

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind



January 29, 2017

## Using Science in Health Sector

Today human beings are relishing the ambrosial taste of the modern scientific, technology and scientific applications. Science and technologies are the part of all we have today, and include the electronic gadgetry in almost every home that we use to remain informed and entertained. These all evidences show the blessings of scientific knowledge on humans. Before eighteenth century human beings were plunged in the depths of ignorance and unawareness of scientific knowledge. As they did not have adequate scientific knowledge, earlier human beings had disguised their ignorance under their personalities but it was the scientific revolution in nineteenth century that exposed it and now they can see that the whole world is globalized due to this scientific revolution. Science has affected human life and culture in many ways and among them its impacts on health are the most dominant one.

Before the revolutionary changes in early nineteenth century, health problems and a large number of fatal diseases gulped the whole community, like diseases and epidemics. There was no cure for the most common diseases so epidemic always proved as 'Pandora's Box' to the whole locality. At that moment the present world population in last couple of centuries through the whole comparison with the past, we would come to know that these diseases could not affect many lives. As the most descriptive condition of humans, health is very important factor for us. Without health we cannot survive or by having a bad health we cannot reach the average human life span. After the scientific revolution, the scientific applications have led to the treatment of numerous fatal diseases and health problems and now we are able to increase the average life span as well. Now we can treat those fatal epidemics that ruined the every human life some centuries ago. By implementing many scientific techniques and methods we are now able to overcome these diseases. For example, in past we were not able to suggest cure for Tuberculosis, but now we can easily cure this disease. There are a lot of examples like that of Tuberculosis, which emphasize the facts about the impacts of science on health and fitness.

The most common implications in the field of medicine and health are the sophisticated contribution of pharmacy and modern way of treatment. In the field of the pharmacy, we are now able to manufacture many curative medicines that have helped mankind to survive from these fatal diseases. Besides that, we are able to manufacture and invent many useful electronic equipment that help doctors to analyze or treat many diseases. The most common examples of these electronic applications are X-ray plants, Ultrasound, ECG (Electro Cardio Gram), Kidney Transplantation equipment and many others. On reviewing the scientific blessings we can say that without these equipment medical technology had no past and similarly cannot have a future. So it concludes that scientific knowledge led mankind to learn medical terminology and curative methods as well as enabled them to invent these electronic equipment.

Truth, morality, and beauty. It has been humanity's persistent hope that these three ideals should be consistent with each other. Yet successful activities in science and arts diverge greatly, and believe that the three activities can be pursued initially without regard to each other, or without reconciling the possible conflicts that may arise. Science has affected the most on the social behavior of many other impacts that affect it. Before the revolutionary emergence of scientific knowledge, our ancestors were commonly illiterate and they were victims of different kind of misconceptions like superstitions, whims and magical tricks. These were the most effective aspects that acted as obstacles in the way of development of our ancestors and made them unable to think and realize by their own. These different kind of superstitions resulted due to lack of knowledge and their beliefs and theories about the emergence of life, universe, earth, sun and many more explanations about the things they had no clue.

When the sense of knowledge and reasoning developed in them they came to realize that they were wrong in their beliefs and there was no reality in the superstitions. It also helped them to provoke them to learn more and invent new things. That was only due to the scientific knowledge that they got rid of these misconceptions and were enabled to invent, discover, and to acquire better knowledge. The whole world is tied up in a single knot by this scientific development and a sense of competition is produced among all nations. These effects also changed their racial behaviors and they adopted the senses of respect and manners for each other.

In fact, scientific knowledge acted as key to open the gates of better health improvements and sophisticated behavior. So we should realize that scientific knowledge enabled us to realize the reality of life and make better use of it to save millions of people who are suffering from different kinds of diseases. For Afghanistan, scientific knowledge can prove to be a panacea for most of our medical problems. There are many in Afghanistan who are suffering from different sorts of diseases that can only be cured through modern science and technology and its availability for the people. Therefore, efforts should be made to facilitate the people through science and technology as much as possible.



## No Strategies to Cope with Returnees Overflows

By Muhammad Zahir Akbari

Afghanistan is in grave need of international support to cope with millions of refugees who are on the eve of returning home while some 700,000 have already repatriated and millions more displaced due to longstanding conflicts. It is said that March 2017 is the last extended deadline for almost 2.5 million Afghan refugees to legally reside in Pakistan whereas the country is not ready to receive them jointly. Increasing tensions between Afghanistan and its neighbors, especially Pakistan, and deteriorating security conditions within the country intensified the issues. Salvatore Lombardo, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) country representative in Afghanistan, says a more challenging period lies ahead for the Kabul government and international agencies seeking the reintegration of refugee populations both within and outside Afghanistan. According to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), Pakistan has some 1.5 million registered refugees while another one million are estimated to be unregistered most of them fled the Soviet occupation of the country in the 1980s. It means that as many as one tenth of whole population is going to be added to the current jobless inhabitants.

Generally, most of them lived abroad as laborers and are poor but when they return to the country are likely confront more dreadful conditions. However, there might be wealthier returnees but typically returning refugees have a high risk of falling into poverty – as the rate of unemployment is enormously high in the country.

In addition, thousands of Afghan asylum seekers, in western countries, either wandering due to unspecified destiny or will be deported. Recently, several hundred migrants, including Afghans, stranded in freezing weather in Serbia staged a protest urging Europe to open its borders. Aid groups have warned that migrants in Serbia have been at risk of low temperature since extreme winter weather gripped the Balkan country in early January. Some 7,000 migrants have been staying in Serbia's asylum camps or sleeping rough in parks or make-shift shelters. When the nations along the former Balkan migrant route - leading from Turkey through Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia - closed their borders one after another in March 2016, thousands of migrants were trapped along the route.

Unfortunately, none of the issues are pursued with a clear reactive and preventive action strategy. The Afghan government's measures to address the issue have been some sort of reactions to an urgency rather than long-term planning for resolving the problem. The government cannot resolve the issue without addressing the root causes of challenges in the country forcing the citizens to take precarious journey abroad. On the hand, the government will not be able to solve the crisis through arbitrary measures which do not deal with the main causes of the migration problem. There have been visible inconsistencies in the policies and approaches

of government institutions towards migration of Afghans to other countries. Only through long-term, sustainable and cohesive policies the government would be able to tackle the challenges fundamentally and to more extent successful.

The major policy of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation has been to protect rights of the Afghan refugees and negotiate with the countries hosting Afghan refugees to help them settle or return voluntarily. However, the government sent a very contradicting message to the hosting countries. On one hand, initially the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, and later the Parliament, urged the European countries not to deport Afghan refugees. But later German officials announced the president Ghani had agreed to accept the deported Afghans from the country. The announcement led to an angry outcry from both inside the country and Afghan refugees in European countries. Though government officials denied any such agreement, the suspicions remained in place, including after President Ghani's recent trip to Europe.

When a country receives a large influx of refugees over a short period, significant social and economic effects are likely, which are exacerbated in poorer countries like Afghanistan. On the positive side, returning refugees generally share the same culture as the local population, facilitating assimilation. Also, increased spending, both by the private and public sectors, as well as increased output if the incoming refugees are able to find jobs, can contribute positively to economic growth both in the short and medium term. But in a further thought, the prospects for absorbing returning refugees are far more complicated by the existence of more than one million internally displaced people, the number of which significantly increased in 2016 as the insurgency intensified. Together with the large number of people who already live in poverty in Afghanistan, these problems will severely stretch the country's capacity to cope.

In brief, increased demand for food, consumer goods, health services, and housing can put upward pressure on prices and rents, negatively affecting the poor. And the increased supply of labor is likely to raise the already very high unemployment rate and put downward pressure on wages. The experience of other countries suggests that the inflow of refugees has had a significant impact on wages, particularly in the low-skill and youth sectors, where workers are most vulnerable. Equally important, the scale of the inflow has placed an undue burden on their public services and infrastructure. In Afghanistan, this raises the prospect of longer-term effects on economic and social development. For example, if basic services such as education and health cannot keep up with increased demand, some human capital – the stock of productive skills, talents, and health of the labor force – could be lost.

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## Dark Days for Children

By Anthony Lake and Isabella Lövin

The year 2016 will probably be remembered for military and political events, but it should also go down in history as one of the worst years for children since World War II. Images of dead, injured, and distraught young children filled the media on an almost daily basis: a small boy sitting stunned and bleeding after his home was bombed; small bodies being lifted out of rubble; and small graves on the Mediterranean shoreline that mark the deaths of unknown children.

These images are powerful and uncomfortable. And yet they cannot capture the magnitude of children's suffering. More than 240 million children are living in conflict zones – from the killing fields of Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and northern Nigeria, to less well-documented but horror-stricken areas of Somalia, South Sudan, and Afghanistan. And of the 50 million children who live outside their own countries or have been internally displaced, more than half have been forcibly uprooted, and are facing new threats to their lives and well-being.

Millions of children are undernourished and out of school; millions have witnessed unspeakable brutality; and millions are threatened with exploitation, abuse, and worse. This is not rhetoric; it is reality.

The United Nations – with support from countries such as Sweden, and by working through a coordinated humanitarian-response system that includes UNICEF – is alleviating suffering whenever and wherever it can. But the quantity and complexity of cascading crises are testing that system as never before. New challenges, such as extremism, are increasing the risks to children, and making it more difficult and dangerous to reach them. Meanwhile, armed groups are increasingly targeting schools, hospitals, and homes, and compounding innocent people's suffering.

Political solutions to these conflicts are the surest way to stop the suffering and bring an end to such savage violations of human rights. But, barring that ideal outcome, we need to strengthen the current humanitarian system's capacity to reach the children at greatest risk. More than 70 years ago, world leaders addressed the unprecedented humanitarian crisis following World War II by creating new institutions to bring immediate assistance to those in need. These new global entities laid the foundation for a future based on cooperation, dialogue, and results, rather than conflict, disaster, and ruin.

That was a turning point in world history; we have now arrived at another one. We need to summon the same spirit of solidarity and creativity today that inspired previous generations, not by founding new institutions, but by finding new ways of responding to the hard realities of our own time.

For starters, we urgently need to harness innovation to expand our capacity to reach children who are cut off from assistance in besieged areas or communities controlled by extremists. We should be exploring every option, such as using drones to airdrop food and medical supplies, and developing mobile apps to monitor needs and track supplies on the ground, and to keep aid workers safer. While there will never be a substitute for safe, unimpeded humanitarian access, we need to explore every avenue to reach children in danger.

More broadly, we must do a better job of coordinating among governments and organizations to provide short-term and long-term relief more efficiently, and to make every dollar count. With chronic crises proliferating, we should be maximizing synergies between humanitarian and development initiatives, because the two go hand in hand. How we respond in emergencies lays a foundation for future growth and stability, and how we invest in development can help build resilience against future emergencies.

Lastly, we need to change how governments calibrate the critical aid that they provide to meet fluctuating needs. In recent years, as appeals for aid have escalated, countries undergoing domestic austerity have increasingly had to justify their foreign-aid outlays. Many donors have earmarked their aid funds for specific purposes. To be sure, such funds will always be an indispensable tool in both humanitarian and development efforts; but in today's unpredictable environment, more flexible, long-term funding is critical.

"Core" funding, as it is known, enables the UN and nongovernmental organizations both to react more quickly in emergencies and to plan more strategically. Such funding allows us to provide life-saving help when people need it most, rather than having to wait for countries to respond to specific humanitarian appeals. This is especially important for addressing the "forgotten" crises that the media may have missed.

Sweden has long been a proponent of such flexible support for UN organizations, because it improves results. For this reason, Sweden's government recently decided to double its 2016 contribution to UNICEF's core funds. Now that the world is working together on a new global development agenda, we hope this practice will spread and inspire other governments to move more toward high-quality funding for humanitarian relief and sustainable development. We must protect the rights, lives, and futures of the world's most vulnerable children. To the extent that we do that, we will help to determine our common future as well. (Courtesy Project Syndicate)

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