

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Global population could top 15 billion by the end of the century if birth patterns are slightly greater than expected, the UN Population Fund projected. The more likely total is 10 billion, up from the current 7 billion, the fund said, with a total of 9.3 billion forecast for midcentury. All the scenarios are problematic for addressing climate change and poverty, the fund noted.

CLIMATE - Megacities in Africa and Asia are the urban areas most at risk from the effects of climate change, according to an assessment survey. The Bangladeshi capital Dhaka is the city most at risk, while Haiti was named as the country most at risk from floods, rising sea levels and other climate change effects.

AFRICA

EDUCATION - Governments in Africa are struggling to meet demands for secondary education, with girls facing more challenges to securing access than boys, according to a report from UNESCO. Many countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, are unable to successfully provide education services to more than one-third of children.

DRC - Thousands of vaccination teams have traversed the vast Democratic Republic of Congo on foot, by motorbike, boat and car, in a campaign to immunize at least 14 million children against polio, the UN Children's Fund said.

KENYA - Reports of gender-based violence are on the rise in Kenya's cities, and experts say the police must improve their handling of cases of sexual assault to build public trust in the security and justice systems.

ASIA

NEPAL - Business is booming for volunteer placement organizations attracting adventurous do-gooders to public service throughout this poor, picturesque country. But aesthetics and needs aside, an almost complete lack of regulation has made Nepal particularly vulnerable to the pairing of philanthropy and travel, experts say.

PAKISTAN - Temperatures in the southern Pakistani, the area worst affected by floods which began in August, are still warm, though tens of thousands of people without adequate shelter are beginning to feel chilly at night.

THAILAND - Floodwater swamped a new area of Thailand's capital as some shops started rationing food and the prime minister warned that parts of Bangkok could be flooded for up to a month.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

WOMEN - Over the past four decades in Latin America and the Caribbean, women have made remarkable strides in education, health, labour, and beyond, with girls now outperforming boys in school, the rate of working women more than doubling in many countries, and female participation rising in politics.

WFWO's Communications Team