

Fortnightly links: universal basic income, REDD+, IDAHOBIT, lights out, and more

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Universal basic income continues to be a hot topic in global development. In this [blog post](#), Martin Ravallion explores 5 straw man arguments deployed on both sides of the debate. For those interested in background, a [recent episode](#) of the excellent Past Present podcast also looked at the history of calls for a universal basic income.

As the concept approaches its tenth anniversary, Kate Evans asks: [is REDD+ dead?](#)

In honour of IDAHOBIT Day this week (that's International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17), this [Guardian article](#) profiles the members of the *hijra* community recently hired by the Kochi Metro Rail in south India.

This [very cool map](#) shows where lights have turned on -- or been extinguished -- between 2012 and 2016. An [accompanying National Geographic article](#) provides more details about the process of developing the map.

Stephen Radelet bravely goes 'once more unto the breach' to [review the evidence](#) for aid effectiveness in light of continuing threats that US aid will be heavily cut by the Trump administration.

[What does a real feminist foreign policy look like?](#) Valerie Percival reflects, in the Canadian context.

Those interested in the delivery of Australian aid may be interested in the [response to a recent Senate Question on Notice](#) [pdf] which details the top 10 contractors to the Australian aid program as a percentage of total ODA in 2015/16.