



Weekly News Roundup – 3 Mar 2017

The “[She Decides](#)” conference and its success in raising €181 million to counter the Trump Gag Rule dominated the week’s news. In addition to previous announcements, [Canada](#) stepped up with a \$20 million pledge. While many in the UK [urged](#) a contribution, the government was in an [awkward position](#) of not wanting to seem “anti-Trump” and announced no new aid.

The real-life effects of the ban will be harsh for the [poorest women](#), with examples in articles from [Malawi](#) and [Kenya](#). One report in Kenya looked at how [funding FP can change the lives of women](#), even in remote and impoverished areas.

The anti-FP voices called the Brussels conference “[New Colonialism](#)”, saying that the West was [forcing abortion](#) on an unwilling population. A counterpoint was an article by the head of the International Rescue Committee, who said her work in the field, actually listening to women, showed a [huge, unmet desire](#) for more access to FP.

Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander De Croo had his hands full with the organization of the She decides conference, but also found time to launch a new “[e-tutorial on sexual and reproductive health](#).” In other tech news, more than 300 developers will spend the weekend at an [Abortion Access Hackathon](#) in San Francisco. In Nairobi, 14 social entrepreneurs completed GE-sponsored training to model [new approaches to maternal and child health](#), including affordable telemedicine and electronic health records systems. In Nigeria, Marie Stopes International, using funding (while it can) from USAID, supplied [70 phones](#) in Edo state for prompt data recording. In South Africa, [a guide to safe abortion](#) is now available in an app, which so far only covers Gauteng.

In the Lusophone world, [Portugal](#) supported “She Decides”, [Angola](#) decriminalized abortion in some cases, and [Mozambique](#) received \$5 million for a safe abortion program.

Research released this week includes a study that says a drug to combat malaria during pregnancy, [sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine](#) (SP), also prevents STIs. A Maternal Health Task Force paper suggests the key to filling the maternal health worker gap is [task shifting](#). Advance Family Planning released three papers about [advocacy and FP gains in Africa](#).

The BuzzFeed element: Check out [10 truths](#) for Trump, [6 ways](#) the world is closing the health worker gap, [5 reasons](#) to support the Women’s Health Protection Act, [5 health investments](#) countries can make, and [4 abortion stories](#) you may have missed.

Finally, the tragic and the bizarre. The “[Shero](#)” featured as one of Time magazine’s people of the year – The Ebola Fighters – died in childbirth. And a Zimbabwean senator urged people to [have more babies](#), so the country could attract more investment.

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