

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called for the use of science and technology to build better cities, saying that most global population growth in the coming years is expected to occur in urban areas of developing countries, with rising demand for land, housing, basic services and infrastructure. Mr. Ban pointed out that since the articulation of the Millennium Development Goals by world leaders, more than a decade ago, 55 million slum dwellers have been added to the global population.

UNITED NATIONS - The head of the United Nations population fund urged Member States and development partners to take quick action to facilitate universal access to reproductive health, the empowerment of women and poverty alleviation. A recent report by the Office of the Secretary-General states that family planning and demographic change alone reduced poverty by one seventh in developing countries between 1960 and 2000, and could produce another one-seventh drop in poverty levels by 2015.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Abidjan's 4 million residents in Cote d'Ivoire face an increasingly perilous health situation with widespread water supply cuts, rising food prices, street violence and dwindling medicine supplies, NGO warns.

MIDDLE EAST

LYBIA - Tens of thousands of children are at risk in the conflict-torn Libyan city of Misrata, the United Nations Children's Fund has warned. The agency says it has verified that at least 20 children, some of them as young as 9 months old have been killed in Misrata and many more injured by bullets, as well as shrapnel from mortars and tanks.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ECUADOR is home to the largest number of refugees in Latin America, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Of the more than 53,000 recognized refugees, 73 per cent are women and children.

WFWO's Communications Team