

Fortnightly links: ghost schools, SDGs, the need for external accountability, and more

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Just in time for this week's SDGs conference, a new paper ([gated](#); [ungated](#)) in World Development contends that development progress accelerated in the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Another paper in the same issue ([open access](#)) argues the MDGs brought increased poverty reduction, although primarily in states with greater capacity.

['Ghost schools' in Pakistan](#) may be increasing the risk of militancy in tribal areas.

In the wake of the sexual abuse scandal confronting Oxfam Great Britain, Sharon Bessell [writes](#) for the Asia Pacific Policy Forum on the need for organisations to have external accountability.

According to a [new study](#), taking action to prevent climate change could result in substantial health gains.

Singapore is topping the world on progress towards the health-related SDGs, [this article](#) by Policy Forum discusses what other countries can learn from the Singapore.