing on the horizon, but ratification in itself is largely a formal, and in some cases an empty, gesture. The challenge now is to ensure that the promises contained in the treaties and affirmed through ratification...
are realized in the lives of ordinary people around the world. A paradigm shift to the true customers of the system is necessary. In 1999, a study was initiated in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate the impact of the U.N. human rights treaty system worldwide and to make recommendations for their reform. The impact of the treaties on human rights practices in twenty different countries was studied by the present authors.


This article reviews the literature on state reporting of human rights performance to all major instruments. It covers the purpose, structure and process of this reporting in detail.


Abstract: This article attempts to demonstrate that the successive development of other tools, such as awareness-building approaches launched at the end of the 1980s and the face of advisory services and technical cooperation that followed, lead to a focus on the right to development and the role of the United Nations (UN) system in supporting governments to create conditions that would enable them to fulfill their international legal obligations. The adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the General Assembly of the U.N. on December 4, 1986 constitutes a milestone in the evolution of the promotion and protection of human rights by the U.N. The process of formulation and implementation of human rights law has the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its foundation. This article highlights the fact that the working methods of the treaty bodies are indeed the core mechanism in the control and monitoring machinery of the U.N. system of human rights law and that they have also developed in response to challenges arising from the overall evolution of human rights implementation. In spite of the acknowledged desire for a homogeneous approach, it is a historical fact that substantive human rights law developed in separate sectors, principally civil and political rights on one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other.


Abstract: Human rights will remain central to the future world order and to the well-being of countries across the globe. For a little more than a decade the U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights has been charged with leading the promotion and protection of human rights world-wide. The author, who was recently Acting High Commissioner after the assassination of the third holder of the office, assesses the progress made in that first 10 years and sets an agenda for future developments.


Abstract: This handbook's aim is to assist national human rights institutions in the development of policies, processes and skills to integrate economic, social and cultural rights further into their work. It examines ways in which national institutions legal mandates can be interpreted to these rights within their jurisdictions and how their functions and powers can be exercised more appropriately in their regard.


[This article] Describes methods and techniques for monitoring human rights performance. The [t]Target audience[s] [are] is both members of U.N. field operations and others.

**Rights-Based Approaches Used by OHCHR**


Abstract: This paper seeks to unravel some of the tangled threads of contemporary rights talk. For some, the grounding of rights-based approaches in human rights legislation makes them distinctively different to others, lending the promise of re-politicising areas of development work—particularly, perhaps, efforts to enhance participation in development, that have become domesticated as they have been ‘mainstreamed’ by powerful institutions like the World Bank. Others complain that like other fashions, the label ‘rights-based approach’ has become the latest designer item to be seen to be wearing, and has been used to dress up the same old development. We pose a series of questions about why rights have come to be of interest to international development actors, and explore the implications of different versions and emphases, looking at what their strengths and shortcomings may come to mean for the politics and practice of development.


This is a report intended for practitioners in the health and human rights fields. It presents starting points for the implementation both principles into programs.


The authors relate their experience as development and human rights practitioners to the recent trend towards rights-based development. They clarify the conceptual and practical bases of the ideas that are crucial to the convergence of human rights and development.
Human Rights v. Development Needs


Abstract: The article discusses the discomfort about the relationships between conservation, human rights, and development needs. Because of it disconnection this discomfort is unproductive. In order to have a productive discussion, the authors of this article make three observations. First is the dearth of good information regarding the social impacts of protected areas. Second is the need of a conservationist to be suspicious of an exclusive focus on indigenous peoples. Lastly is the importance of understanding the ecologies of coexistence.


Abstract: This paper seeks to unravel some of the tangled threads of contemporary rights talk. For some, the grounding of rights-based approaches in human rights legislation makes them distinctively different to others, lending the promise of re-politicising areas of development work—particularly, perhaps, efforts to enhance participation in development, that have become domesticated as they have been ‘mainstreamed’ by powerful institutions like the World Bank. Others complain that like other fashions, the label ‘rights-based approach’ has become the latest designer item to be seen to be wearing, and has been used to dress up the same old development. We pose a series of questions about why rights have come to be of interest to international development actors, and explore the implications of different versions and emphases, looking at what their strengths and shortcomings may come to mean for the politics and practice of development.


Abstract: Ushered in during the 1990s in response to development failures of the structural adjustment era, human rights-based approaches to development have proliferated in recent years. Nonetheless, the rhetoric has so far not been matched by conceptual rigor, systematization of practice, or lessons-learning-shortcomings that may undermine continuing support for such approaches. This Article seeks to contribute conceptual clarity to the frequently muddy waters of rights-based approaches, addressing in particular the conceptual and practical relevance of the international human rights normative framework to development cooperation within the U.N. system. The analysis focuses upon particular niches in which a normatively rigorous model for rights-based programming seems uniquely adapted, that is to say, in addressing asymmetries of power, the phenomenon known as “elite capture,” and the transformation of violent conflict. The Article concludes with a reminder of the challenges and prerequisites for the wider implementation of rights-based approaches, and of the urgency of the need for a strengthened conceptual framework for empowerment and account-ability.


This paper on poverty reduction in rural areas aims to identify the most effective policies and methods for increasing the incomes, opportunities and influence of the poor. The author also discusses reasons for emphasizing participatory approaches to rural development. The following components of successful integrated rural development strategies are described, as follows: specifically targeting the poorest groups, including women, soil conservation and land reform,
providing equitable access to basic education and health services, markets, roads and agricultural extension. The paper offers considerable evidence that participatory strategies of poverty reduction are more effective than those imposed from above.


**Abstract:** The article explores the foundations of positive law within the context of human rights and development. The author’s conception of rights and law is very different from those of the positivist or realist who see law as a coercive order created by human communities to protect people from one another, and rights as entitlements granted by law. The author claims that there are some world order views which are reminiscent of the optimistic and holistic character of the earlier natural law theories. According to the author, they integrate morality, human rights and law more intimately, and provides with a universal foundation. The hypothesis that emerge from author’s study is that human rights are universal and are the bases for positive law, and that rights and law are human manifestations of the propensity to develop found in all living organisms. The article examines two major approaches in understanding of rights and law--natural law theory and legal positivism--through the eyes of some of their major proponents.


**Abstract:** This paper explores the conceptual connections between poverty and human rights through the lens of the capability approach. The concept of capability can be seen as the bridge that links poverty with human rights because it plays a foundational role in the characterisation of both poverty and human rights. Once this common foundation is noted, poverty can be defined as denial of human rights. Furthermore, the capability approach also helps us to address the question of whether just any denial of human right should count as poverty or whether there should be some restriction in this regard admitting only certain cases of denial of human of rights into the domain but not others. The capability perspective suggests that the domain should indeed be restricted in some well-defined ways. Finally, the paper argues that such restriction of domain need not be inconsistent with the principle of indivisibility of human rights.


**Abstract:** This article attempts to demonstrate that the successive development of other tools, such as awareness-building approaches launched at the end of the 1980s and the face of advisory services and technical cooperation that followed, lead to a focus on the right to development and the role of the United Nations (UN) system in supporting governments to create conditions that would enable them to fulfill their international legal obligations. The adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development by the General Assembly of the U.N. on December 4, 1986 constitutes a milestone in the evolution of the promotion and protection of human rights by the UN. The process of formulation and implementation of human rights law has the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its foundation. This article highlights the fact that the working methods of the treaty bodies are indeed the core mechanism in the control and monitoring machinery of the U.N. system of human rights law and that they have also developed in response to challenges arising from the overall evolution of human rights implementation. In spite of the acknowledged desire for a homogeneous approach, it is a historical fact that substantive human rights law developed in separate sectors, principally civil and political rights on one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

Abstract: The two concepts—human rights and capabilities—go well with each other, so long as we do not try to subsume either concept entirely within the territory of the other. There are many human rights that can be seen as rights to particular capabilities. However, human rights to important process freedoms cannot be adequately analysed within the capability framework. Furthermore, both human rights and capabilities have to depend on the process of public reasoning. The methodology of public scrutiny draws on Rawlsian understanding of “objectivity” in ethics, but the impartiality that is needed cannot be confined within the borders of a nation. Public reasoning without territorial confinement is important for both.


Abstract: This article contends that there is a relationship between development, structural adjustment, and human rights. While the international financial institutions have not yet recognized this relationship, such recognition would create potential for sustainable development which current development and financial strategies to a large extent lack. This article begins by presenting the current approaches to structural adjustment, some of the criticisms that have been raised to these approaches, and how this relates to human rights. It then discusses the legal, political, and economic reasons for including human rights in structural adjustment policies, and why the discourse of rights provides a different—and more fruitful—approach to the questions of development and structural adjustment. According to the author, to link the effects of structural adjustment to so-called non-economic factors such as social dimensions has gained recognition in the last few years. The relative failure of structural adjustment to achieve the stipulated goals has also largely been recognized, and new ways to improve efficiency are being sought. However, to link these issues to a consideration of human rights, to determine damage, but also as a way to seek improvement, is fairly new.


Abstract: This paper is concerned with the observation that rights-based approaches to development have tended to ignore the ways in which religion and culture shape understandings of human rights. Although religious traditions often act against the pursuit of human rights, there are also areas of overlap and consensus. The first part of the paper suggests that the absence of a research agenda within development studies on ‘religion and development’ has meant that a significant indigenous mechanism for pursuing rights has been overlooked. Drawing upon examples from India, the second part of my discussion then asks whether a language of social justice based upon the concept of duty is more appropriate than one based upon rights.


Abstract: Electricity access is already well established within the framework of human rights, either as an implicit attribute of a pre-existing right (such as non-discrimination or sustainable development) or explicitly in the context of eliminating discrimination against women. There is also broad acknowledgement by states of the desirability of eliminating energy poverty for all, but particularly for the rural poor, and women.
Poverty and Human Rights


Abstract: The article discusses the discomfort about the relationships between conservation, human rights, and development needs. Because of its disconnection, this discomfort is unproductive. In order to have a productive discussion, the authors of this article make three observations. First is the dearth of good information regarding the social impacts of protected areas. Second is the need of a conservationist to be suspicious of an exclusive focus on indigenous peoples. Lastly is the importance of understanding the ecologies of coexistence.


Abstract: This report is a set of guidelines, intended to assist countries, international agencies and development practitioners to translate human rights norms, standards and principles into pro-poor policies and strategies. In elaborating these guidelines, the authors have taken up the challenge of bridging the divide between a normative approach and a development economist’s approach to the concept and content of poverty. At the same time, the experts have helped to clarify what a rights-based approach to development means in practice.


This report by the OHCHR explains the need for an appropriate concept of poverty and the relationship between poverty and human rights. It lists the main features of a human rights approach to poverty reduction strategies.


Abstract: This paper explores the conceptual connections between poverty and human rights through the lens of the capability approach. The concept of capability can be seen as the bridge that links poverty with human rights because it plays a foundational role in the characterisation of both poverty and human rights. Once this common foundation is noted, poverty can be defined as denial of human rights. Furthermore, the capability approach also helps us to address the question of whether just any denial of human right should count as poverty or whether there should be some restriction in this regard admitting only certain cases of denial of human rights into the domain but not others. The capability perspective suggests that the domain should indeed be restricted in some well-defined ways. Finally, the paper argues that such restriction of domain need not be inconsistent with the principle of indivisibility of human rights.


This article addresses the basis of the idea underlying the adoption of a human rights approach to poverty reduction. Essentially, the idea assumes that policies, and the institutions implementing those policies, for poverty reduction should be based explicitly on the norms and values set out in the international law of human rights. This paper first sets out the main features of a human rights approach to poverty reduction. It then explains the added value that comes
from basing poverty reduction strategies on the international human rights framework. Finally, it illustrates how this framework can be applied in operational terms by considering the implementation of the right to health as part of a poverty reduction strategy.


This report aims to demonstrate the role of employment creation in poverty eradication. It focuses on the lack of economic opportunities for the poor and inherent economic and societal biases against women.


Abstract: This article contends that there is a relationship between development, structural adjustment, and human rights. While the international financial institutions have not yet recognized this relationship, such recognition would create potential for sustainable development which current development and financial strategies to a large extent lack. This article begins by presenting the current approaches to structural adjustment, some of the criticisms that have been raised to these approaches, and how this relates to human rights. It then discusses the legal, political, and economic reasons for including human rights in structural adjustment policies, and why the discourse of rights provides a different--and more fruitful--approach to the questions of development and structural adjustment. According to the author, to link the effects of structural adjustment to so-called non-economic factors such as social dimensions has gained recognition in the last few years. The relative failure of structural adjustment to achieve the stipulated goals has also largely been recognized, and new ways to improve efficiency are being sought. However, to link these issues to a consideration of human rights, to determine damage, but also as a way to seek improvement, is fairly new.

Violence Against Women


This is a resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1998. It includes recommendations by the Council, for example actions to be taken by governments and the international community in a holistic, integrated approach. The resolution also lists which resources should be provided in order to combat violence against all women. The Council also recommends creating linkages to protect women, particular legal measures that can be taken, and how to ensure gender-sensitive justice.

2006. INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND A GENDER PERSPECTIVE.

This report focuses on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. A human rights approach to trafficking is recommended.

2006. MISSION TO LEBANON.
This article focuses on the particular human rights violations women face in Lebanon, specifically concentrating on human trafficking. The author of this article recommends a human rights-based approach in order to improve conditions for women.


This report aims to demonstrate the role of employment creation in poverty eradication. It focuses on the lack of economic opportunities for the poor and inherent economic and societal biases against women.

**Environmental Development Needs**


Abstract: *The article discusses the discomfort about the relationships between conservation, human rights, and development needs. Because of it disconnection this discomfort is unproductive. In order to have a productive discussion, the authors of this article make three observations. First is the dearth of good information regarding the social impacts of protected areas. Second is the need of a conservationist to be suspicious of an exclusive focus on indigenous peoples. Lastly is the importance of understanding the ecologies of coexistence.*

El Hadji Guisse. 2002. *Relationship between the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the promotion of the realization of the right to drinking water supply and sanitation.*

This is a resolution by the Sub-Commission on Human Rights, which discusses the right to water in light of different international agreements on water and human rights. It requests that the Special Rapporteur and member states coordinate to improve monitoring of this right.


This report provides the UNDP’s assessment of the general relationship between human rights and development, as well as how the UNDP can better integrate and promote human rights. It includes useful annexes on UNDP publications on governance and human rights in 1997 and features of international human rights law relevant to development.
United Nations Development Programme
by Jason Keeler

The central goal of Development has and will be the promotion of human well-being. Given that human rights define and defend human well-being, a rights-based approach to development provides both the conceptual and practical framework for the realization of human rights through the development process (United Nations Development Programme: Regional Bureau for Asia & Pacific).

A recent trend in development has been the implementation of rights-based approaches to development, as opposed to development as a human right, or human rights encompassed within the aim of development. A rights-based approach to development is unique and distinct from previous concepts of connectivity because it brings specificity and obligation to bear in the language of development. Since a rights-based approach is a recent phenomenon, international development organizations have varied in their adherence to the approach. Some still support the idea that human rights and development are separate fields, best approached independently from one another. Others have, conceptually, created practical tools for rights-based programs to advancing its meaning.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has mainly taken a conceptual approach to incorporating a human-rights based approach into development. Practical programming—through which the UNDP has established a human-rights based approach to development—is evident in some of the organizations’ projects and reports. The UNDP has historically been quite limited in its human rights reporting within their development work. In general, it appears that the UNDP’s work on rights has leaned heavily toward governance institutions. With the focus limited to governance, a plethora of literature has surfaced on the UNDP’s role in promoting human rights through governance projects in development. Other vehicles through which the UNDP promotes human rights in development are: energy/environment, poverty, and gender projects. Those areas, along with a stress on governance, constitute the bulk of the UNDP’s work in development along a human rights approach. The UNDP’s national and regional development reports, articles authored and co-authored by the UNDP, and books and journals covering the development projects undertaken by the UNDP are all important sources for analyzing the UNDP’s involvement in the recent attempts at incorporating a rights-based approach to development.

Background Resources


Abstract: States that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in its “Human Development Report: 1992” observes that “for the first time in human history, the world is close to creating a single, unified global system.” Questions impact of this global system upon nations and communities and upon human beings and human rights; Control of global economy; Direct link between poverty and political rights; Reported from the Third World Network Features agency of Penang, Malaysia.


Abstract: Sequel to the India HDR, the South India HDR and the West and Central India HDR. Includes statistical tables.


Abstract: The Human Development Report 2003 discusses the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—the targets set for reductions in poverty, improvements in health and education, and protection of the environment around the world by the year 2015. In September 2000, world leaders pledged to achieve the MDGs, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. This report examines the progress made towards reaching these goals on a country-by-country basis. The Human Development Report 2003 also features a wide variety of national development indicators for 174 countries including demographic trends, educational levels, gender disparities, and macroeconomic indicators. It is an important tool in the formulation of government policy.


Abstract: By combining quantitative indicators and detailed interviews with in-depth surveys and an on-going dialogue with a cross-section of prominent leaders and opinion formers across the region, the report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of democracy in Latin America.

**Human Rights Initiatives**


Abstract: Comments on the proposed formation of an “Honesty International” organization, as well as how such an organization could monitor corruption just as Amnesty International monitors and publicizes human-rights abuses. Includes an overview of the proposal as detailed by the United Nations Development Programme in its “Human Development Report 1992.”

Abstract: Observes that more of the world’s people are enjoying more freedoms now than was the case five years ago. Includes statistics from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which has devised a Human Freedom Index and provides evidence of a high correlation between a country’s development and freedom. INSET: The Human Freedom Index.


Abstract: Examines the relationships between human rights and development. Analysis of the content of the Declaration on the Right to Development, the role of human rights in development especially within the context of rapid economic globalization, and the adoption of a policy on integrating human rights with sustainable human development by the United Nations Development Program.


Abstract: Presents the Human Development Index (HDI) compiled by the United Nations Development Program.


Abstract: Focuses on the Human Development Report 2000 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that asserts that human rights must include economic, social, and cultural rights. Opinion as to why this reflects a shift in the way the UNDP looks at human development and consideration of poverty as a major human-rights challenge.


Abstract: Gives general background on the relationship between human rights and development. Argues that an “International Law of Development” is expressed by various covenants and treaties. Discusses how international law relates to housing rights in the context of development, and common misperceptions about the right to housing.


Abstract: States that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in its “Human Development Report: 1992” observes that “for the first time in human history, the world is close to creating a single, unified
Questions impact of this global system upon nations and communities and upon human beings and human rights, control of global economy, direct link between poverty and political rights, and reported from the Third World Network Features agency of Penang, Malaysia.


Abstract: The article focuses on the need for integrating human rights and economic development. This article attempts to explain the character of this convergence and to make proposals as to how it can be achieved. First, a brief explanation is given as to why convergence is happening just now. Second, the history and background of human rights and development are discussed more fully in order to identify the essential points and possibilities that they share. Finally, the roles that the two disciplines have played in Danish aid policy are examined, providing a concrete background for discussion of the obstacles and opportunities for further integration. It is appropriate to think of human rights and development research as connected because of two predominant tendencies of the 1990s. The first tendency is that the demands of developing countries for social provisions increasingly won support as internationally accepted norms or entitlements.


Abstract: Presents insight on the recently published annual global report on cultural liberty of the United Nations Development Programme. Relevance of the report in the issues of national identity and cultural diversity in school systems; Promotion of human rights; Discussion on the benefits that arise from cultural liberty and the recognition of multiple identities.


Abstract: A regional look at poverty and human development in Timor-Leste. The report looks at the area’s development as judged according to the MDGs.

Gender Initiatives


Abstract: Water reform illustrates the conflicts and tensions between individualist and welfarist polices at the international, national and local levels. Two goals of the water reform are to broaden women’s access to water and to enhance their participation in water management. With the shift from welfarist to market driven policies in relation to land, water, health and education I suggest employing the human rights of women as enunciated in CEDAW as an important counterbalance. Thus in this article the impact of international and national water reform policies are analyzed in light of Zimbabwean women farmers’ rights to non-discrimination and an adequate standard of living.


Abstract: This is an update to the earlier report “Millennium Development Goals: National Reports A Look Through A Gender Lens” (2003). The report is a gender review of 78 MDGRs assessing the extent to which gender has been included or mainstreamed into the reporting of each goal.


Abstract: Report argues that human development cannot succeed without gender mainstreaming. Integrating women into development is a process that requires political creativity, not just technocratic adjustments. A serious commitment to equal access to planning and resources requires a rights-based approach.


Abstract: Contemplates the importance of governance, the environment, and armed conflict in light of the UNDP’s two-pronged approach to gender: mainstreaming and promoting women’s empowerment.


Abstract: New item noting the recent incorporation of women’s issues into legal training in Nepal. Training is meant to inform legal official on the international human rights instruments that Nepal is party to, and which pertain to the treatment of women there.

Poverty Initiatives

Abstract: The article examines the relationship between technological achievement and human development so that the human rights community may better understand the impact of the digital divide worldwide. Using data collected by a variety of international organizations and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, this article explores the creation, diffusion, and utilization of technology within the context of vast socio-economic inequalities among nations. The article begins with a brief introduction to the technology revolution, followed by a discussion of the digital divide. Data descriptions are also presented in the article, along with findings that show comparisons across technology achievement categories. The paper concludes with suggestions for abridging the digital divide and policy implications for the global community. Connected to one another in complex and reciprocal ways, the creation, diffusion and utilization of technology and the quality of life of the citizenry will be closely aligned in the 21st century. Unfortunately, most nations and their people lack resources, educational levels, and infrastructure necessary to partake in this global revolution.


Abstract: *Critique of the HDI concept and its application by the UNDP.*


Abstract: *A regional look at poverty and human development in Timor-Leste. The report looks at the area’s development as judged according to the MDGs.*

Environment Initiatives


Abstract: Recent debates about governance, poverty, and environmental sustainability have emphasized a “rights-based” approach, in which equitable development is strongly associated with individual and communal rights. This paper reviews this approach and explores its practical application to Thailand’s Community Forestry Bill, which seeks to establish communal rights of access and conservation in forest reserve areas. The paper examines conflicts concerning watershed forests and mangroves in Thailand, and argues that efforts to support rural livelihoods through community rights have been undermined by a state that has frequently supported commercial interests or opposed decentralization. The paper documents how civil society organizations may negotiate rights within the wider public spheres in which rules, rights, and “community” are established and defended.


Abstract: Considers community development approaches in the context of recent developments in information communication technology. Especially concerned with the question of equal access.

Abstract: The Guidelines are intended to assist national energy, rural development planners, and policy-makers in introducing an integrated approach to energy and rural development policies and programs. Particular emphasis has been given to stakeholders’ involvement, gender mainstreaming of processes and results, and institutional arrangements. Attempts have also been made to devise a practical way to put the ideas presented in the Guidelines into action at the national level. Training materials, which will be developed at national levels as a later stage of the project, will supplement the Guidelines.


Abstract: Occasional UNDP paper details the theoretical and conceptual aspects of human development. States the importance of intergenerational justice, and relates the human development concept to economic orthodoxy.


Abstract: Accompanying CD-ROM contains a PDF copy of the manual, including a powerpoint presentation of the overhead projection transparencies (OHPs) included with the manual.

Regional Initiatives


Abstract: Analysis of transaction costs in development assistance to the education sector in Tanzania.


Abstract: Water reform illustrates the conflicts and tensions between individualist and welfarist polices at the international, national, and local levels. Two goals of the water reform are to broaden women’s access to water and to enhance their participation in water management. With the shift from welfarist to market driven policies in
relation to land, water, health and education employing the human rights of women as enunciated in CEDAW is an important counterbalance. Thus in this article the impact of international and national water reform policies are analyzed in light of Zimbabwean women farmers’ rights to non-discrimination and an adequate standard of living.


Abstract: Describes how the UNDP has strengthened Parliaments in several key Sub-Saharan African cases. Notes that the international community has been key in promoting ombudsmen, national human rights institutions, and human rights conferences. Contains data on project funding.


Abstract: States that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in its “Human Development Report: 1992” observes that “for the first time in human history, the world is close to creating a single, unified global system.” Questions impact of this global system upon nations and communities and upon human beings and human rights; Control of global economy; Direct link between poverty and political rights; Reported from the Third World Network Features agency of Penang, Malaysia.


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Abstract: By combining quantitative indicators and detailed interviews with in-depth surveys and an on-going dialogue with a cross-section of prominent leaders and opinion formers across the region, the report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of democracy in Latin America.


Abstract: Accommodating people’s growing demands for inclusion in society and respect for their ethnicity, religion, and language, takes more than democracy and equitable growth. Also needed are multicultural policies that recognize differences and champion diversity while promoting cultural freedoms, so that all people can choose to speak their language, practice their religion, and participate in shaping their culture—in essence all people can choose to be who they are.
World Health Organization
by Wendy Braun

Over the past 60 years the World Health Organization (WHO) has succeeded in improving the
general standard of health around the world. The WHO is an international agency within the United
Nations and is comprised of 192 countries. The World Health Assembly, a 34 member elected
board, meets annually to determine new regulations and budgetary needs for the organization.
Rights-based policy is integrated throughout the World Health Organization’s programs. The WHO
works with several entities, including non-governmental organizations, U.N. agencies and private
organizations to achieve goals and implement new programs. Key topics for the WHO include
gender rights, policy, and medical ethics. The Millennium Development Goals are a prime example
of rights-based integration and universal collaboration that WHO strives to achieve, as these goals
encompass the areas of poverty, education, environment, development and gender.

One priority is to improve women’s rights through the promotion of gender equality and
empowerment of women. Throughout the world, women are not given the same opportunities as
men, and continue to be at an increased risk for HIV/AIDS infection. According to the WHO,
women have a greater susceptibility to infection from HIV because of biological factors, gender
roles, social behaviors and forced sex. In an effort to promote awareness and education, the World
Health Organization has implemented programs such as Sixteen Days of Activism against gender-
based violence and World AIDS Day.

U.N. policy intervention is an expanding effort throughout the world. To promote creative
policy thinking, Secretary-General Kofi Annan created the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges
and Change in 2004. Under the Secretary-General’s guidance, The World Health Organization
works to improve policy that protects and improves people’s well being. Though sovereignty
continues to impact the progress of international human rights, the World Health Organization has
been able to penetrate many of these barriers though intra-agency coordination.

Another example of successful policy intervention is the prohibition of unethical medical
practices. To that end, the World Health Organization has utilized the Declaration of Helsinki and
developed guidelines for research on human subjects. The basic principles include beneficence, non-
malefeasance, respect and justice. As medical research continues to allow for increased economic
gains, developing countries are at a greater risk. The ethical guidelines are clear, but individual
countries’ interpretations have presented a challenge for the global community. The WHO provides
training programs and capacity-building activities which improve understanding of ethical medical
research.

The World Health Organization is also a leader in the effort to provide safe and equal rights to
all citizens of the world. The challenge of state sovereignty is being penetrated by the WHO and
collaborating organizations through international policy intervention, treaties and social pressures. In
many cases there are no punishments for human rights violations. The WHO programs are utilizing
local and international resources to combat many of the world’s problems through rights-based
approaches and policy interventions.
General Resources


Abstract: This is a summary of the presentations and discussion of the Gender Dimensions and Human Rights Aspects to Responses and Recovery of the Conference, Health Aspects of the Tsunami Disaster in Asia, convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Phuket, Thailand, 04-06 May 2005. The topics discussed included issues related to gender dimensions and human rights pertaining to the responses to the damage created by the Tsunami. It is presented in the following major sections: (1) gaps encountered and major issues; (2) limitations of response; (3) what could have been done better? and (4) recommendations.


Abstract: The Benchmarks of Fairness instrument is an evidence-based policy tool developed in generic form in 2000 for evaluating the effects of health-system reforms on equity, efficiency and accountability. By integrating measures of these effects on the central goal of fairness, the approach fills a gap that has hampered reform efforts for more than two decades. Over the past three years, projects in developing countries on three continents have adapted the generic version of these benchmarks for use at both national and subnational levels. Interdisciplinary teams of managers, providers, academics and advocates agree on the relevant criteria for assessing components of fairness and, depending on which aspects of reform they wish to evaluate, select appropriate indicators that rely on accessible information; they also agree on scoring rules for evaluating the diverse changes in the indicators. In contrast to a comprehensive index that aggregates all measured changes into a single evaluation or rank, the pattern of changes revealed by the benchmarks is used to inform policy deliberation about which aspects of the reforms have been successfully implemented, and it also allows for improvements to be made in the reforms. This approach permits useful evidence about reform to be gathered in settings where existing information is underused and where there is a weak information infrastructure. Brief descriptions of early results from Cameroon, Ecuador, Guatemala, Thailand and Zambia demonstrate that the method can produce results that are useful for policy and reveal the variety of purposes to which the approach can be put. Collaboration across sites can yield a catalogue of indicators that will facilitate further work.


This chapter outlines the ethical responsibilities for health researchers. The World Health Organization has created these guidelines because of the increasing awareness of individual human rights. The authors state why it is no longer acceptable to compromise an individual’s welfare and respect in the pursuit of scientific gain.
Ethics of the WHO


The World Medical Association (WMS) Declaration of Helsinki is a set of International guidelines that outlines ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects.


Abstract: This paper regrets the retreat in the 1990s from a focus on health as a social good that results from good social policy. It highlights the importance of the People’s Health Movement and the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health as offering a chance to return to a more socially just quest for equity and health.


Abstract: Judging from the official documents dealing with the moral and legal aspects of human reproductive cloning, there seems to be a nearly worldwide consensus that reproductive cloning is incompatible with human dignity. The certainty of this judgment is, however, not matched by corresponding arguments. Is the incompatibility of reproductive cloning with human dignity an ultimate moral intuition closed to further argument? The paper considers several ways by which the intuition might be connected with more familiar applications of the concept of human dignity, and argues that there is no such connection. It concludes that the central objections to human reproductive cloning are not objections relating to dignity but objections relating to risk, especially the risks imposed on children born in the course of testing the method’s safety.


Abstract: Polio eradication has been top on the agenda of various international humanitarian organizations since 1988. Caused by a virus that enters through the mouth, poliomyelitis attacks the nervous system, and can lead to irreversible paralysis or death. Children under five years of age are most at risk. The oral polio vaccine, OPV, is administered as a drop often on a lump of sugar placed in the child’s mouth. Given multiple times, the vaccine may protect a child for life. In this essay, the Nigerian scenario serves as a case study of community involvement and trust in international humanitarian policy. The underlying causes of the rebellion and its long-term impact on immunization programs in the region as well around the world are of interest and relevance to students, teachers and practitioners of public health.


Abstract: The Benchmarks of Fairness instrument is an evidence-based policy tool developed in generic form in 2000 for evaluating the effects of health-system reforms on equity, efficiency and accountability. By integrating measures of these effects on the central goal of fairness, the approach fills a gap that has hampered reform efforts for more than two decades. Over the past three years, projects in developing countries on three continents have adapted the generic version of these benchmarks for use at both national and subnational levels. Interdisciplinary teams of...
managers, providers, academics and advocates agree on the relevant criteria for assessing components of fairness and, depending on which aspects of reform they wish to evaluate, select appropriate indicators that rely on accessible information; they also agree on scoring rules for evaluating the diverse changes in the indicators. In contrast to a comprehensive index that aggregates all measured changes into a single evaluation or rank, the pattern of changes revealed by the benchmarks is used to inform policy deliberation about which aspects of the reforms have been successfully implemented, and it also allows for improvements to be made in the reforms. This approach permits useful evidence about reform to be gathered in settings where existing information is underused and where there is a weak information infrastructure. Brief descriptions of early results from Cameroon, Ecuador, Guatemala, Thailand and Zambia demonstrate that the method can produce results that are useful for policy and reveal the variety of purposes to which the approach can be put. Collaboration across sites can yield a catalogue of indicators that will facilitate further work.


Discusses the evolution of international health law. Excellent discussion of the relevance of international human rights law to international health law. Schematics of reporting and monitoring system.


Abstract: The objective of this module is to provide information on issues of concern for Research Ethics Committee members and investigators during the review process. The many guidelines on research ethics, including those from the South African Department of Health and the World Health Organisation, will be referred to extensively to educate you on the requirements of Research Ethics Committees. The evolution of the review process in South Africa will be detailed.


Abstract: Controversies affecting reproductive choice can often be resolved within interactions of legal and ethical decision-making. This paper addresses three topics, following the methodology presented in Reproductive Health and Human Rights: Integrating Medicine, Ethics, and Law, by R. J. Cook, B. M. Dickens and M. F. Fathalla (Oxford University Press, 2003). The book’s 15 case studies each addresses medical, ethical, legal and human rights aspects, and structural approaches at clinical, healthcare system and societal levels.

STERILIZATION: Individual self-determination supports legal and ethical rights of intellectually competent persons to sterilization. Sterilization of intellectually compromised persons was historically abused, causing reactions of excessively protective prohibition. ABORTION: Most developed countries have liberalized abortion legislation, thereby reducing abortion-related mortality and morbidity, but many developing countries retain repressive colonial laws. Over 95% of the estimated 20 million unsafe abortions annually occur in developing countries. COURT-ORDERED CAESAREAN DELIVERIES: A concern in developed countries is the willingness of some courts to order Caesarean procedures over competent women’s objections.


Abstract: This article challenges the widespread contention—promoted by the World Health Organization, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, and certain non-governmental organizations—that health care should be
regarded as an individual human right. Like other “post-modern” rights, the asserted individual right to health care is a positive claim on the resources of others; it is unlimited by corresponding responsibilities, and it pertains exclusively to the individual. In fact, an individual human right to health, enforceable against either governments or corporations, does not currently exist in law. If established, such a right would portend a dramatic expansion of government control over health care, with negative consequences for efficiency and patient welfare. Voluntary efforts based on partnership, rather than the imposition of legal requirements, are the most productive means of expanding access to health care while preserving incentives for continued development of innovative health technologies.


Abstract: This is a compilation of papers by notable experts in the fields of bioethics, law, and medicine. It expounds some of the ethical and legal dilemmas arising out of the epidemics of HIV infection and AIDS and proposes solutions that seek to ensure respect for fundamental human rights. The contents range from a detailed analysis of AIDS- and HIV-related legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean to thought-provoking discussions of both ethical issues (such as confidentiality and the allocation of scarce resources) and public health policy (such as restrictions on travel of HIV-infected persons and protection of workers with AIDS). The perspectives of doctors, nurses, and AIDS patients are also represented.


This chapter outlines ethical responsibilities for health researchers. The World Health Organization has created these guidelines because of the increasing awareness of individual human rights. The author states why it is no longer acceptable to compromise an individual’s welfare and respect in the pursuit of scientific gain.


Abstract: The World Health Organization defines unsafe abortion as a procedure for terminating an unintended pregnancy carried out by people lacking the necessary skills or in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards, or both. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development recommends that ‘In circumstances where abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe’. However, millions of women still risk their lives by undergoing unsafe abortion even if they comply with the law. This is a serious violation of women’s human rights, and obstetricians and gynaecologists have a fundamental role in breaking the administrative and procedural barriers to safe abortion. This chapter reviews the magnitude of the problem, its consequences for women’s health, the barriers to access to safe abortion, including its legal status, the effect of the law on the rate and the consequences of abortion, the human rights implications and the current evidence on methods to perform safe abortion. This chapter concludes with an analysis of what can be done to change the current situation.

Abstract: This paper deals with the violation of professional confidentiality and with transmission of infection disease under the Portuguese legal framework, in the case of HIV/AIDS. Topics include: the conflict of interests and duties for the practitioner, and the difficulty of solving it. Shall the practitioner speak, or shall he/she keep silence when the HIV/AIDS patient refuses to say the truth to his/her sexual partner, with the consequent risk of transmission of infection disease? The point of view of the Human rights. The position of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and of the European Union (EU) in the fight against the discrimination of people affected by HIV/AIDS. The statements of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) concerning the right to privacy and to non-discrimination (even for illness). Possibility of confrontation with the positions represented by: a) the opinion of the National Council of Ethics for the Sciences of Life (CNECV), of 23rd October 2000, required by the Order of the Practitioners; b) the opinion of the Portuguese legal experts; c) the Criminal Law and the Procedural Criminal Law; d) the cases of the English jurisprudence (High Courts). The ethics of responsibility, the crossing of the traditional principles of medicine, bioethics and law, as well as the reinforcing of the medical deontology and the implementing of a deontology of the patient as possible ways to be considered in order to find answers for the problems.


Abstract: According to the authors, the latest (June 2005) draft of UNESCO’s proposed Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights is a major disappointment. The committee of government ‘experts’ that produced it made sure that it would not introduce any new obligations for States, and so the document simply restates existing agreements and lists desirable goals without specifying how they can be achieved. This article focuses on the shortcomings of the document as it would apply to health care. These shortcomings are evident in the document’s scope, aims and principles. The conclusion is that if UNESCO still thinks that such a declaration is needed, it should produce either an ethical document addressed to individuals and groups, which would be primarily educational in nature, or a legal document addressed to States, which should not have the word ‘ethics’ in its title.

Gender Dimensions to Health


Abstract: The World Health Organization describes violence against women as the most pervasive yet least recognised human rights abuse which cuts across geographical, racial, social and economic boundaries in the world. In the present study of the 2000 women interviewed, nearly 50% reported having been physically assaulted. Age, education or socioeconomic status did not change anything but more women from nuclear families were assaulted (52%) compared with other group. Some 68% of women were assaulted by husbands and 7% by multiple perpetrators. The reasons for assault varied. Nearly 60% of those assaulted had informed someone and in around 65% of cases someone had tried to help, but in only 50% of those where help was offered, was the situation improved. The complex problem of gender violence needs to be remembered while providing healthcare because it is common. Women need to be aware of their rights and possible help. We need to progress towards a civilised society with gender equality and no violence.

Abstract: This is a summary of the presentations and discussion of the Gender Dimensions and Human Rights Aspects to Responses and Recovery of the Conference, Health Aspects of the Tsunami Disaster in Asia, convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Phuket, Thailand, 04-06 May 2005. The topics discussed included issues related to gender dimensions and human rights pertaining to the responses to the damage created by the Tsunami. It is presented in the following major sections: (1) gaps encountered and major issues; (2) limitations of response; (3) what could have been done better and (4) recommendations.


Abstract: Recognizing sexual abuse to be universal, in stable as well as disordered societies and directed predominantly but not only against younger women, this article first considers legal definitions of sexual abuse and the forensic evidence health care providers may be expected to gather. It explores the impact on victims of historic definitions of rape, and legal reforms to dispense with proof of sexual penetration. The WHO 2003 guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence are noted, which emphasize the need for physical and psychological care of victims. The guidelines show that goals of treating victims and retaining forensic evidence can create a clinical dilemma. Ethical issues concern management of this dilemma, probing whether patients’ psychological disturbance may have roots in past sexual abuse, and the conduct of appropriate research. It concludes that much sexual abuse is symptomatic of women’s sexual subordination and disregard of their human rights.


Abstract: Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), for which we have no cure or vaccination, is the major health problem in Ethiopia. This epidemic generally has affected poor communities and women. To contain this epidemic, the empowerment of women is essential. In fact, the current working definition of health by the World Health Organization (WHO) makes social well-being a part of everyday living, which is an essential dimension of the quality of life. The concept of quality of life means an opportunity to make choices and even change the situation one is in. Here, the concepts of health and human rights intersect, because of the quality of life requires freedom of choice, dignity and respect. Dignity, the right to access basic education and information, as well as the right to life are the major elements of human rights. It is for that purpose that health promotion is intended to enable people to increase their control over determinants of health and thereby improve their health. Women’s involvement in outlining the agendas of health promotion is vital to achieve the desired goals. In this article I examine human rights violations in Ethiopia and the lost opportunities for Oromo women to make choices in life within the framework of the Universal Declarations of Human Rights (UDHR).


Abstract: Following the inclusion of mifepristone + misoprostol for early pregnancy termination into the Vietnam National Reproductive Health Guidelines in 2002, a team from the Ministry of Health, World
Health Organization and Ipas assessed how best to move from clinical research to widespread public sector availability. After field visits to hospitals and discussions with stakeholders, the team endorsed the phased introduction of medical abortion alongside vacuum aspiration services to expand choice. They stressed the importance of patient-oriented information on what to expect as the abortion process takes place and the need for follow-up, also crucial in training of providers. Routine use of ultrasound to detect ectopic pregnancies or determine that abortion was complete was considered unnecessary. The mandated four-hour observation period following misoprostol administration could be reduced. The National Guidelines, appropriately conservative at the start of the programme, should be amenable to modification as experience grows. Introduction is not possible without a steady supply of drugs at affordable prices. Ways to reduce the high price of mifepristone and deal with provider expectations of extra allowances, as with surgical abortion, are needed. Making medical abortion a viable option for most Vietnamese women will require provision at commune-level clinics through mid-level providers, and with home use an option. Other challenges include use of misoprostol alone and regulating provision in the private sector.


A compilation of reports presented at the fifth annual meeting of the Global Network, which met in Ferney-Voltaire, France.


This chapter outlines the ethical responsibilities for health researchers. The World Health Organization has created these guidelines because of the increasing awareness of individual human rights. The author states why it is no longer acceptable to compromise an individual’s welfare and respect in the pursuit of scientific gain.


Abstract: Violence against women (VAW) has been identified as a major public health and human rights problem throughout the world, but a lack of reliable and comparable data on the root causes, magnitude, and consequences of the problem has been a major obstacle in the search for solutions. In 1997, in order to collect such data, WHO initiated the ground-breaking WHO Multi-Country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence Against Women.
World Bank
by Adrienne Stohr

The mission of the World Bank is to aid developing countries stabilize their economies through financial and technical assistance. The five dominant themes that emerge in a review of the World Bank literature are: health, gender, environment, globalization, and global governance. Each of these themes is broadly related to issues that consistently influence the larger issue of how the World Bank incorporates, rejects, or impacts human rights.

In the context of the World Bank’s relationship to human rights, health is usually related to poverty reduction, or the enhancement of capabilities to prevent perpetuation of cyclical poverty. The concern over access and rights for those with disabilities is a dominant subcategory within health literature. Similarly, many analyses center on individual claims to rights in health care. Policies and efforts to improve nutrition for people in developing and impoverished countries and the legal obligations of the international community are also represented.

Gender issues emerge in discussions of women’s rights and access to education. The improvement of women’s conditions within a society is a determinant of development more broadly, and especially in their experience with family and community living conditions. Legal equality for women is also important to achieving sustainable and developing societies.

The World Bank’s environmental pursuits constitute a complex issue, involving varied interests and needs. Resettlement concerns, specifically land redistribution in developing and conflicted regions is a significant area of concern for both human rights and the World Bank, as are the rights of indigenous communities in environmental development. Lastly, sustainability and responsible use of resources, such as energy and water, depend on conservation and the role of renewable resources for their realization.

Globalization and Global Governance are reflected in the regulatory and development policies of the various international organizations such as the U.N., WTO, and the IMF. The awareness and recent incorporation of a rights-based approach to development by such organizations suggests not only the ability of international organizations to incorporate a rights-based approach into their policies, but also a general recognition of the importance to do so. Resource distribution, access to markets, and legal rights—in terms of representation and access to education or property rights are important in the interpretations of measurement and dedication in the World Bank’s human rights contributions. As in the discourse on disabilities, children’s rights and the communities’ inclusion in development processes is uniquely represented by policies intended to improve the rights and participation of developing peoples in the international system.

Globalization and the World Bank


Abstract: Details the broader role of the World Bank in managing globalization. States the roles of different member states and presents a vision for the future.

Abstract: Reports on the Bank’s progress on working toward MDGs.


Abstract: Sets forth a development plan that incorporates respect of human rights and the rule of law.


Abstract: Discusses reform of international financial organization in light of popular mobilizations like the Seattle protests. Principally concerned with labor and environmental rights.


Abstract: Summary of inter-agency meeting that reveals the politics of international organization cooperation.


Abstract: World Development Report 2006 analyzes the relationship between equity and development. The report documents the persistence of inequality traps by highlighting the interaction between different forms of inequality. It presents evidence that the inequality of opportunity that arises is wasteful and inimical to sustainable development and poverty reduction. It also derives policy implications that center on the broad concept of leveling the playing field—both politically and economically and in the domestic and the global arenas. The report recognizes the intrinsic value of equity but aims primarily to document how a focus on equity matters for long-run development. It has three parts: Part I considers the evidence on inequality of opportunity, within and across countries. Part II asks why equity matters, discussing the two channels of impact (the effects of unequal opportunities when markets are imperfect, and the consequences of inequity for the quality of institutions a society develops) as well as intrinsic motives. Part III asks how public action can level the political and economic playing fields. In the domestic arena, it makes the case for investing in people, expanding access to justice, land, and infrastructure, and promoting fairness in markets. In the international arena, it considers leveling the playing field in the functioning of global markets and the rules that govern them—and the complementary provision of aid to help poor countries and poor people build greater endowments.


Abstract: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the most prominent initiative on the global development agenda and have a great deal in common with human rights commitments. But neither the human rights nor development communities has embraced this linkage with enthusiasm or conviction. This article explores the reasons why the two agendas resemble ships passing in the night, even though they are both headed for very similar destinations. The empirical evidence examined includes analyses prepared by a range of human rights NGOs, the MDG National Plans adopted by many developing countries, and the relevant analyses undertaken by U.N. human rights treaty bodies and special rapporteurs. The author calls upon the human rights community
to engage more effectively with the development agenda, to prioritize its concerns rather than assuming that every issue needs to be tackled simultaneously, and to avoid being overly prescriptive.


Abstract: A major feature of government public and social policy over the past 25 years has been a shift in emphasis from state to market. With little supporting evidence, the positives of the market have been contrasted with the negatives of state intervention. This article explores the background to this development and suggests that under ‘globalization’ the trend has been for the market increasingly to be freed to be profitable and for the state to bear consequent costs. It argues for the market to be subjected to systematic cost-benefit analysis to see whether a pattern of redistribution of profit (gains) to the market has been accompanied by losses (costs) being laid at the door of the state/public sector. It also considers the additional impact on this of the privatization of welfare. It ends by suggesting that an alternative, rights-based approach to welfare highlighted by new social movements of disabled people and welfare service users based on anti-discrimination, inclusion, participation and accountability may offer a more positive basis for future social policy.


Abstract: The article examines the problems that the performance standard of progressive realization entails for monitoring the International Covenant on economic, social, and cultural rights and proposes a violations approach as a more feasible and effective alternative. The violations approach advocated here focuses on three types of violations: first, violations resulting from actions and policies on the part of governments, second, violations related to patterns of discrimination and third, violations taking place due to a state’s failure to fulfill the minimum core obligations contained in the Covenant. In order to illustrate examples of violations of the rights enumerated in the Covenant, this article analyzes several years of reports by the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At first glance, the assertion that little effective or systematic monitoring of the Covenant is taking place seems to be at variance with the current international human rights system. The principle that the two major categories of rights, civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social, and cultural rights on the other, are interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible constitutes one of the fundamental underpinnings of the international consensus on human rights norms.


Abstract: This paper seeks to unravel some of the tangled threads of contemporary rights talk. For some, the grounding of rights-based approaches in human rights legislation makes them distinctively different to others,
lending the promise of re-politicizing areas of development work—particularly, perhaps, efforts to enhance participation in development, that have become domesticated as they have been ‘mainstreamed’ by powerful institutions like the World Bank. Others complain that like other fashions, the label ‘rights-based approach’ has become the latest designer item to be seen to be wearing, and has been used to dress up the same old development. We pose a series of questions about why rights have come to be of interest to international development actors, and explore the implications of different versions and emphases, looking at what their strengths and shortcomings may come to mean for the politics and practice of development.


Abstract: This focuses on the views on human rights approach to development as a stream of thinking within the development and human rights context. Economic, social, and cultural rights are often classified as second-generation rights, while political rights and civil liberties are considered as rights of the first generation. Many have understood this not as a mere categorization but as a ranking which puts economic, social, and cultural rights after political rights. Thus, the so-called second-generation rights have led a kind of shadow life until the late 1980s. A precondition of the success of a human rights approach to development is its integration into the monitoring mechanism of human rights committees and human rights non-governmental organizations. In addition to this institutional level, the dialogue between human rights and development activists should follow the demands of such an approach and thus mutually strengthen their lobbying activities. The realization of human rights becomes the aim of development policy and thus human rights are the benchmark by which to evaluate the outcome of such policies. Based on human rights, all duty-bearers become legally accountable for their development efforts.


Abstract: The mainstreaming of human rights into all political, development, and other initiatives by the United Nations has led to a welcome attempt to coordinate related U.N. activities. However, there remains a degree of mistrust or misunderstanding that negatively affects the prospects for a more effective working relationship between those U.N. officials whose primary focus is politics and diplomacy and those whose primary concern is human rights. To successfully integrate human rights into their work, political and human rights officials must become more aware and respectful of the other’s perspectives and values. In addition, as holistic approaches to peacemaking, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping become more common, it is important to achieve a better division of
labor between negotiators and human rights advocates, so that each can contribute meaningfully to the work of the other.


Abstract: The recent increase in the number of publications, training courses, NGO policy statements on mainstreaming rights, as well as workshops and conference papers from International Financial Institutions on rights-based approaches is testimony to the importance that development professionals attach to the concept. This article seeks to explore some of the key issues associated with the adoption of a rights-based approach that are relevant to NGOs. The most important issue facing NGOs today is to question rights-based approaches in a constructive fashion, because so many development actors are adopting such approaches in their own policies and programming.


Abstract: Two practitioners/thinkers take old ideas about human rights and make a new case for an economic and social rights-based approach to development. Our mid-20th century predecessors recognized—in Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—that a secure world requires a social contract that assures everyone access to basic economic and social rights. In today’s globalized world, the private sector and civil society join the state in influencing the ability of the marginalized to enjoy basic rights. Pursuing a rights-based approach is an end to business as usual for international development nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs will need to move beyond supporting delivery of services to building the capacity of civil society to be an organized and effective balance to the power of governments and of the private sector. This transformation will have profound effects on the basic business plans, evaluation systems, and staff competencies of international development NGOs.


Abstract: Recent debates about governance, poverty and environmental sustainability have emphasized a “rights-based” approach, in which equitable development is strongly associated with individual and communal rights. This paper reviews this approach and explores its practical application to Thailand’s “Community Forestry Bill,” which seeks to establish communal rights of access and conservation in forest reserve areas. The paper examines conflicts concerning watershed forests and mangroves in Thailand, and argues that efforts to support rural livelihoods through community rights have been undermined by a state that has frequently supported commercial interests or opposed decentralization to minority groups. The paper documents how civil society organizations may negotiate rights within the wider public spheres in which rules, rights, and “community” are established, and defended.


Abstract: Debates concerning democratization and development increasingly engage with what are termed as “human rights-based approaches.” As such, whilst critical accounts are correct in cautioning against Rights-Based Development (RBD) in an era of rampant neo-liberalism and donor-driven agendas, the paper proposes that not only are more progressive and political readings of RBD necessary, they already exist “on the ground.” The
dramatic u-turn in the South African government’s policy concerning HIV/AIDS treatment, for example, is, arguably, situated at the confluence of rights-inspired struggles and the politics of governance. The policy shift therefore provides an opportunity to assess how rights-based approaches to development (RBD) can, under specific conditions, widen critical “political space” and enable more inclusive governance. The key issues posed in the paper are, first, how the South African government’s HIV/AIDS policy can only be properly understood when placed in the context of the broader rhythms of post-apartheid transition and discursive fault-lines underpinning understandings of the epidemic. Second, as embodied through the Treatment Action Campaign—a social movement in South Africa—the paper seeks to explore how human rights principles deployed in a context of social mobilization and people-driven access to institutional channels, have the potential to impact upon policy-making. Third, setting out the guiding principles of one particular right, the right to health, allows better understanding of RBD more generally. Finally, and by way of conclusion, RBD’s contribution to widening inclusive political space does not have to end at policy-making but can also impact upon rights-based approaches to service delivery. Above all, this case study offers more general theoretical and practical lessons for conceptualizing both RBD and the role of alternative social actors and movements in this.


Abstract: Addresses policy innovation in international organizations. Independence of the international organizations (IOs); External pressure; Consistency of new issues with organizational goals and procedures; Internal policy advocacy; Case of the World Bank.


Abstract: The article investigates the relationship between social exclusion, children and education in Europe. Social exclusion has become one of the most important themes in contemporary social policy debates in Europe. While the term originated in France in the 1970s and was originally concerned with the exclusion of the disabled from equal participation in society, it has recently received renewed attention. Despite the proliferation of studies and papers on the topic, there are few precise definitions and clearly defined foundations of the term and its implication for social policy. While income poverty is only one possible factor causing social exclusion, persistent or recurrent unemployment can generate social exclusion directly, since as the involuntarily unemployed are excluded from the world of work, an important aspect of citizenship and participation. In this way, unemployment is seen as an intrinsic problem, even if there are appropriate systems in place to ensure that unemployment does not lead to poverty.


Abstract: The article presents a framework for principles that relate an enterprise to a democratic political order. The power of civil society is such that those in charge of protecting democratic rights against the pressures of a globalizing economy will lapse into shrinking control over less and less, and will mouth pious declarations about the rest. There is in many parts of the world a double movement in policy. On the one hand, states are divesting themselves of many services and functions, often in response to the demands of global enterprise for a chance to offer these same services on what they claim is a more efficient basis. The solution is either sought in some form of partnership between public and private resources and control, or else states are happy to see the whole of the provision pass into private hands. These results are often imposed by the pressures for free movement of goods and
services coming from the World Trade Organization or from regional orders such as the European Union; and they form part of the structural adjustment programs of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.


Abstract: The idea of a politically engaged or activist ethnography has received increased attention in recent years. Yet, such social and economic processes as globalization and neoliberalism would seem to militate against the efficacy of an engaged anthropology. In this article, we argue that, although systemic restructuring and related discursive conditions have fundamentally altered the social and political landscape of cities in the United States and around the world, there still remains much potential for carrying out locally based activist ethnographic work. In fact, we argue for a particular type of ethnographic encounter we refer to as an “ethnography from below” which is built on the notion that studying localities means simultaneously “ethnographazing” and thereby demystifying the nature of the neoliberal state. Using examples from our own involvement in activism and in ethnography, we suggest that through long-term collaborations with community-based activists, engaged ethnographers can contribute to creating a space for the realization of new policies, new subject positions, and the emergence of new political possibilities beyond what the global economy and its neoliberal rationalizations have set for us.


Abstract: Most studies explain the rise of NGOs as actors on the international stage by emphasizing political developments or technical achievements as factors which have fostered their success. The focus in this paper, instead, will be on how NGOs themselves have transformed and how such change has affected the way in which they have become significant players in international relations. Drawing upon the notion of professionalization as deriving from theoretical approaches of societal activism, I argue that NGOs increasingly invested in their international presence and gradually professionalized. In order to illustrate the argument, professionalization of NGO representation to the U.N. will be examined with respect to four case studies of international human rights organizations: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Federation of Human Rights and the International League for Human Rights.


Abstract: The article reports on the release of a consensus report of the Global Commission on International Migration calling all countries to respect the human rights of migrants. It recommends a new Interagency Global Migration Facility to help coordinate migration policies at the regional and global levels. It consists of recommendations aimed at making a comprehensive framework for migrants in a globalizing labor market, migration and development, migrants in society, and the governance of migration.

Abstract: While development and human rights have long been pursued in isolation from one another, the two concepts are now being reintegrated. For the UN, the question of indicators arose in the context of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) process, into which a rights-based approach to development was to be integrated. A rights-based approach is based on international human rights standards and directed to protecting human rights. Its elements include participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and linkage to the international standards. This creates demands for data that are not satisfied by traditional indicators. There is a need to base indicators on international standards; to use a comprehensive human rights framework; to integrate the “rights element” into existing indicators; to measure the subjective, status, capacity, official response, and accessibility. Data must be disaggregated further, to test equality and non-discrimination, and must be read in context. Indicators themselves must be designed as tools of development, not weapons of critique. The next stage of rights-based development will require the compilation of an agreed list of core development indicators for civil and political rights, to measure the administration of justice, political participation, and personal security. It will also require indicators for the measurement of cultural rights in development, and integrating the “rights element” into socio-economic indicators.


Abstract: This paper summarizes the main outcomes of the international Conference on “Statistics, Development and Human Rights” (Montreux, 4-8 September 2000), which revealed the enormous potential that statistical methods offer for improving monitoring of human development and reporting on human rights issues. The Montreux Conference was characterized by a multidisciplinary and cross-institutional approach, bringing together statisticians, development experts and human rights practitioners. Its conclusions translated the “spirit of Montreux” into a concrete program of action. Thus in the course of the last months a network of more that 50 academic institutions, international organizations, national statistical institutes and NGOs agreed to launch an independent international project: the “Development and Human Rights Observatory” (DHR-O). The objective of this project is to strengthen mechanisms and methods for monitoring development and human rights. It intends to facilitate, organize and implement interdisciplinary policy-oriented research, training programs and technical assistance to institutional building. In its present stage of development, DHR-O is focusing on three core areas: i) use of statistical methods, indicators and qualitative analysis for human rights reporting; ii) design, testing and pilot application of rights-based development indicators; and iii) design and evaluation of statistical tools for monitoring democracy and governance.


Abstract: Focuses on the role of International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO) on global economy reformation. Consideration of labor and environmental standards in international trade agreements; Implications for the creation of WTO; Skepticism about the authority of WTO to adjudicate violations of labor rights.

Abstract: This article focuses on the correlation between immigration, asylum and the European Union Charter of fundamental rights, as of 2001. The tension between a rights-based approach to migration and asylum policy and states' desire to control their borders and populations as an essential aspect of their sovereignty is well-known. Inevitably, when the European Union institutions decided to draw up a European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, migration and asylum matters proved to be controversial issues. Any prospect of change resulting from the new Charter is limited, because the Charter is not legally binding. Nevertheless, the Charter is at least a modest further step toward a rights-based approach to migration and asylum law. As is well known, the three founding treaties of the European Communities initially made no reference to human rights. The European Court of Justice therefore at first rejected arguments that Community legislation could be invalid for breach of human rights. When the German and Italian courts in particular faced such allegations, they felt obliged to apply the human rights protections in their national constitutions, threatening the supremacy of Community law.


Abstract: Dworkin’s equality of resources can be interpreted as a proposal that integrates distributive criteria taken from both equality of means and equality of capabilities, and overcomes the risks of subjectivism, over-rigidity and perfectionism inherent in theories of welfare, means and capabilities respectively. This can be achieved by concentrating on arrangements of justice working within the parameter of equality of resources that equalize capabilities at a level of minima, thus avoiding the perfectionist risk and, once the threshold that ensures autonomous subjects is passed, ruled by criteria taken from theories of means. In such a task, the concept of moral person will be used as the criterion for determining the threshold of autonomy, and not only will it allow for the discrimination between the different circumstances that make the application of distributive criteria possible, but it will also specify the circumstances in which it is possible to attribute responsibility to an agent.


Abstract: Two practitioners/thinkers take old ideas about human rights and make a new case for an economic and social rights-based approach to development. Our mid-20th century predecessors recognized—in Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—that a secure world requires a social contract that assures everyone access to basic economic and social rights. In today’s globalized world, the private sector and civil society join the state in influencing the ability of the marginalized to enjoy basic rights. Pursuing a rights-based approach is an end to business as usual for international development nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs will need to move beyond supporting delivery of services to building the capacity of civil society to be an organized and effective balance to the power of governments and of the private sector. This transformation will have profound effects on the basic business plans, evaluation systems, and staff competencies of international development NGOs.


Abstract: This article identifies the effect of structural adjustment and stabilization policies (SAPs) on women, while focusing on poverty in several countries. It is now well-established that structural adjustment and stabilization policies (SAPs) undertaken in developing countries to receive condition-based loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have exacerbated conditions of poverty and deprivation for large sections of the population. Several commentators have also shown that these macroeconomic policies are not class-neutral or gender-neutral. The World Bank’s emphasis on “safety nets” to cushion the poor from the impact of orthodox stabilization and adjustment policies is an admission that these policies do not affect all sections of the population equally. These criticisms and the deterioration in economic and social conditions in the majority of adjusting countries during the “lost decade” of the 1980s have occasioned much introspection at the international financial institutions. In fact, recent World Bank evaluations of the results of SAPs acknowledge that while macroeconomic stabilization policies are necessary for growth, they are not sufficient in reducing poverty or income inequality in all countries.


Abstract: This paper examines the content of the right to development in the light of human rights as recognized in international law and interprets it in an operational manner. The right to development is the right to a development where all rights can be progressively realized. Both the process of development and the outcomes of the process can be regarded as human rights claimed by the people of a country for the benefit of all individuals. The right is exercised collectively but enjoyed individually. The related obligation is appropriate development policy by the state (the primary duty-bearer) and co-operation by other states and international institutions. The international community that recognizes this right has to support its implementation by co-operating in trade, debt, finance, technology transfer and development assistance. This paper provides illustrative mechanisms for implementing the right, complemented by programs of international co-operation.


Abstract: Comments on the power of the World Trade Organization to control the economy of its member countries. Purpose of the organization; Views on the globalization issues; Protection of multinational corporations despite activities which violate human rights and abuse the environment; Relations with International Monetary Fund and World Bank.


Abstract: This article presents the author’s thoughts about free trade within the export apparel industry in regards to a collaborative case study on the topic. Details are presented from discussions at a conference that took place in Managua, Nicaragua, which centered around the end of apparel quotas and its impact on those in the Caribbean Basin. The author, who is the recipient of the “Antipode” graduate student scholarship, will explore how global connections articulate various actors on an imagined frontier of post-quota apparel production in the study. It is hoped that the study will elucidate the historical and current work done to link the apparel trade with development.
Involvement on the Health Sector


Abstract: Interviews Doctor Vineeta Gupta, the general secretary of Insaaf International, a Punjab, India-based organization working for economic, social and political rights. Her views on the World Bank’s involvement in India and the health sector; Reason for the need of India for a World Bank loan to privatize the health care system; Kind of corruption she has found related to the Bank’s involvement in the health sector.


Abstract: From a rights perspective, disability has come increasingly to be seen as less a matter of personal misfortune than of societal neglect and obstruction, and as much warranting claims on the state to ensure inclusion and equality as to prosecute a duty of care. This shift resonates with other transitions within international discourse, most notably the increasing prominence of the notion of human development, which emphasizes the importance of equity, freedom, and full realization of human rights and capabilities as central to societal developmental objectives. After briefly examining apparent parallels in discourses relating to disability and to human development, the capabilities approach, upon which the concept of human development is grounded, is examined more closely and its implications for disability considered. It is argued that a capabilities approach may serve alternatively to keep disability partially hidden from view or become a powerful means for identifying the responsibilities of governments and external agencies in genuinely equalizing opportunities.


Abstract: Focuses on the importance of social factors in population health. Influence of law and human rights on health; Social determinants of health; Details on an international conference on the social aspect of health.


Abstract: With the focus on Indian experience, Indu Capoor looks at the impact of private-public partnerships on women’s reproductive health and rights. She underlines how NGOs deliver many of the services once provided by the State and argues that public-private partnerships must take care to secure the rights of poor women’s access to quality reproductive healthcare.


Abstract: The article investigates the relationship between social exclusion, children and education in Europe. Social exclusion has become one of the most important themes in contemporary social policy debates in Europe. While the term originated in France in the 1970s and was originally concerned with the exclusion of the disabled from equal participation in society, it has recently received renewed attention. Despite the proliferation of studies and papers on the topic, there are few precise definitions and clearly defined foundations of the term and its implication for social policy. While income poverty is only one possible factor causing social exclusion, persistent or recurrent unemployment can generate social exclusion directly, since as the involuntarily unemployed are excluded from the world of work, an important aspect of citizenship and participation. In this way, unemployment is seen as an intrinsic problem, even if there are appropriate systems in place to ensure that unemployment does not lead to poverty.


Abstract: Focuses on issues concerning human rights to food, health and education. Notion of capability rights as goal rights; Implication of scarcity of resources for viewing economic rights as capability rights; Problem in operationalizing the rights-based approach to human development.


Abstract: This paper explores the conceptual connections between poverty and human rights through the lens of the capability approach. The concept of capability can be seen as the bridge that links poverty with human rights because it plays a foundational role in the characterization of both poverty and human rights. Once this common foundation is noted, poverty can be defined as denial of human rights. Furthermore, the capability approach also helps us to address the question of whether just any denial of human right should count as poverty or whether there should be some restriction in this regard admitting only certain cases of denial of human of rights into the domain but not others. The capability perspective suggests that the domain should indeed be restricted in some well-defined
Finally, the paper argues that such restriction of domain need not be inconsistent with the principle of indivisibility of human rights.


Abstract: Dworkin’s equality of resources can be interpreted as a proposal that integrates distributive criteria taken from both equality of means and equality of capabilities, and overcomes the risks of subjectivism, over-rigidity and perfectionism inherent in theories of welfare, means and capabilities respectively. This can be achieved by concentrating on arrangements of justice working within the parameter of equality of resources that equalize capabilities at a level of minima, thus avoiding the perfectionist risk and, once the threshold that ensures autonomous subjects is passed, ruled by criteria taken from theories of means. In such a task, the concept of moral person will be used as the criterion for determining the threshold of autonomy, and not only will it allow for the discrimination between the different circumstances that make the application of distributive criteria possible, but it will also specify the circumstances in which it is possible to attribute responsibility to an agent.


Abstract: This study of the relation of social problems to mortality in the context of growth and decline in 50 New York counties is guided by an ecological framework that sees communities depending on their many agencies and services for maintaining and improving the well-being of residents despite external problems/threats. Two all-purpose measures of threats are community growth and decline, especially the latter. If the specialized agencies typical of more urbanized places are weak, threats generate internal social problems like crime and unemployment and these problems lower population health. Findings: when urbanization is held constant, growth is negatively associated with poverty-related problems while decline predicts deviance. Both poverty and deviance problems, in turn, predict mortality. The applied implications of this model are discussed.

Effects of World Bank Policies on the Environment


Abstract: Institutional analysis is a key building block of Country Environmental Analysis (CEA), an upstream analytic tool that aims to integrate environmental considerations into Country Assistance Strategies (CASs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Development Policy Lending operations (DPLs), and country level development assistance strategies. In order to develop a systematic approach to undertaking institutional analysis in CEAs, a review of available governance tools and instruments used both within and outside the Bank was undertaken. This paper is an outcome of this exercise. Its objective is to learn from available tools, and identify key elements of institutional analysis within CEAs. The review shows that there are a wide range of tools used both within and outside the Bank, that vary in terms of their objective, scope, type of governance issue addressed, data used, and the context in which they can be used. The paper argues that even though many available tools cannot be used in their present form, they have important lessons to offer for institutional analysis within CEAs. In particular, they highlight (i) the complexity of addressing governance issues, requiring analysis of both formal and informal rules and political dynamics underlying management of environmental concerns, (ii) difficulty of developing a standard template for institutional assessments, and (iii) importance of assessing public sector capacity, but also assessing links with private sector and civil society. The review also highlights the
importance of assessing both environmental management capacity at a broad level, and also linked with priority environmental concerns. Finally it emphasizes the importance of assessing capacity for environmental assessments as part of broader institutional assessments. Based on some of these lessons, and drawing upon the World Development Report (WDR) 2003 framework, the paper concludes with an outline of what the key elements for institutional analysis within CEAs should be.


Abstract: This is an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Market-Led Smallholder Development in the Zambezi Valley Project, which increases the income of smallholder farmers in selected districts of the region in central Mozambique. The Global Environment Objective is to limit land degradation and improve the ecosystem’s resilience towards climate change. However, it is expected that some subprojects may result in potential adverse impacts on the biophysical and socioeconomic environments. This framework sets the guidelines to protect the environment in accordance with the country’s regulations and the Bank’s operational directive on the environment. The least productive or degraded uninhabited land will be selected, so as to protect inhabited productive land and assets, while loss of indigenous vegetation and of sensitive habitats will be avoided as much as possible. Moreover, project sites will be selected preferably on level ground to avoid potential soil erosion from steep areas, its lack of vegetation cover, and the adverse impacts from high rainfall. If possible, removal of trees and stream bank vegetation, etc., will be avoided, to be replanted with native species once construction works are ended. Storage areas will be installed for diesel and other fuels, selected in compliance with standard regulations to prevent soil and water pollution. The cumulative solid wastes will be removed, disposed of at selected sites, and covered with topsoil to minimize health risks and air pollution. Regular maintenance and cleaning services will be set regarding sewage removal and latrines, and drainage flows through community action, and health education campaigns will raise awareness about those risks.


Abstract: Renewable energy usage in Africa has been reviewed using South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, and Mali as case studies. The various national energy policies of these countries were analyzed and areas that require attention to achieve sustainability were highlighted. Overall, the success of sustainable development in Africa lies in addressing the imminent energy crisis in the continent. Excessive usage of fuel wood is already creating considerable environmental problems especially in the Sable. Africa has all the potentials to solve its energy problems if appropriate infrastructural support can be provided for harnessing the abundant renewable resources in the continent, and if skills are pooled together and experiences shared in addressing the key issues.


Abstract: Criticizes World Bank policies which adversely affect people and the environment in developing countries. Human rights abuses, destruction and economic stagnation that resulted from World Bank president Robert S. McNamara’s humanitarian service; Stated goal of the World Bank; Attempts at reform.

Abstract: Discourses surrounding the right to development have paid scant attention to its application to indigenous peoples, particularly in developed countries. This paper argues that the emerging recognition of a right to development for New Zealand’s indigenous people, the Maori, provides lessons of international significance. The New Zealand jurisprudence suggests that the right to development may apply to a wide range of resources, including both resources used traditionally by indigenous peoples and resources not known or used by indigenous peoples in traditional times. If other countries follow this interpretation, rights-based development in both developed and developing countries will be enhanced.


Abstract: This review catalogs approaches to involving children in local agency land use planning processes. Four approaches are defined: scholarly, practice, educational, and rights-based. There is only a weak link between any of these approaches and actual local agency land use planning. However, the rights-based approach is the most holistic of the four. Examining these approaches raised questions. These questions are discussed and lead into the formulation of a new approach that synthesizes components from all of the studied approaches.


Abstract: A cursory attempt to measure the extent of displacement over the past two decades indicates significant increases in conflict-induced displacement and displacement resulting from development projects. At the same time a growing opposition to the latter form of displacement has raised questions over its legitimacy through a variety of media, including public campaigns and protests. This article focuses on some of the challenges that this presents to the displacement and resettlement discourse. In particular it considers the influence of the rights to development agenda on the spatial context of displacement and its associated economic and political changes. There appears to be a disjuncture between the practices of mainstream development, which tend to interpret development policy as it is defined and applied by a nation state and to assess inequalities within clear geographical definitions, and the universality of a rights based approach to development. This article examines these tensions in the context of displacement and resettlement management, drawing on evidence from a case study of the Ilisu dam in South East Anatolia, Turkey.


Abstract: Dworkin’s equality of resources can be interpreted as a proposal that integrates distributive criteria taken from both equality of means and equality of capabilities, and overcomes the risks of subjectivism, over-rigidity and perfectionism inherent in theories of welfare, means and capabilities respectively. This can be achieved by concentrating on arrangements of justice working within the parameter of equality of resources that equalize capabilities at a level of minima, thus avoiding the perfectionist risk and, once the threshold that ensures autonomous subjects is passed, ruled by criteria taken from theories of means. In such a task, the concept of moral person will be used as the criterion for determining the threshold of autonomy, and not only will it allow for the discrimination between the different circumstances that make the application of distributive criteria possible, but it will also specify the circumstances in which it is possible to attribute responsibility to an agent.