

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - Air pollution is projected to prematurely kill an estimated 3.6 million people each year by 2050, exceeding even the deaths stemming from poor sanitation and a lack of clean drinking water, according to a report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The deaths from particulate matter in the air, primarily in China and India, would nearly be doubled when ground-level ozone and "indoor pollution" are taken into account, the report said.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE across the world, from the rain forests of central Africa and South America, to Southeast Asia, are using the Global Positioning System to better survey and map their territories in an effort to defend their communities from logging and other outside development.

AFRICA

CHILDREN - The United Nations Children's Fund, is warning that more than a million children below the age of five in the Sahel are facing a disaster amid the ongoing food crisis in the drought-prone region of Africa. They are among the some 15 million people estimated to be at risk of food insecurity in countries in the Sahel, including 5.4 million people in Niger, three million in Mali, 1.7 million in Burkina Faso and 3.6 million in Chad, as well as hundreds of thousands in Senegal, the Gambia, and Mauritania, according to UN figures.

CHAD - Hovering at around 20 percent in some places, Kanem Region in western Chad is well-known for having some of the world's highest continual severe acute malnutrition rates.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN - In Islamabad, polio vaccination teams are being turned back by educational institutions as well as gated communities in the capital's Red Zone, an enclave with diplomatic and residential buildings. Government officials blamed mass media coverage for inaccurately portraying the quality and side effects of the vaccine as leading to refusals by parents to immunize their children.

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT's public health system is in disarray and needs to be better funded if it is to reach more people and provide more effective health care, say experts.

WFWO's Communications Team