Extreme poverty to fall below 10 per cent, advancing towards UN goal by 2030 – World Bank

5 October - The World Bank announced today that extreme poverty is likely to fall to below 10 per cent this year, “giving fresh evidence that a quarter-century-long sustained reduction in poverty is moving the world closer to the historic goal of ending poverty by 2030” – echoing a top goal set by the newly-agreed United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda.

“This is the best story in the world today – these projections show us that we are the first generation in human history that can end extreme poverty,” said Jim Yong Kim, World Bank Group President.

The World Bank explained that it uses an updated international poverty line of $1.90 a day, which incorporates new information on differences in the cost of living across countries and preserves the real purchasing power of the previous line of $1.25 a day in 2005 prices in the world’s poorest countries.

Based on the new line, the World Bank projects that global poverty will have fallen from 902 million people – or 12.8 per cent of the global population in 2012 – to 702 million people, or 9.6 per cent of the global population, this year.

“This new forecast of poverty falling into the single digits should give us new momentum and help us focus even more clearly on the most effective strategies to end extreme poverty,” the World Bank chief said.

Ending poverty is the top goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted on 25 September by the 193-Member United Nations General Assembly, which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed as “an agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms – an agenda for the planet, our common home.”
Mr. Kim echoed the UN chief’s optimism, saying that “the world stands a vastly better chance of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and raising the life prospects of low-income families but the World Bank chief also cautioned that the work ahead “will be extraordinarily hard.”

The World Bank forecast noted that poverty remains concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

“For the last several decades, three regions, East Asia and Pacific, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, have accounted for some 95 per cent of global poverty,” according to the World Bank, which noted that today, “poverty is declining in all regions but it is becoming deeper and more entrenched in countries that are either conflict ridden or overly dependent on commodity exports.”

“The growing concentration of global poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa is of great concern,” it said.

In its regional forecasts for 2015, the World Bank said that poverty in East Asia and the Pacific would fall to 4.1 per cent of its population, down from 7.2 per cent in 2012; Latin America and the Caribbean would fall to 5.6 per cent from 6.2 in 2012; South Asia would fall to 13.5 per cent in 2015, compared to 18.8 per cent in 2012; Sub-Saharan Africa declines to 35.2 per cent in 2015, compared to 42.6 per cent in 2012.

And the Bank noted that “reliable current poverty data is not available for the Middle East and North Africa because of conflict and fragility in key countries in the region.”

UN, humanitarian community struggling to meet unprecedented needs of refugees

5 October - The global refugee crisis is so great that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), other UN agencies and their partners today said that they are struggling to respond to and meet all the humanitarian needs they face.

“Today, there are more than 60 million refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide as a result of conflict and persecution,” António Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, told members of the agency’s Executive Committee gathered in Geneva.

He recalled that when he became High Commissioner 10 years ago, there were 38 million refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs, and the number was falling. “Fifteen new conflicts have broken out or reignited in the past five years, while none of the old ones got resolved. The number of people globally displaced by conflict every single day has nearly quadrupled in that time.”

He added that the world has become more fragile, conflicts have spread in unpredictable ways, and the nature of conflict has grown highly complex. “One of the consequences has been a shrinking of humanitarian space, which has made the work of organizations like UNHCR much more difficult and hazardous. The interlinked mega-crises in Syria and Iraq, which have uprooted over 15 million people, are a powerful example of this evolution – but not the only one.”

Displacement and refugee exoduses have marked many continents, with the UN estimating that in just the last 12 months, Yemen has witnessed 1.1 million displaced people and refugees; an additional half a million people fled from their homes in South Sudan; and in Libya, a further 300,000 are now displaced within the country. Elsewhere, tens of thousands flee gang violence in Central America, while 94,000 have crossed the Bay of Bengal in search of protection.

The High Commissioner underlined that much of this new and old displacement had been hardly visible to the world. “But after the dramatic events on the beaches and borders of Europe this summer, nobody is now able to ignore a refugee crisis that had been simmering for so long while others weren't watching,” Mr. Guterres stated.

According to UNHCR, the numbers arriving are large – over half a million already this year in Europe – but Mr. Guterres insisted that this flow is not unmanageable on a continent of more than 500 million people, and said the decision of the
European Union to relocate 160,000 asylum-seekers is a key step in the right direction.

“But much more is needed for this system to work well, especially the creation of adequate reception centres near the entry points, with sufficient capacity to receive, assist, register and screen tens of thousands of people, together with more legal avenues for those in search of protection, and also for economic migrants to be able to access the European territory.”

He stated that, faced with the sharp increase in global needs, humanitarian agencies can no longer fully cope, and declared that the humanitarian system is not broken – it is in financial crisis.

"The current funding level for the 33 UN appeals to provide humanitarian assistance to 82 million people around the world is only 42 per cent,” he told the Executive Committee.

“UNHCR expects to receive just 47 per cent of the funding we need this year. We have managed to avoid meaningful reductions of our direct support to refugee families, but at a high cost to our other activities.”

The High Commissioner said that, in response to the crisis in the past year, UNHCR has reinforced its capacity to deal with emergencies, fielding over 600 emergency response deployment missions in 2014 and 2015. Protection, especially for children, has also been a priority, as the number of asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied children reportedly rose to levels never seen before.

As the numbers of refugees rise, putting enormous pressure on the receiving countries, Mr. Guterres also stressed that the world must rethink how it finances the response to humanitarian crises, calling for a much closer link between emergency assistance and development aid.

Speaking of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit, scheduled for May 2016, Mr. Guterres said one of its goals must be the building of a more universal humanitarian partnership moving beyond the essentially “Western creation that is the present multilateral system.”

“In a world where more than two-thirds of all refugees are Muslim, it is important to recognize that there is nothing in the 1951 [Refugee] Convention that is not already present in ancient Islamic traditions and legal texts.”

In conclusion, the High Commissioner, who is stepping down at the end of the year, appealed to Member States to do what they can to preserve the sanctity of asylum and to continue to grant protection to people seeking safety from war and oppression.

**On World Day, UN urges international community to invest in recruiting, empowering teachers**

**5 October** - Marking the first World Teacher’s Day after the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, senior United Nations officials appealed to the international community to value, support, and empower teachers, “for it is they who will educate a new generation of children who, in turn, will carry forward all our goals to build a better world for all.”

“Today, as the global community comes together around the new 2030 Agenda, the role teachers play has never have been more important,” said the heads of key UN agencies in a joint statement on the Day.

Quality teachers are increasingly recognized as the most important factor in children’s learning- and thus, in improving educational attainment levels, increasing the ability of young people to participate in society and today’s knowledge economies, boosting productivity and prosperity.

The statement was issued by UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General Irina Bokova; UN International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Director-General, Guy Ryder; UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Executive Director, Anthony Lake; UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) Administrator, Helen Clark; and Fred van Leeuwen, the General Secretary of Education International, which represents teachers’ organizations across the globe.

The statement underscored the mounting shortage of quality teachers, unequal distribution of trained teachers, and inadequate or non-existent national standards for the teaching profession.

These are all key contributing factors to wide equity gaps in access and learning. According to estimates compiled by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, to achieve universal primary education by 2020, countries will need to recruit a total of 10.9 million primary teachers.

“This is a global education crisis in the making – unless we act,” said the officials, noting that the looming crisis was recognized at the 2015 World Education Forum, in Incheon, South Korea, where leaders committed to “ensure that teachers and educators are empowered, adequately recruited, well-trained, professionally qualified, motivated and supported within well-resourced, efficient and effectively governed systems.

The new global education goal, Sustainable Development Goal 4, which is at the heart of the Education 2030 Agenda, call for “inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

“Realizing this goal is critical to achieving all our global development targets – for strong societies depend on well-educated citizens and a well-trained workforce. But we can only realize this agenda if we invest in recruiting, supporting, and empowering teachers,” explained the UN agency heads.

In a separate statement on the Day, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) highlighted the key roles teachers play in empowering students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st century and better connect with people and experiences beyond their borders.

“Being well-trained, dedicated, enthusiastic and interactive, our teachers are reshaping the future of our school children. The ways our teachers are working through the reform are being noted beyond UNRWA,” said Caroline Pontefract, Director of Education at UNRWA.

This year’s celebrations give the Agency an important opportunity to recognize the important work of UNRWA teachers, who continue to deliver quality education despite the many difficulties the face, including the ongoing crisis in Syria and last year’s devastating conflict in Gaza, as well as an unprecedented funding shortfall in the Agency’s core programming budget that risked a delay in the school year in Jordan, Gaza, the West Bank, Syria and Lebanon.

World Teachers’ Day, held annually since 1994, commemorates the anniversary of the signing in 1966 of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers, and celebrates the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels. The Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers has, essentially, served as a charter of rights for teachers worldwide.

**Extremists ‘terrified of history,’ UNESCO chief says, deploring destruction of Arch of Triumph in Palmyra**

5 October - Extremists will “never be able to erase history,” the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Irina Bokova, said today, condemning the destruction of the Arch of Triumph in Palmyra.

“This new destruction shows how terrified by history and culture the extremists are, because understanding the past undermines and delegitimizes the pretexts they use to justify these crimes and exposes them as expressions of pure hatred and ignorance,” said Ms. Bokova.

“Palmyra symbolizes everything that extremists abhor; cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, the encounter of different peoples in this centre of trading between Europe and Asia,” she declared.
“Despite their relentless crimes, extremists will never be able to erase history, nor silence the memory of this site that embodies the unity and identity of the Syrian people,” she continued.

Ms. Bokova also said that there would be no impunity for war criminals, and that UNESCO would make every effort to ensure that those responsible for the destruction of the Arch would be tried and punished.

According to UNESCO, the Arch of Triumph was built by Septimius Severus between 193 and 211 AD. It marked the junction between the immense Great Colonnade of the site and the Temple of Bel, also destroyed this year.

**Burkina Faso: Ban meets with transition President Kafando to discuss situation in country**

5 October - In a meeting today with Michel Kafando, the Transitional President of Burkina Faso, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his sympathy for the lives lost and the many injured during the coup d’état that took place on 16 September 2015.

According to a readout issued by Mr. Ban’s spokesperson, the Secretary-General and President Kafando exchanged views on the current situation in Burkina Faso.

The Secretary-General also reiterated his call on all national stakeholders to act responsibly, exercise restraint and work in the best interests of the country, while reaffirming the UN’s commitment to supporting national efforts, including for the organization of the elections.

In this regard, the Secretary-General stressed that it would be essential to ensure the early holding of peaceful and credible presidential and legislative elections to allow for the swift return of constitutional order in Burkina Faso.

In addition, the UN chief expressed appreciation for Burkina Faso’s continued commitment to peace and stability in Mali as a member of the International Mediation team and as a troop contributor to the UN Mission in Mali, MINUSMA.

**Marking World Habitat Day, UN highlights importance of public spaces for all**

5 October - Marking World Habitat Day, which is observed every year on the first Monday of October, top United Nations officials today urged the creation of “Public spaces for all.”

“Public spaces are crucial for poor and vulnerable citizens,” said Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a statement. “Improving access to them, and making them safe for women and girls, increases equity, promotes inclusion and combats discrimination.”

“High-quality public spaces encourage people to communicate and collaborate with each other, and to participate in public life,” he continued. “Public spaces can also provide basic services, enhance connectivity, spawn economic activity and raise property values while generating municipal revenue.”

But, said Mr. Ban, public spaces require careful collaboration among local authorities, local inhabitants and other actors.

The Secretary-General also highlighted the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 11, which aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,” noting that the goal represented a “broad international consensus that recognizes sustainable urban development as a transformational approach.”

The Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Joan Clos, noting the importance of the day’s theme, said in a statement that “the character of a city is defined by its streets and public spaces.”

“Public space is a vital component of a prosperous city,” said Mr. Clos. “Well designed and managed public space is a key
asset for a city’s functioning and has a positive impact on its economy, environment, safety, health, integration and connectivity.

“The quality of life for people in cities is directly related to the state of its public spaces,” he continued. “Public space provides room for social and cultural interaction and can foster a sense of belonging and pride in an area. A public space that is open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, provides a democratic forum for citizens and society.”

Without adequate public space, cities can become increasingly segregated, noted Mr. Clos. “The result can be a polarized city where social tensions are likely to flare up and where crime and violence rises.”

He added that World Habitat Day is being celebrated this year with a partnership between UN-Habitat and the ‘HeforShe’ initiative promoted by the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The two UN agencies are aiming to promote the role of men and women in the creation of “gender-equal public spaces for all.”

UN panel warns against 'designer babies' and eugenics in 'editing' of human DNA

5 October - Warning that rapid advances in genetics make “designer babies” an increasing possibility, a United Nations panel today called for a moratorium on “editing” the human genome, pending wider public debate lest changes in DNA be transmitted to future generations or foster eugenics.

While acknowledging the therapeutic value of genetic interventions, the panel stressed that the process raises serious concerns, especially if the editing of the human genome should be applied to the germline, thereby introducing hereditary modifications.

“Gene therapy could be a watershed in the history of medicine and genome editing is unquestionably one of the most promising undertakings of science for the sake of all humankind,” the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said in a news release on a report by its International Bioethics Committee (IBC).

But the IBC added: “Interventions on the human genome should be admitted only for preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic reasons and without enacting modifications for descendants.” The alternative would “jeopardize the inherent and therefore equal dignity of all human beings and renew eugenics,” it said.

This is not the first time that a UN body has raised such concerns. In 2010, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said that “as we develop technologies that enable us to make life-or-death decisions, we need a shared, value-based approach to what are fundamentally moral questions.”

In 2004, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan questioned whether such processes might promote a world dominated by eugenics like that imagined by Aldous Huxley in the novel *Brave New World*.

“The greatest fear is that we may be trying to 'play God,' with unforeseeable consequences, in the end precipitating our own destruction,” Mr. Annan warned then, asking whether the dangers outweigh the benefits and where the line should be drawn between what is feasible and what is desirable or ethical.

In today's report IBC, comprising scientists, philosophers, lawyers and government ministers, noted that recent advances have opened the door to genetic screening and testing for inherited diseases, gene therapy, the use of embryonic stem cells in medical research and the possibility of cloning and genetic “editing” for both medical and non-medical ends.

It noted that scientists and bioethicists are calling for a wider public debate about the power of science to modify genetically human embryos in the laboratory, so as to control inherited traits, such as appearance and intelligence.

A new genome “editing” technique called CRISPR-Cas9 makes it possible for scientists to insert, remove and correct DNA simply and efficiently, IBC added. It holds out the prospect of treating or even curing certain illnesses, such as sickle cell
diseases, cystic fibrosis and some cancers. But germline editing can also make changes to DNA, such as determining a baby's eye colour, easier for scientists working with human embryos, eggs and sperm.

The report also cautions against the hidden danger of do-it-yourself genetic testing, saying that consumers who tested their own DNA using so-called Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) kits bought online, needed professional genetic and medical counselling to understand and act on the results. It called for clear regulations and information for consumers about such tests.

UNESCO member States adopted the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights in 2005 to deal with ethical issues raised by rapid changes in medicine, life sciences and technology. It states lists the human genome as part of the heritage of humanity, outlining rules that need to be observed to respect human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Afghanistan: UN envoy says inquiry into fatal Kunduz hospital air strike must be ‘impartial’**

5 October - Nicholas Haysom, the United Nations Special Representative for Afghanistan reiterated today the need for an impartial investigation into the deadly air strike on the Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) hospital in Kunduz, which resulted in the deaths and injuries of medical personnel, patients and other civilians this past Saturday.

In an interview with *UN Radio*, he said that the UN has been emphasizing the need to ensure the incident – which reportedly left more than 20 people dead and was strongly condemned by a host of senior UN officials, including Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon – is investigated properly.

“We issued a series of statements which I think, collectively, are very powerful indication of our concern over an attack on a medical facility [which is] clearly protected under international law,” continued, Mr. Haysom, noting that apart from his own statements, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, had also issued a “very strong call for an independent and impartial inquiry.”

MSF has been operating as the only hospital in Kunduz, which is in the northeast of Afghanistan, under extremely trying conditions. Following Saturday’s attacks, the organization announced that it is pulling out of the city.

As for the current situation in Kunduz, Mr. Haysom explained that the air strikes had further deteriorated the humanitarian conditions in the city. Moreover, he added, there is a severe shortage of water and power in many parts of the city.

“We all are conscious and concerned about the overall humanitarian situation. People have been without food. Today some shops opened but the cost of food escalated dramatically. We know that since the attack on the hospital, there is very limited access to any health facilities and in one place where medical assistance is offered, there is only one medic. [There is] no food and they have run out of medicines,” he told *UN Radio*.

He went on to say the situation improved marginally today with security forces gaining more control of Kunduz. “The current situation has improved today. The security forces seem to be in control of the large parts of the city now. There is still sporadic fighting on the outskirts,” he said.

Mr. Haysom noted that Afghanistan is more firmly fixed on what is happening throughout the northeast than merely the awful attack on the Kunduz hospital. However, he added that there are certainly groups which are focusing attention on the hospital air strikes in particular, as it was a breach of international humanitarian law.

A statement issued yesterday by the UN human rights office, said that according to MSF, pro-Government forces had been informed of the precise location of the medical facilities. While it has yet to be established whether or not the hospital or immediate surroundings were the target of the attack, or were recklessly endangered by it, airstrikes reportedly continued to hit the area for a further 30 minutes after pro-Government forces were informed they were endangering a medical facility.
According to the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), a United States spokesperson has reportedly been quoted saying US planes were carrying out airstrikes at around the time the hospital was hit.

The UN Human Rights chief said it was essential to ensure any inquiry was independent, impartial, transparent and effective. “This deeply shocking event should be promptly, thoroughly and independently investigated and the results should be made public,” he said.

**South Sudan: UN agency air operation delivers agriculture aid to hard-to-access areas**

5 October - The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) today announced that its rapid response operation in conflict-torn South Sudan has delivered livelihood assistance to 60,000 food-insecure households in hard-to-reach areas of northern Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States, where food stocks are running out and most families have been unable to produce food through farming or fishing this year.

The recent deliveries of livelihood kits add to the 430,000 crop, vegetable and fishing kits FAO already distributed earlier this year to support an estimated 2.3 million people facing severe food insecurity and soaring malnutrition.

“In many parts of South Sudan the rainy season is hampering access by road and regular fixed-wing flights, so FAO has been using the only means possible to reach these communities – helicopters,” said Abdoul Karim Bah, FAO’s Emergency Response Manager for South Sudan, in a press release.

“This means we can also more easily take advantage of small windows of opportunity to distribute aid—so as the ceasefire continues to hold, we’ve been able to move quickly to reach areas that haven’t been reached since the start of the conflict,” he added.

At the end of August, the country’s President, Salva Kiir, signed a peace agreement with the former Vice-President Riek Machar, ending the 20 month-long conflict. The security situation in South Sudan had been deteriorated steadily since political in-fighting between them and their respective factions erupted in December 2013.

As of 1 October, FAO says it has delivered more than 70,000 livelihood kits through the operation. Each kit weighs no more than 2 kilograms and contains seven varieties of vegetable seeds and fishing materials to increase people's food intake and combat high rates of malnutrition by diversifying diets.

At the same time, FAO announced it is carrying out control missions to prevent outbreaks of livestock diseases, administering drugs and vaccines to high-risk areas.

Meanwhile, access problems and concerns for staff security have reportedly been severely limiting aid reaching remote and isolated communities in conflict-affected areas in recent months, which called for alternative ways to deliver aid quickly and safely.

“With this operation, our presence on the ground is limited to a maximum of 30 minutes, which is just enough time to handover the inputs to our partners,” said Serge Tissot, FAO’s Representative in South Sudan.

With more than two million people having been uprooted from their homes due to conflict, FAO further underlined that it is committed to enabling farmers, fisherfolk and herders to plant crops, fish waterways and protect livestock from fatal diseases in the areas where they have found shelter.
Boko Haram violence an 'affront to humanity,' Ban declares, reaffirms UN support to Nigerian Government

4 October - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has condemned the bomb attacks of 2 October in the outskirts of Abuja, Nigeria, as well as the multiple suicide bombings of 1 October in the city of Maiduguri, capital of Borno State, all by suspected Boko Haram elements.

“The continuing violence by Boko Haram is an affront to international law, to humanity and to religious faith, said Mr. Ban in a statement issued yesterday evening by his spokesperson.

According to the statement, the UN chief extends his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the Government of Nigeria, and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured. He reiterates the United Nations' support to the Nigerian Government in its fight against terrorism.

“The Secretary-General also recalls the vital importance and obligation to respect international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law in countering terrorism,” the statement concludes.

Following latest deadly attack in Jerusalem, UN chief warns of 'dangerous slide towards escalation'

4 October - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has strongly condemned the attacks on Saturday in the Old City of Jerusalem, including the killing of two members of an Israeli family and injuries to Israelis and Palestinians in subsequent incidents in various Jerusalem neighborhoods.

Recalling the recent deadly attack on another Israeli family in the occupied West Bank, and in light of the wave of extremism and violence sweeping the region, the Secretary-General, according to a statement issued by his spokesperson, “is deeply concerned that these latest incidents signal a dangerous slide towards escalation.”

Further, the statement says that Mr. Ban is “deeply troubled” by statements from Palestinian militant groups, including Hamas, praising such heinous attacks. He urges all leaders to condemn violence and incitement, maintain calm and to do everything they can to avoid further escalation, said the UN chief's statement.

“The Secretary-General firmly believes that a just and lasting solution to the conflict can be achieved only through pursuing a negotiated two-state solution,” underscored the statement, adding that the United Nations stands ready to work with all parties to create the conditions on the ground, in the region and internationally to make meaningful negotiations possible.

Recent weeks have witnessed increasing tensions both in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem, prompting UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Security Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urge Israelis and Palestinians to defuse tensions and prevent any escalation of the current situation on the ground.
UN chief appoints Philippines national as head of UN internal oversight office

5 October - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, following consultations with Chairs of Regional Groups, informed the General Assembly today of his intention to appoint Heidi Mendoza of the Philippines as the new Under-Secretary-General for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for a five-year non-renewable term.

Ms. Mendoza is currently the Commissioner of the Commission of Audit of the Philippines (since 2011) and Chairperson of the Audit Committee on Public Sector Auditing Standards Board. She also serves as the External Auditor for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO).

Ms. Mendoza is a certified public accountant with over 20 years of service in government specializing in audit, investigation, fraud examination, anti-corruption and integrity advocacy.