



IHC Weekly Update

March 18, 2016

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Go #Blue4Water on World Water Day

Next Tuesday, March 22nd, the world will observe World Water Day, a day set by the United Nations to focus attention on the importance of clean, safe and sustainable water resources. IHC is a strong advocate for greater access to water and sanitation services in cities, especially for the very poor. We recognize the important connection between Goal 6 and Goal 11 of the Global Goals, which focus on water and sanitation and on sustainable and inclusive cities respectively. Lack of access, together with poor quality and high costs for water or sanitation in urban areas, place significant stress on the very poor. Lack of access to either adequate is a core part of the UN definition of a slum, which provides a critical linkage to Goal 11.

The UN predicts that two-thirds of the world will live in cities by 2050, with 90% of growth taking place in the global south. The complexity of providing water and sanitation in dense urban neighborhoods will only become more apparent as need continues to grow. Water is truly a global issue, both rural and urban, and as the world grapples with the ideas of inclusive and sustainable urbanization, water and sanitation are critical to ensuring greater urban equity for all.

**We therefore hope you will join IHC on March 22nd to
Go #Blue4Water.**

Blue4Water asks people all over the world to post a photo of themselves wearing blue and use the hashtag #Blue4Water. Don't have a blue article of clothing? That's okay! Post a meaningful photo that shows why you care about clean water - a photo of a water drop, a photo of your blue coffee mug, whatever!

Join IHC to Go BLUE for World Water Day and show us why clean water is important to you. Learn more on the campaign website [here](#).

Urban Poverty Research Workshop Recap

This Tuesday IHC, in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Center's Urban Sustainability Lab, USAID, the World Bank and Cities Alliance, hosted the concluding workshop of the 2015 Urban Poverty Essay Competition.

Three students traveled to Washington, to present their research related to the poor living in cities in the developing world, and were joined by three expert commentators.

All three panelists highlighted specific interventions that aim to create a more equitable and inclusive urban fabric. Common themes throughout the workshop were the importance of community inclusion, finding the correct incentives that encourage successful public and private partnerships, and ensuring that an intervention addresses actual need rather than simply shifting it.

Read more commentary on the workshop [here](#). The webcast of the event will be available soon [here](#). In the meantime, read more read the papers from the three winners, in addition to other finalists in the published book [here](#).

WaterAid/MCC Event: Smart Aid - World Water Day

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation leads to improvements in health, school attendance, productivity, and entrepreneurship, yet almost 2 billion people still live without it.

IHC member WaterAid America has a core focus and providing inclusive and

sustainable water and sanitation around the world, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has prioritized WASH programs by investing over \$700 million dollars and leveraging more from public-private partnerships. Please join both organizations to learn about water projects in Jordan, Zambia and Cabo Verde.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 23rd, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

WHRE: Millennium Challenge Corporation, 7th Fl
1099 14th Street, NW Washington, DC

RSVP [here](#).

Save the Children - Integrating and Delivering the SDGs.

Please join Save the Children for for the launch their latest report: *From Words to Action: USAID's Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals*.

The launch will feature brief remarks from Tony Pipa, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator in USAID's Policy Planning and Learning Bureau and Andrew Wainer, Save the Children's Director of Policy Research, followed by a roundtable discussion.

WHEN: Wednesday March 23rd, 3:30 - 5:00 PM

WHERE: InterAction, 1400 16th Street NW,
Washington, DC

RSVP [here](#).

World Urban Campaign Adopts The City We Need 2.0

As mentioned in IHC's special bulletin on Habitat III earlier this week, the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee gathered in Prague this week to adopt The City We Need (TCWN) 2.0. Officially adopted by the World Urban Campaign yesterday, the paper consists of 10 principles of a successful and thriving city, as well as 10 drivers of change. It represents the views of over seven thousand men and women from 113 countries and two thousand organizations, representing fourteen constituent groups, who came together in the 26 Urban Thinkers Campuses to define a joint vision for a better urban future.

The City We Need 2.0 will now be translated into all 6 United Nations languages, to be disseminated widely and to be used as a reference document for all stakeholders and governments dealing with housing and sustainable urban development.

You can read the full document [here](#). Read more about the process in our Habitat III bulletin [here](#).

In the News and Around the Web

- Read a *BBC* article on IHC partner Sustainable Development Solutions Network's new report on the world's happiest countries [here](#).
- Read a *CitiScope* interview with UN Habitat director Joan Clos on the opportunities of financing the New Urban Agenda [here](#).
- Read a *Forbes* commentary on the potential impact of China's new urbanization guidelines [here](#).
- Read a *Guardian* article on the impact that cell phones and mobile technology are having on the experience of Syrian refugees [here](#).

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