

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is partnering with the global child rights organization to ensure that children, especially those at risk of statelessness, are registered at birth. Children comprise about half of the 12 million stateless people across the world, according to the UN agency.

AFRICA

MADAGASCAR - In a cyclone-prone country like Madagascar, which feels the force of about 60 percent of the storms that form over the Indian Ocean every year, being prepared for disaster makes all the difference.

MALI - More than 44,000 people have fled northern Mali over the past 10 days to escape fighting between government troops and Tuareg rebels in what observers are calling the country's worst humanitarian crisis in two decades. The UN refugee agency said it is increasing assistance to refugees along border villages in Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso.

NIGERIA - The Nigerian government has stood back and watched while hundreds of children in the northwestern state of Zamfara have died of lead poisoning, and hundreds more been affected by it over the past two years, say rights groups and the local authorities.

SOUTH AFRICA - Allegedly tested for HIV without consent, found positive and subsequently dismissed, detained and deported, a South African journalist is attempting to take his case against Qatar to the International Labour Organization to change the country's HIV travel and employment laws.

SOUTH SUDAN and SUDAN remain at loggerheads over borders and oil transit fees after negotiations again broke down, renewing fears of armed conflict. Leaders of the newly-independent south, where half of the population is impoverished, say they are committed to ending oil production to protest Sudanese transit fees they say are too high, and will build alternative oil pipelines to Kenya and Djibouti, bypassing Sudan.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - A state-run initiative in Bangladesh uses cow dung to produce methane, a biogas that is being used in rural communities not only for clean-energy cooking but, in some cases, for heating and lighting, too.

INDONESIA - The survival of Sumatra's tigers, elephants, orangutans, rhinos, as well as indigenous communities, is threatened by the "world's fastest deforestation rate", caused by none other than the pulp and paper industry, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICO - The largely invisible work of small local groups of indigenous farmers in Mexico who are spearheading the defence of their territory and identity and of native seeds is strengthening ecologically sound family farming, experts say.

WFWO's Communications Team