**Social Issues surrounding health and health** **care:**

The topic of social issues surrounding health and health care delivery are multidimensional, complex issues that range from poverty, geographic location, and infrastructures under governmental control, food insecurities and others.

Three organizations have examined the issues surrounding social conditions. There is an activity that will focus on one of the issues explored by each organization.

“ Health authorities have shown little evidence of their ability to anticipate change. Globalization/ Urbanization /ageing will be compounded by health effects of things like **climate** **change**, impact will be greatest amount the most vulnerable communities living in the poorest countries” WHO (Activity 1 India and health affect by climate)

**Activity 1: India and health affected by climate**

Review the article below from **the Guardian** (June 1, 2015) regarding the rising death rate occurring in India due to the high temperature. Then answer the following questions.

1. What were the temperature readings over the Month of May?
2. If these temperatures were occurring in the US, would we be able to adapt to these changes? How and why? (Think about our infrastructure)
3. Why are they not able to save more people in India?
4. Name three ways India would be able to save more people from heat related deaths?

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[[](http://www.theguardian.com/weather/2015/may/31/southern-india-heatwave-death-toll-nears-2200-rain-brings-little-relief%23img-1)](http://www.theguardian.com/weather/2015/may/31/southern-india-heatwave-death-toll-nears-2200-rain-brings-little-relief" \l "img-1)

Indian commuters use umbrellas to stay cool in oppressive conditions. Photograph: Piyal Adhikary/EPA

Associated Press Sunday 31 May 2015 11.01 EDT Last modified on Sunday 31 May 2015 11.32 EDT

**Article from *The Guardian* (June 1, 2015)**

# As heatwave death toll nears 2,200

Temperatures touch 47C as deadly heatwave that has tormented region since mid-April drags on with expected rainstorms providing scant respite.

Despite hopes that weekend thundershowers would help end a raging heatwave in southern [India](http://www.theguardian.com/world/india), the rain brought only limited relief as the death toll since mid-April approached 2,200.

Officials said on Sunday the intense heat was likely to continue for another day in the worst hit states of [Andhra Pradesh](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Andhra+Pradesh,+India/@15.8766919,80.7708656,7z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x3a3546f8ae93d47f:0x33d1bbbe95adcd83) and [Telangana](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Telangana,+India/@17.8760325,79.2727297,7z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x3a3350db9429ed43:0x63ef7ba741594059).

Daytime temperatures hovered between 45C and 47C (113-116 F) in parts of the two states over the weekend, 3-7C (5-12F) above normal, said YK Reddy, a director of the Meteorological Centre in the Telangana state capital of Hyderabad.

Andhra Pradesh has been hit the hardest, with 1,636 people dying from the heat over the past month and a half, a government statement said. A further 561 people have died in neighboring Telangana, said Sada Bhargavi, a state disaster management commissioner.

Meanwhile, 22 heat-related deaths have been reported in the northern state of [Uttar Pradesh](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Uttar+Pradesh,+India/@27.141237,80.8833819,6z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x39994e9f7b4a09d3:0xf6a5476d3617249d) over the past two weeks, said Raj Shekhar, a state government official. The Press Trust of India news agency said 21 people have died from the heat in the eastern state of Orissa, seven in Gujarat to the west, and two in New Delhi, India’s capital.

“We can’t bear this heat. The situation is worsened by frequent power outages,” said Rekha Tiwari, a housewife in Lucknow, the Uttar Pradesh state capital.

Mohammed Waseem, a cart puller, had no respite as he delivered goods around New Delhi, where temperatures were 41C (106F) on Sunday after a brief morning shower. “I have to work to feed myself,” he said.

Cooling monsoon rains are expected this week in southern [India](http://www.theguardian.com/weather/india) before advancing north. The monsoon season will last until the end of September.

Forecasting service [AccuWeather](http://www.accuweather.com/en/in/india-weather) warned last week of prolonged drought conditions in India, with the monsoon likely to be disrupted by a more active typhoon season over the Pacific

“We live in a global community, where news and disease can span the globe in hours or even moments, our actions and choices can have far reaching consequences for our own and others health. Weather it is a tsunami, bioterrorism, green -house gases or **avian flu**, global health has the potential to affect everyone here in the US “ Explore Health Careers see activity 2 avian flu)

“ The world is faced with complex issues and realities in Global Health. Some complex issues includes include patient barriers to care, **culturally appropriate education**, local management ( western ideas vs local health care structure, medication management and availability, and evaluating programs so funding will only go to those who demonstrate success” Unite for Sight ( Activity 3 – River Blindness)

**Activity 2**

Activity : Topic Avian flu

1. An outbreak of Avian flu occurred in China on May 22, discuss ways that this flu could make it to the US by the 24 of May.
2. How could this be contained in the place of origin?
3. What are other preventative measures that could be put in place by communities and/ or the governments

**Key facts- Avian Flu**

* Avian influenza (AI), commonly called bird flu, is an infectious viral disease of birds.
* Most avian influenza viruses do not infect humans; however some, such as A(H5N1) and A(H7N9), have caused serious infections in people.
* Outbreaks of AI in poultry may raise global public health concerns due to their effect on poultry populations, their potential to cause serious disease in people, and their pandemic potential.
* Reports of highly pathogenic AI epidemics in poultry, such as A(H5N1), can seriously impact local and global economies and international trade.
* The majority of human cases of A(H5N1) and A(H7N9) infection have been associated with direct or indirect contact with infected live or dead poultry. There is no evidence that the disease can be spread to people through properly cooked food.
* Controlling the disease in animals is the first step in decreasing in humans

**ACTIVITY 3**

There has been an active case of River Blindness on the shores of Lake Victoria in Uganda. You are directed to help with gathering and developing education materials for the villages that boarder Lake Victoria.

1. What would be some background information you should gather before starting this project
2. What areas of the community and/or government should be brought in to the development of the educational materials?

RIVER Blindness - WHO

Onchocerciasis – or 'river blindness' – is a parasitic disease caused by the filarial worm *Onchocerca volvulus*. It is transmitted to humans through the repeated bites of infected black flies (of the genus *Simulium*) which breed in fast-flowing rivers and streams.  
  
Onchocerciasis is both an eye and skin disease. The death of baby worms (microfilariae) causes severe and unrelenting itching and disfiguring skin disease. In the eyes, this may lead to visual loss and irreversible blindness in some individuals.  
  
River blindness is mainly prevalent in tropical Sub-Saharan Africa. The disease also exists in Latin America and Yemen. There is no vaccine or medication to prevent infection with *O. volvulus*.

**ACTIVITY 1**

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