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A Conversation in Afghanistan: Perspectives on International Women's Day [2]

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Dr. Karima, General Directorate of Pharmaceutical Affairs, Ministry of Public Health, speaks at the opening ceremony of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee training course for provincial hospitals

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One hundred years ago on March 8, a handful of countries celebrated the first International Women's Day [9]. Today it is celebrated around the world as an opportunity to look back on women's accomplishments and look forward to the realization of their full economic, political, and social rights. The United Nations theme for International Women's Day 2011 [10] is centered on women's access to education, technology, and decent work.

For 40 years, MSH has promoted equal access to health care for women by strengthening health systems and building the capacity of women as leaders and managers, technical experts, clinicians, and community health workers. We interviewed Dr. Belkis Giorgis, our NGO Capacity Building/Gender Advisor in Ethiopia about women and development.

Why is International Women's Day important?

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MSH Celebrates International Women's Day 2011 [12]

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For 40 years, MSH has promoted equal access to health care for women by strengthening health systems and building the capacity of women as leaders and managers, technical experts, clinicians, and community health workers. Management Sciences for Health celebrates International Women's Day, March 8, 2011. Meet the women who inspire us.

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The Power to Create Change: Lessons from a Nurse in Upper Egypt [15]

[Simi Grewal](#) [16]

[Fragile States](#) [17]

Simi Grewal is the Program Coordinator for Health Systems Strengthening and Results Management at MSH. She worked as a fellow in Egypt from January 16-February 5.

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The Senate Should Restore Funding for Critical Development Programs [19]

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Last week, the House of Representatives cut the international affairs budget by 20% of the FY 2010 levels. While these are tough times, these cuts are disappointing given investments made in international affairs account for only 1 percent of the overall US Government budget. More plainly, these cuts affect the poorest and most vulnerable people around the globe.

A recent [poll](#) [21] conducted by WorldPublicOpinion.org/Knowledge Networks showed that most Americans support foreign assistance levels up to 10% of the budget.

Furthermore, such small cuts in spending will not solve the deficit problem. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has argued that investments made in development and diplomacy can help deter future needs for resources for defense and that America's national security depends on the civilian diplomats and aid workers who also risk their lives every day to support our overseas interests.

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Saving Children's Lives by Recognizing and Treating Pneumonia in Afghanistan ^[23]

Fragile States ^[17]



Afghanistan's mountain ranges are beautiful to the eye. Rugged peaks and ridges are separated by valleys, carved out over the centuries by streams and rivers supporting the green web of vegetation along their banks.

But many of the small villages that cling to the walls of these valleys are often cut off for months by heavy snow or the floods that follow the spring melt. The cold wet climate, together with smoke from household stoves, increases the risk of pneumonia, particularly among babies and children. One in five deaths of young Afghan children is caused by pneumonia, an infection easily treated with antibiotics if diagnosed early enough.

Read more ^[23]

February 16, 2011

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On Collective Leadership and Collective Intelligence: Words from Tahrir Square, Egypt ^[25]

Morsi Morad Mansour ^[26]

Fragile States ^[17]

Introduction

by Joan Bragar Mansour, ED.D, leadership development specialist at MSH.

Dr. Morsi Mansour is an Egyptian surgeon and [Leadership Development](#) [27] Specialist for MSH who teaches leadership to health professionals and develops leadership facilitators around the world. He was in Tahrir Square for two weeks during the uprising in Egypt and shares his experience below.

In Egypt, there has been a [Leadership Development Program since 2002](#) [28]. Using their own local resources, health workers unified in over 184 health units across the Aswan governorate in Egypt focused on reducing maternal mortality and succeeded in reducing it from 85/100,000 to 35/100,000 in two years.

[Read more](#) [25]

February 15, 2011

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Harnessing the Power of Information to Benefit Orphans and Vulnerable Youth [30]

[E Rains](#) [31]

[HIV & AIDS](#) [8]

This article was originally posted on [FHI's Interagency Youth Working Group \(IYWG\) blog.](#) [32]



Several months ago, I was asked to help manage a newly redesigned site that focuses on children and HIV & AIDS. I knew that over the last decade there had been an enormous increase in both the amount of and access to global health information. Thus, the challenge was to shift from simply producing more material to organizing, exchanging, and effectively using this growing knowledge base.

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February 10, 2011

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Training Community Health Workers to Improve Infant and Child Health in Rural Benin [34]

[O Gandaho](#) [35]

Health Systems Strengthening ^[7]



The West African nation of Benin faces many challenges in achieving Millennium Development Goal 4---reducing child mortality. In the rural communities in Benin (91% of the population live in rural areas), access to health care and treatment is inadequate in relation to the vast need. Very few people have the appropriate skills and capacity to deliver care in these areas. The [US Agency for International Development's \(USAID\) BASICS Benin](#) ^[36] project is increasing the capability of villages as far as 50 km away from health centers by training Community Health Workers (CHWs) to perform community case management of children five years-old and under.

[Read more](#) ^[34]

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Spotlight on Global Health Initiative Plus Countries: Mali ^[38]

[I Diallo](#) ^[39]

[Health Systems Strengthening](#) ^[7]



^[40]

Part six of the blog series: [Spotlight on Global Health Initiative Plus Countries](#) ^[41] Amid grave

health statistics, the Global Health Initiative (GHI) brings hope of a healthier future in Mali.

Mali is one of the ten poorest countries in the world, ranking 173 out of 175 countries on the 2007 Human Development index of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Mali has highest percentage of people living on less than a dollar a day. And, Mali has some of the worst demographic indicators in the sub-Saharan region: a population growth rate of 2.6%, a 6.6 fertility rate (the highest in the sub-Saharan Africa after Niger, at 6.8), and a birth rate of 49.8 per 1,000. The population is very young, with more than 50% of Malians under 15 years old and 17% under 5 years old.

[Read more](#) ^[38]

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