

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Up to 3.6 million deaths could be avoided each year in 58 developing countries if midwifery services are upgraded, according to a report released by the United Nations Population Fund. The study, "The State of the World's Midwifery 2011", estimates that an additional 112,000 midwives need to be deployed in 38 countries to meet their target to achieve 95 per cent coverage of births by skilled attendants by 2015, as required under the Millennium Development Goals. Globally, 350,000 midwives are still lacking, it says.

UNITED NATIONS - More people last year were forcibly displaced from their homes by conflict or persecution than at any time since 1985, according to a report released Monday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Four out of five of the 43.7 million refugees, some 15.4 million of whom fled across borders, and 27.5 million of whom were uprooted within their own countries, are in developing countries, which UNHCR report says are "left having to pick up the burden."

AFRICA

POVERTY - The high economic growth enjoyed by many African states during the 2000s have not led to poverty elimination. This is because the growth did not happen in the sectors where poor people work, as in agriculture, or in the rural areas where poor people live, or simply did not involve labour provided by poor people.

POPULATION - The African continent, which is projected to make significant economic gains over the next decade, is in danger of being weighed down by a dramatic explosion in population growth. A new study titled "Africa's Demographic Multiplication", points out that Africa's population has more than tripled during the second half of the 20th century, growing from 230 million to 811 million.

MALARIA - The malaria vaccine that has eluded medical science for decades is now within reach, with the final phase of clinical trials underway in seven African countries, including Malawi, where the disease claims 6,500 lives a year, most of them children under the age of five.

ASIA & PACIFIC

Asia-Pacific countries can cushion themselves against food and fuel price shocks and natural disasters by more efficient use of resources and energy, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific said.

PHILIPPINES - Armed with machetes and cutting equipment, and in a bid to prevent flooding in and around the Philippine city of Cotabato on Mindanao island, hundreds of troops and civilians cleared tons of water lilies from the Rio Grande river on 18-19 June.

WFWO's Communications Team