

Fortnightly links: Gavi transition, teacher truancy, impact evaluations, is humanity getting better?

By Camilla Burkot and Terence Wood
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Over the next four years, 19 countries are expected to graduate from eligibility for Gavi funding for vaccines. New [research](#) by a joint team from Gavi and Results for Development highlights the challenges such countries face with domestically financing their immunization programs, and lessons learned from the evolution of Gavi transition policies. Full article published in *Health Affairs* available [here](#).

When [Manoj Mishra](#), a district education officer in India's Uttar Pradesh state, first took up his position in 2014, some 40 per cent of teachers at its 2,700 schools were truant on any given day. His reform methods, while unconventional, have nevertheless been effective: teacher attendance now sits above 90 per cent.

The World Bank's Development Impact blog has a nice, user-friendly [explanation](#) of some of the different types of impact evaluations development practitioners can use to assess the effects of their work.

On FiveThirtyEight, Christie Aschwanden [explains](#) why it's so difficult to prove that Zika is causing birth defects.

"The world now is a thoroughly awful place — compared with what it should be. But not compared with what it was." Chair of Philosophy and Law at King's College London, Leif Wenar, asks: ["Is humanity getting better?"](#)

The [winning submissions](#) to the 2016 World Press Photo competition similarly depict a world that has no shortage of problems, but also plenty to appreciate. Full gallery of submissions available [here](#).

About the author/s

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Camilla Burkot was a Research Officer at the Development Policy Centre, and Editor of the Devpolicy Blog, from 2015 to 2017. She has a background in social anthropology and holds a Master of Public Health from Columbia University, and has field experience in Eastern and Southern Africa, and PNG. She now works for the Burnet Institute.

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Link:

<https://devpolicy.org/gavi-transition-teacher-truancy-impact-evaluations-is-humanity-getting-better-and-more-20160226/>

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