

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - Scientists anticipate there will be nine billion people in the world to feed by 2050. As this number rises, so will the earth's temperature, which is expected to increase four degrees Celsius by the end of the century, wreaking havoc on the world's food production.

AFRICA

MADAGASCAR's traditional midwives, or 'matrones', are often thought to undermine safe childbirth practices, delivering babies in unsanitary environments and without provisions to manage complications. Yet they are now being recruited to a campaign to get women to deliver in clinics or hospitals, part of a move to lower maternal and newborn death rates.

MAURITANIA - Dozens of slaves have escaped or been liberated since slavery was finally criminalized in Mauritania in 2007, but thus far just one slave-owner has been convicted and imprisoned, according to anti-slavery campaigners.

SIERRA LEONE's diamonds fuelled the 1991-2002 civil war, and are now boosting economic growth, but at the same time they are keeping thousands of children out of school.

SOUTH AFRICA has recently made huge strides in HIV treatment, scaling-up the number of people on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs while also improving its national treatment guidelines.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - In southwestern Bangladesh, recent large-scale water-logging - stagnant flood water that fails to recede - threatens agriculture and public health for years to come.

PAKISTAN - A high birth rate is not making life any easier for Pakistan's 180 million people, already affected by political instability, economic stagnation and natural disasters.

MIDDLE EAST

CLIMATE CHANGE - In the last three decades, 50 million people in the Arab world have been affected by natural disasters, many of them extreme climate events, according to a new report by the World Bank. The report projects the horrific scenario of temperatures regularly rising over 50 degrees Celsius by the turn of the century, which experts fear could lead to countless more disasters.

SYRIA - The nearly two-year conflict in Syria has taken tens of thousands of lives, destroyed entire neighbourhoods and sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing. But more quietly, it has also eaten away at the country's healthcare system.

WFWO's Communications Team