

NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Demographers at the UN drill deep into census data, surveys, data from UN Children's Fund vaccination campaigns and many other sources in order to arrive at their world population estimate, regarded as "the gold standard of population projection," according to this article. The UN Population Division is set to announce that the world population has hit 7 billion people on Oct. 31

FOOD - Every six seconds, a child dies of hunger-related causes. That disturbing reality seems as remote as the moon here in the ultra-modern Changwon Convention Centre, where delegates struggled to create effective ways to stem the ongoing decline of food-producing lands. Each year, 12 million hectares of land are lost where 20 million tonnes of grain might have been grown, according to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

EDUCATION - Arguing that an educated population is a country's greatest wealth, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation says there is no escape from poverty without a vast expansion of secondary education worldwide.

TECHNOLOGY - Governments around the world need to ensure half of the world's poor are connected with broadband access by 2015 and that at least 40% of households in developing countries are connected, according to targets set by the United Nations Broadband Commission for Digital Development. The commission calls on governments to work with the private sector to meet the targets.

AFRICA

SWAZILAND - Swazi HIV activists are up in arms over pending aviation guidelines that will stop people living with HIV from ever piloting an aircraft.

ASIA

INDIA has made great strides against polio through persistent vaccination programs and stands on the verge of eradicating the disease, Indian Health Minister says. India is one of only four countries where the disease remains endemic, and has reported only one confirmed case so far this year

MIDDLE EAST

OPT - In response to a growing housing crisis in the Gaza Strip in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, several new building projects have been initiated by the Hamas-led government, and thousands of families have begun purchasing properties in new communities, officials say.

YEMEN - Routine immunization of children has dropped by 40 percent in some areas of Yemen, leading to outbreaks of polio and measles and reflecting a growing collapse of public services in a country that is on the brink of a humanitarian disaster, two senior UN officials warn.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BOLIVIA - With victory cheers and predictions of future campaigns in defence of their ancestral territory, indigenous protesters from Bolivia's Amazon jungle region celebrated the new law that banned the construction of the road through their rainforest reserve.

WFWO's Communications Team