



## Weekly News Roundup – 7 April 2017

The United States again [defunded](#) international family planning efforts, withdrawing its \$32.5 million funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an agency that serves families in more than 150 countries. The State Department said the agency supports or participates in a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization in China.

The UNFPA [responded](#): “This decision is based on the erroneous claim that UNFPA “supports, or participates in the management of, a programme of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization” in China. UNFPA refutes this claim, as all of its work promotes the human rights of individuals and couples to make their own decisions, free of coercion or discrimination.”

Others said the decision would have “[devastating consequences](#)”, would be a “[threat to millions of lives](#)”, and would leave “[major gaps](#)” in reproductive healthcare.

Global [child mortality rates](#) are dropping but the gap between the lowest and highest countries is rising. Deaths fell from 14.2m in 1990 to 7.3m in 2015 with poorer nations accounting for almost 75%.

Two aspects of new communications technology: In [Botswana](#), a report bemoans a rise in illegal abortion caused by the availability of illegal “drugs and appliances” on social media, while [Rwanda](#) lauds promoting family planning using mobile phone apps.

Lancet launched a new journal focused on [Planetary Health](#), which sees “human beings as a powerful and growing force behind the environmental change that we are witnessing today. Alterations to climate, water, land and ecosystems are challenging all life on our planet, with serious implications for human health.”

### Complete News References

#### General

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