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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

## Newsletter on Children's rights – MENA

*June 2017*

Submitted by: International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

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### Table of Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>1. Global Development on Children and Human's Rights.....</b>  | <b>4</b> |
| [News] UNICEF urges Governments to close data gaps on vulnerable children in residential care .....                         | 4        |
| [Nouvelles] Le SPVM poursuit son opération contre l'exploitation sexuelle durant la F1 .....                                | 4        |
| [Nouvelles] Violence aux femmes: l'UE a signé la convention du Conseil de l'Europe .....                                    | 4        |
| [News] Children on the Move: Refugees and experts reassess the future of young migrants .....                               | 5        |
| [News] Students Should Be Free From Religious Coercion .....  | 5        |
| [News] «Sexual violence is a threat to every individual's right to a life of dignity» – UN chief .....                      | 5        |
| [Nouvelles] Droits de l'Homme- Journée internationale pour l'élimination des violences sexuelles dans les conflits .....    | 6        |
| [Nouvelles] Droits de l'Homme- Journée mondiale des réfugiés .....  | 6        |
| [News] «Africa's largest refugee crisis now a 'children's crisis» – UNICEF .....  | 6        |
| [Nouvelles] Médecins du monde soigne des enfants canadiens sans assurance maladie .....                                     | 6        |
| [Nouvelles] Le chef de l'ONU demande à tous ceux qui mènent des opérations militaires en Syrie de protéger les civils ..... | 7        |
| [News] Police issue child safety warning over Snapchat maps update that reveals users' locations .....                      | 7        |



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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| [News] Human Rights Council Adopts 2017 Resolution To End Child Marriage In Humanitarian Settings .....   | 7         |
| [Nouvelles] Mariées de force.....   | 8         |
| <b>2. Conferences, Courses and Events.....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| Course – Frontiers of Children’s Rights.....  | 8         |
| Conference – CPI’s Infant Mental Health Collaborative Luncheon #3.....  | 8         |
| Conference – 29th Annual Crimes against Children Conference.....  | 9         |
| Conference – 2017 National Child Welfare, Juvenile & Family Law Conference .....  | 9         |
| Conference – Indigenous Child Welfare Research Group.....   | 10        |
| Formation – Responsable De Projets Protection De L'enfance En Situation D'urgence   Parcours Court Afrique .....  | 10        |
| Congress– Child Dignity in the Digital World .....  | 11        |
| Conference – Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse National Conference 2017 .....  | 11        |
| Congrès – 8e Congrès québécois sur la maltraitance envers les enfants et les adolescents.....   | 12        |
| Colloque – 18e Colloque Annuel de Formation sur les enfants disparus ou exploités (CEDE).....   | 12        |
| Conference – 5th Children’s Rights Research Symposium .....   | 12        |
| <b>3. Subregional and Country Updates .....</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| Afghanistan - The Safe Schools Declaration: Protecting Schools during Wartime .....   | 13        |
| Afghanistan - How Wars and Disasters Fuel Child Labor .....   | 13        |
| Gaza Strip - EU Support Helps Improve the Well-Being of Young Palestine Refugees in Gaza .....  | 14        |
| Gaza Strip – Mercy USA Provides Support for Children with Vision Impairments in Gaza.....   | 14        |
| Iraq - 100.000 enfants menacés par l'aggravation du conflit dans l'ouest de Mossoul .....   | 15        |
| Iraq - Nulle part où aller: Les enfants en Iraq pris au piège de la violence et de la pauvreté alors que le conflit atteint des niveaux d’intensité sans précédent..... | 15        |
| Jordan - Monitoring and Incentives Key to Improve Health and Education Service Delivery in Jordan   | 15        |
| Syria - Shared Passion for Education Builds Solidarity between Refugee Students from Syria and Their Peers in Sweden.....   | 16        |
| Syrie - Plus de 40 000 enfants dans la ligne de mire à Raqqa, en Syrie, alors que les combats s'intensifient.....   | 16        |
| Syrie - Le manque d'argent menace l'assistance à 9 millions d'enfants en Syrie et dans les pays voisins, prévient l'UNICEF .....  | 17        |
| Syria – Polio Paralyzes 17 Children in Syria, W.H.O. Says .....   | 17        |



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FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

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INTERNACIONAL DE  
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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Uzbekistan “We Can’t Refuse to Pick Cotton” - Forced and Child Labor Linked to World Bank Group Investments in Uzbekistan..... | 17 |
| Yémen - l'UNICEF s'inquiète de l'aggravation de la malnutrition et de l'épidémie de cholera .....                              | 18 |
| Yemen - Cholera, Famine & Girls Sold into Marriage for Food.....   | 18 |
| Yemen - Children account for half of all suspected cholera cases in Yemen .....  | 19 |
| Yémen - l'UNICEF s'attend à 300.000 cas de choléra fin août.....   | 19 |



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## 1. Global Development on Children and Human's Rights

### **[News] UNICEF urges Governments to close data gaps on vulnerable children in residential care**

1<sup>st</sup> of June 2017-At least 2.7 million children live in residential care worldwide and face increased risk of violence, abuse and long-term damage to their cognitive, social and emotional development, a United Nations study says, warning that “this is just tip of the iceberg.”

[Full Article](#) (UN News Center)

### **[Nouvelles] Le SPVM poursuit son opération contre l'exploitation sexuelle durant la F1**

9 juin 2017-Le Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) a déjà procédé à 14 arrestations pour de la sollicitation de services sexuels de mineurs depuis une semaine, et poursuit ses opérations lors de ce week-end du Grand Prix de formule 1.

[Article complet](#) (Radio-Canada)

### **[Nouvelles] Violence aux femmes: l'UE a signé la convention du Conseil de l'Europe**

13 juin 2017 – L'Union européenne a signé mardi à Strasbourg la convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur la prévention et la lutte contre la violence faite aux femmes et la violence domestique.

[Article complet](#) (L'Orient- le Jour)



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## **[News] Children on the Move: Refugees and experts reassess the future of young migrants**

13<sup>th</sup> of June 2017-At the Children on the Move global conference in Berlin, NGO representatives and youth delegates called for the abolition of child detention. In Germany, quick access to education was found to be the biggest hindrance.

[Full Article](#) (DW Made for Minds)

## **[News] Students Should Be Free From Religious Coercion**

June 13, 2017 – The Canadian Civil Liberties Association welcomes the acknowledgement by two Catholic educational bodies that certain students in Catholic schools have the right to opt out of religious programs, courses and activities, free from religious or creed-based pressure. In Public Interest Remedies agreed to as a term of settlement, the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District Board have agreed to acknowledge that students who meet the requirements for a religious exemption under Ontario's *Education Act* have the right to opt out of religious prayers and programming, based on their right to be free from discrimination on the ground of creed.

[Full article](#) (Canadian civil liberties association- CCLA)

## **[News] «Sexual violence is a threat to every individual's right to a life of dignity» – UN chief**

June 19, 2017 – Marking the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres today paid tribute to the women, girls, men and boys who have suffered the atrocity of sexual violence in conflict, and reaffirmed “our global commitment to eliminate this scourge.”

[Full article](#) (UN News Centre)



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## **[Nouvelles] Droits de l'Homme- Journée internationale pour l'élimination des violences sexuelles dans les conflits**

19 juin 2017 – À l'occasion de la journée internationale pour l'élimination des violences sexuelles dans les conflits, la France rappelle son engagement à lutter contre ce fléau.

[Article complet](#) (France diplomatie)

## **[Nouvelles] Droits de l'Homme- Journée mondiale des réfugiés**

20 juin 2017 – À l'occasion de la Journée mondiale des réfugiés, la France réaffirme son engagement aux côtés des millions de personnes qui, dans le monde entier, sont contraintes à l'exil, ainsi que des pays et organisations qui leur viennent en aide.

[Article complet](#) (France diplomatie)

## **[News] «Africa's largest refugee crisis now a 'children's crisis» – UNICEF**

June 20, 2017 – Raising alarm over the plight of refugees, in particular the situation of women and children, arriving in Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya having fled violence and instability in South Sudan, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called on governments to do more to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected.

[Full article](#) (UN News Centre)

## **[Nouvelles] Médecins du monde soigne des enfants canadiens sans assurance maladie**

20 juin 2017– « C'est comme des citoyens canadiens, mais de seconde zone. Ils sont nés ici, mais c'est la Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) qui tranche », explique l'infirmière Pénélope Boudreault de la clinique de Médecins du monde. Ces enfants, bien que Canadiens, sont jugés en vertu du statut de leurs parents, selon la Loi sur l'assurance maladie.

[Article complet](#) (Radio-Canada)



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## **[Nouvelles] Le chef de l'ONU demande à tous ceux qui mènent des opérations militaires en Syrie de protéger les civils**

21 juin 2017 – Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, António Guterres, s'est déclaré mercredi profondément alarmé par l'ampleur des souffrances humaines subies en Syrie et a demandé à tous ceux qui mènent des opérations militaires dans ce pays de protéger les civils.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

## **[News] Police issue child safety warning over Snapchat maps update that reveals users' locations**

23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2017—Parents have been warned to turn off "Snap Maps" on their children's phones after Snapchat, which is wildly popular among teenagers, introduced the location-sharing mode this week.

[Full Article](#) (The Telegraph)

## **[News] Human Rights Council Adopts 2017 Resolution To End Child Marriage In Humanitarian Settings**

23<sup>rd</sup> of June—On Thursday 22 June, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution recognising the need to address child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian contexts. The resolution, led by The Netherlands and Sierra Leone, was adopted without a vote and co-sponsored by over 80 countries.

[Full Article](#) (Girls not Brides)



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## [Nouvelles] Mariées de force

25 juin 2017- Sur les clichés, elles ont le regard fuyant, triste, vide ou embué de larmes... Quand elles posent auprès de ces époux qu'elles n'ont pas choisis, jamais elles ne sourient. Les pays occidentaux ne sont pas épargnés. En Europe de l'Est, 11 % des filles sont mariées avant l'âge de 18 ans. Selon le Pew Research Center, aux États-Unis, 57 800 jeunes de 15 à 17 ans se sont unis en 2014.

[Article complet](#) (La Presse+)

## 2. Conferences, Courses and Events

### Course – Frontiers of Children's Rights

Frontiers of Children's Rights provides a comprehensive children's rights course, which takes a close look at contemporary children's rights issues from a legal perspective accompanied by reflections from other academic disciplines, legal systems, local perceptions and realities. Leading academic and professional experts in the field of children's rights, international law and other relevant disciplines offer inspiring and interactive lectures, seminars and excursions in and around Leiden Law School. The classes will be taught in the beautiful premises of the renovated Leiden Observatory. On Friday the participants will visit the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Classes will be taught at the Campus The Hague premises that day. The week will be concluded with a dinner party at the The Hague beach.

**Location:** Leiden and The Hague, Netherlands

**Date:** July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

[For more information](#) (Frontiers of Children's Rights)

### Conference – CPI's Infant Mental Health Collaborative Luncheon #3

The California Psychological Institute's (CPI) quarterly IMH Collaborative Luncheon is for those working with infants, young children, and their families in the Central Valley. It is our goal to bring





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LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO

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together providers that service this 0-5years of age population to network and build professional connections.

During the luncheon we also take a few minutes to highlight a program/agency to speak to us about thier wonderful services. This meeting we will be hearing from La Leche League of Fresno!

**Location:** California Psychological Institute, Fresno, CA, USA

**Date:** July 6<sup>th</sup> 2017

[For more information](#) (California Psychological Institute)

### **Conference – 29th Annual Crimes against Children Conference**

Internationally recognized, the Crimes against Children Conference is the premier conference of its kind providing practical and interactive instruction to those fighting crimes against children and helping children heal. There were more than 4,200 professionals from around the world in 2016!

The conference is presented annually by the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center and the Dallas Police Department. The conference is conducted to provide training to those employed by government or non-profit agencies in the fields of law enforcement, child protective services, social work, children's advocacy, therapy, and medicine who work directly with child victims of crime.

**Location:** Sheraton Hotel, Dallas, TX, USA

**Date:** August 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

[For more information](#) (Crimes against Children Conference)

### **Conference – 2017 National Child Welfare, Juvenile & Family Law Conference**

The top leaders in child welfare, juvenile justice, and family law will gather together for our National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference, our premier national training. Over the course of several days, leading experts will expand your understanding of child law and provide you with practical tools to help protect the rights of the children, youth, and families you serve. Meet, connect with, and learn from attorneys, judges, and other multidisciplinary advocates.



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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

**Location:** The Roosevelt New Orleans

**Date:** August 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

[For more information](#) (National Association of Counsel for Children)

## **Conference – Indigenous Child Welfare Research Group**

A monthly discussion group of graduate students, faculty and researchers as well as professionals from university affiliated organizations. Aimed at building empirical knowledge on topics related to Indigenous child welfare and to facilitate knowledge translation of Indigenous child welfare research.

**Location:** Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF), Montreal, QC

**Date:** First Thursday of every month

[For more information](#) (McGill Centre of Research for Children and Families)

## **Formation – Responsable De Projets Protection De L'enfance En Situation D'urgence | Parcours Court Afrique**

Les situations d'urgence, conflits armés ou catastrophes naturelles, exposent les enfants à de graves risques : séparation d'avec leur famille, association avec les forces et groupes armés, détresse sociale et psychologique, risques de blessures et de violences sexuelles. Ces contextes accentuent des problèmes existants : mariage forcé, travail des enfants, violence à l'école et dans la famille.

Chaque année, ce sont 2000 personnes qui franchissent les portes de l'Institut Bioforce pour se former aux métiers et compétences de la solidarité internationale. De 3 mois pour les profils experts à 3 ans pour les plus jeunes, accessibles sur sélection et concours ou Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience, les formations métiers de l'Institut Bioforce permettent d'acquérir les compétences professionnelles et le savoir-être indispensables pour exercer des responsabilités dans l'humanitaire et le développement.

**Emplacement:** Dakar, Sénégal

**Date:** 19 Septembre au 22 décembre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Institut Bioforce)



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المكتب الدولي لحقوق الطفل

## **Congress– Child Dignity in the Digital World**

'Child Dignity in the Digital World' is the first world congress of its kind that brings together key stakeholders and international leaders from all relevant areas.

This pioneering congress hosted by the Centre for Child Protection at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome sets a milestone in the international fight against digital sexual child abuse.

The invitation-only congress brings together distinguished academic experts, business leaders, leaders of civil society, high-level politicians and religious representatives from across the globe. This provides a historic opportunity to set the global agenda for the fight against online sexual child abuse and for child protection in the digital world.

**Location:** Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

**Date:** October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

[For more information](#) (Centre for Child Protection and Pontificia Università Gregoriana)

## **Conference – Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse National Conference 2017**

Now in its sixth year, this national conference, hosted by Lancashire Constabulary, will have a focus on the prevention of such crimes. Key to any prevention strategy is the need for continued awareness raising and for help and protection to be the best it can possibly be. Enhancing children's and young people's resilience and strengthening the protective factors around them are critical strands of prevention. As a society we all have a responsibility to protect those children and young people who are vulnerable and we can only be effective through collaborative working and consistency of messages. The conference will provide an opportunity for delegates to hear from key note speakers who will provide details of current trends and research, ground breaking initiatives and examples of good practice.

**Location:** Hilton Blackpool, Blackpool

**Date:** November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

[For more information](#) (Lancashire Constabulary)



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## **Congrès – 8e Congrès québécois sur la maltraitance envers les enfants et les adolescents**

Cet évènement scientifique s'adresse à tous les intervenants concernés par la maltraitance envers les enfants et les adolescents, qu'ils soient des domaines de la santé, de la justice, des services de police, des services sociaux, de l'éducation, des centres de la petite enfance ou encore du réseau communautaire.

**Emplacement:** Centre Mont-Royal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Date:** 23 et 24 octobre 2017

[Pour plus d'information](#) (CHU Sainte Justine)

## **Colloque – 18e Colloque Annuel de Formation sur les enfants disparus ou exploités (CEDE)**

La 18<sup>e</sup> édition du CEDE, un grand colloque sur les enfants disparus ou exploités au Canada, organisé par le Centre canadien de protection de l'enfance. Le CEDE offre trois jours de formations données par des experts sur divers sujets, dont la détection et l'investigation des violences faites aux enfants et l'exploitation des enfants par Internet.

**Emplacement:** Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

**Date:** du 15 au 17 mai 2018

[Pour plus d'information](#) (Colloque sur les Enfants Disparus ou Exploités)

## **Conference – 5th Children's Rights Research Symposium**

The Centre for Children's Rights Studies of the University of Geneva is pleased to organise the 5th edition of the Children's Rights Research Symposium (CRRS). The event will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, on the 31st of August and the 1st of September 2017.

In line with the four previous symposia (Liverpool 2013, Cork 2014, Antwerp 2015, and Leiden 2016), the event facilitates a space where doctoral researchers and supervisors from different universities and backgrounds (law, education, sociology, anthropology, psychology, history) come together to share and develop research related to children's rights studies. This 5th edition of the symposium will have as theme: Conversations between Children's Rights and Childhood Studies.



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**Location:** Carl Vogt building, University of Geneva

**Dates:** from August 31th to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

[For more information](#) (Centre for Children's Rights Studies CCRS)

### 3. Subregional and Country Updates

#### **Afghanistan - The Safe Schools Declaration: Protecting Schools during Wartime**

20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - The blood stains on the classroom walls couldn't be washed away following the Taliban attack on the middle school in Postak Bazaar village in Afghanistan. 'We had to chip it away from the wall with an axe,' a school official told Human Rights Watch.

But the blood wasn't that of the school's students. It was that of seven members of the Afghan National Police, a counter-insurgency force that had set up their military base inside the school. That attack was in 2010. After the Taliban retook the area, their fighters too slept in the school.

[Full article](#) (Human Rights Watch)

#### **Afghanistan - How Wars and Disasters Fuel Child Labor**

12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - Rahimullah, a 15-year-old Afghan boy, told Human Rights Watch last year that he has worked as a brick maker for five years, working from 4:00 a.m. until nightfall.

"My smaller siblings also work," he said. "When they turn five, they start working... It's not just one thing we do; there are a lot of things to do in the brick business – go clear the ground, take the shovel, bring the pickaxe, do this thing, bring me the bucket... the point is, everyone works."

[Full article](#) (Human Rights Watch)



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## **Gaza Strip - EU Support Helps Improve the Well-Being of Young Palestine Refugees in Gaza**

15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – For close to 10 years, the people of Gaza have lived under a tight land, air and sea blockade that affects many aspects of their lives. Today, an entire generation of children in Gaza do not know life outside of the Gaza Strip; they have already lived through three armed conflicts, and many of them have suffered the loss of family members, friends and homes. UNRWA estimates that due to the impact of the blockade and recurrent conflicts, approximately 30 per cent of UNRWA students require structured psychosocial interventions.

Since 1971, the European Union has provided support to Palestine refugees through UNRWA, with a particular focus on reducing the impact of conflict, violence and poverty on children and youth.

[Full article](#) (UNRWA)

## **Gaza Strip – Mercy USA Provides Support for Children with Vision Impairments in Gaza**

20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - Mercy USA for Aid and Development (Mercy USA) has generously contributed US\$ 300,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to help improve access to education opportunities for students with vision impairments in Gaza.

Education is indispensable in helping any child reach their full potential and develop the skills they need to thrive in an evolving, changing landscape. However, as a marginalized group in a community where cultural stigma runs deep and where families often deny them the potential to have a fulfilling life, children with vision impairments are often made invisible and cut off from vital services, including education, negatively affecting their development and threatening their life as adults.

[Full article](#) (UNRWA)



## **Iraq - 100.000 enfants menacés par l'aggravation du conflit dans l'ouest de Mossoul**

5 Juin 2017 - Le Représentant du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) en Iraq, Peter Hawkins, a déclaré lundi avoir reçu des informations alarmantes sur des civils, y compris plusieurs enfants, qui ont été tués dans l'ouest de Mossoul. Certains d'entre eux auraient été tués alors qu'ils essayaient de fuir les combats qui s'intensifient rapidement.

« La vie des enfants est en jeu. Les enfants sont tués, blessés et utilisés comme boucliers humains. Les enfants sont témoins d'une violence terrible qu'aucun être humain ne devrait être voir. Dans certains cas, ils ont été forcés de participer aux combats et à la violence », a souligné Peter Hawkins dans un communiqué de presse.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

## **Iraq - Nulle part où aller: Les enfants en Iraq pris au piège de la violence et de la pauvreté alors que le conflit atteint des niveaux d'intensité sans précédent**

22 Juin 2017 - Après trois ans de conflit intense en Iraq, les enfants se retrouvent piégés dans un cycle interminable de violence et de pauvreté croissante, selon l'évaluation de l'UNICEF, intitulée Nulle part où aller.

« Partout en Iraq, les enfants continuent d'être témoins de l'horreur absolue et d'une violence inimaginable », a déclaré Peter Hawkins, Représentant de l'UNICEF dans le pays. « Ils sont tués, blessés, enlevés et forcés à tirer et à tuer dans l'une des guerres les plus brutales de l'histoire récente. »

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

## **Jordan - Monitoring and Incentives Key to Improve Health and Education Service Delivery in Jordan**

June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 - Jordan can improve the quality of health and education services by using incentives and increasing monitoring to strengthen accountability, according to a new World Bank report entitled "The Last Mile to Quality Service Delivery in Jordan."



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Jordan has achieved enrollment rates close to universal at the primary school level, and approximately 88% at the secondary level. However, Jordanian children are not performing as well as their peers globally in math, language and science. In the health sector, Jordan has also achieved remarkable progress over the past two decades, recording huge strides in population, maternal and child health, and significant improvements in communicable diseases. However, the country is grappling with non-communicable diseases (such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes), which are responsible for three out of four deaths annually.

[Full article](#) (The World Bank)

### **Syria - Shared Passion for Education Builds Solidarity between Refugee Students from Syria and Their Peers in Sweden**

7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - Rama, a 13-year-old Palestine refugee from Syria, is the fourth generation of her family to be displaced by regional conflicts. “My family comes from Haifa. [Following the first Arab-Israeli war], we were forced to flee to Syria. Since the war in Syria, we have fled to Lebanon,” says Rama, sitting in her single-room shelter where she lives with her family in Ein El Hilweh camp near Saida.

Born a refugee, Rama looks to education to mitigate the uncertainty in her life. She explains, “I believe education is the most important thing that may affect my future. Without it, I will never reach anywhere.”

[Full article](#) (UNRWA)

### **Syrie - Plus de 40 000 enfants dans la ligne de mire à Raqqa, en Syrie, alors que les combats s'intensifient**

9 juin 2017 - « La violence extrême dans la ville syrienne de Raqqa menace la vie de plus de 40 000 enfants, piégés dans des conditions extrêmement dangereuses. Au moins 25 enfants ont été tués et des dizaines d'autres blessés à Raqqa selon des informations reçues par l'UNICEF.

« Les hôpitaux et les écoles sont apparemment cibles d'attaques. Ceux qui tentent de fuir prennent le risque d'être tués ou blessés. Les enfants sont privés des besoins les plus basiques ;





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très peu d'aide humanitaire a pu parvenir dans la ville de Raqqa depuis 2013 en raison des violences et des restrictions d'accès.

[Article complet](#) (UNICEF)

## **Syrie - Le manque d'argent menace l'assistance à 9 millions d'enfants en Syrie et dans les pays voisins, prévient l'UNICEF**

16 juin 2017 - Les programmes soutenus par le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF) et destinés à plus de 9 millions d'enfants en Syrie et dans les pays voisins sont sur le point d'être interrompus en raison d'un déficit critique de financement de 220 millions dollars.

« Il s'agit du déficit de financement le plus grave rencontré par l'UNICEF depuis que nous avons commencé à répondre à la crise en Syrie, une des plus grandes opérations humanitaires dans l'histoire de l'agence », a déclaré Geert Cappelaere, Directeur régional de l'UNICEF pour l'Afrique du Nord et le Moyen-Orient.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

## **Syria – Polio Paralyzes 17 Children in Syria, W.H.O. Says**

20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - At least 17 children in eastern Syria have been paralyzed from a recently confirmed outbreak of polio, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, punctuating the health risks to a population ravaged by more than six years of war.

It is the second outbreak of the crippling disease to hit Syria since the war began, and largely reflected the inability of health workers to immunize all children caught in conflict zones where access is difficult and sanitation is poor.

[Full article](#) (The New York Times)

## **Uzbekistan “We Can’t Refuse to Pick Cotton” - Forced and Child Labor Linked to World Bank Group Investments in Uzbekistan**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - For several weeks in the fall of 2015, government officials forced Firuza, a 47-year-old grandmother, to harvest cotton in Turtkul, a district in Uzbekistan’s most western



region, the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. The local neighborhood council, the mahalla committee, had threatened to withhold child welfare benefits for her grandson if she did not go to the fields to harvest cotton. These same officials forced another woman, Gulnora, to harvest cotton for the same length of time. Although Gulnora worked, the government refused to pay her child welfare benefits, promising to consider reinstating them if she worked in the fields the next spring. The Uzbek government forces enormous numbers of people to harvest cotton every year through this kind of coercion.

[Full article](#) (Human Rights Watch)

## **Yémen - l'UNICEF s'inquiète de l'aggravation de la malnutrition et de l'épidémie de cholera**

8 Juin 2017 - La situation des enfants au Yémen est extrêmement grave, a déclaré jeudi un responsable du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF), qui a cité une augmentation spectaculaire des cas de malnutrition et de choléra dans ce pays déchiré par la guerre.

S'exprimant devant la presse au siège de l'ONU à New York, Geert Cappelaere, Directeur régional de l'UNICEF pour le Moyen-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord, a souligné une augmentation très importante du nombre d'enfants souffrant de malnutrition.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)

## **Yemen - Cholera, Famine & Girls Sold into Marriage for Food**

6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - Cholera deaths in war-torn Yemen have surged into the hundreds, more than a quarter of Yemenis face famine, and parents are selling girls into marriage to buy food, the United Nations [UN] said on Tuesday.

The description of Yemen by the top United Nations aid official, Stephen O'Brien, the undersecretary general for humanitarian affairs and emergency-relief coordinator, was perhaps his most dire yet in a series of alarming updates on the crisis.

[Full article](#) (Yemen Press)



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## Yemen - Children account for half of all suspected cholera cases in Yemen

13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 - "The cholera outbreak in Yemen continues to spread at an alarming speed. Over 124,000 cases have been recorded – almost half of them are children.

"Children continue to bear the brunt of the war in Yemen. Many who have become ill or have died from cholera were suffering from malnutrition. At least 923 people have died from the disease since late April. Children account for one quarter of the deaths.

[Full article](#) (UNICEF)

## Yémen - l'UNICEF s'attend à 300.000 cas de choléra fin août

23 juin 2017 - La barre des 200.000 cas de choléra n'est plus très loin au Yémen et les organisations humanitaires s'attendent à ce que ce niveau soit atteint dès ce week-end, a prévenu vendredi le Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance (UNICEF).

Selon l'UNICEF, l'épidémie a d'ores et déjà fait 1.265 morts, dont un quart étaient des enfants. La moitié des 192.983 cas suspects enregistrés jusqu'à aujourd'hui sont des enfants.

[Article complet](#) (Centre d'actualités de l'ONU)