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Natural Disasters and Armed Conflict

As the year 2015 comes to a close, we look back on the grave events that have transpired: the earthquake in Nepal, the ongoing migrant crisis in Europe, the terrorist attacks in Paris, and so many more. The consequences of incidents such as these are hardly ever contained within the borders of the affected countries. On the contrary, when natural disasters and international conflicts occur, it is as if the whole world feels the shock. And of course, with every instance of cataclysmic weather, outbreak of war, or horrifying accident that occurs, the lives of humans all over the world are put at risk. That is why we at the Journal of Global Health seek to highlight how these calamities have affected global health in the immediate past.

In volume V, Issue II of The Journal of Global Health, we discuss a variety of global health issues influenced by the common theme of natural disasters and armed conflict. In a paper on healthcare reconstruction in Yemen, we see how a violent period of civil war may have opened a “window of opportunity” for complete reformation of primary care practices. Another author examines how Daesh, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS or ISIL) has critically impaired healthcare infrastructure in the countries affected by the Syrian Civil War. A third paper looks at how the 2003 invasion of Iraq has since affected the quality of medical care to Iraqi citizens. In each article of this edition, regardless of the topic, we see how major incidents affect the health of human beings on a local and global scale.

Now finishing its fifth year of publication, JGH facilitates dialogue between students at the undergraduate and graduate level on interdisciplinary global health issues from a variety of academic, cultural and geographic perspectives. By fostering greater interdisciplinary dialogue and publishing exemplary student-led global health research, both on the topic of natural disasters and armed conflict as well as other topics, we hope that this issue exposes the next generation of health professionals and policy makers to the major health problems faced by communities all over the world. The archived issues of the *Journal of Global Health*, as well as episodes of our podcast, What is Global Health?, featuring interviews with a variety of academics, health professionals, and grassroots activists, can be found at www.ghjournal.org.

Anjali Doshi
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