

Fortnightly links: humanitarian aid vs ice cream, DFID's new strategy, cholera, and more

By Camilla Burkot and Terence Wood
24 February 2017

Does the world really spend more than three times as much on ice cream each year as it does on humanitarian assistance? The BBC's More or Less team [have a look](#) at this factoid and conclude it's basically correct. Note though, that this is for humanitarian assistance, not all ODA. A comparison of More or Less's number for ice cream consumption, and [OECD data](#), shows that the world doesn't spend three times more on ice cream than it does on ODA, but it does spend more. Depressing.

Lisa Denney from ODI [looks](#) at likely consequences of the Global Gag Rule, with some horrifying anecdotes from her fieldwork in Sierra Leone.

Also at ODI Dirk Willem te Velde [discusses](#) DfID's new international development strategy. And David Booth [celebrates](#) the same document, alongside the new World Development Report '[Governance and the Law](#)'. Plenty of useful food for thought for Australia here.

This excellent [multimedia feature](#) from the New York Times looks at the emergence of cholera in Bangladesh — and the promise of a new, cheap and effective cholera vaccine developed and now manufactured in that country too.

Michael Edwards has a [great piece](#) musing on the future of advocacy oriented NGOs.

About the author/s

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Link: <https://devpolicy.org/fortnightly-links-humanitarian-aid-ice-cream-dfid-new-strategy-cholera-more-20170224/>
Date downloaded: 25 April 2024



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