

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

MDGs - Increasing access to family-planning services for women around the world remains an integral element to improving women's health and achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to maternal mortality, said the CEO of the United Nations Foundation.

HEALTH - Dengue fever remains endemic in more than 100 countries and poses a direct threat to more than 40% of the world's population, the World Health Organization says in a report. The mosquito-borne disease was endemic in only nine countries in the 1970s and now results in 50 million to 100 million cases every year.

## AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE has scaled back its public health program to cover only women and young children as theft and mismanagement contribute to rapidly rising costs. "As long as women and children continue to receive care we are satisfied, because they are among the most vulnerable," said the head of communications for UN Children's Fund in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA - If there was no HIV/AIDS, South Africa would have 4.4 million more people than today, the size of a major city. This significant slow-down in population growth is causing a slow down in economic growth and resulting in social ills, researchers warn.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN suffers from cyclical natural disasters - floods and drought - which affect people annually and require expensive emergency responses, but their impacts could well be avoided, or at least mitigated, if proper water management systems or dams were built.

NEPAL - Nepalese villages face deadly risks as glacier melt associated with climate change threatens to burst dams set up to contain run-off water from the country's 3,200 glaciers. Nepalese glaciers have shrunk by 21% over the past three decades causing landslides and flooding, and raising fears for the country's various ecosystems.

PAKISTAN is set to introduce new laws which will make specific crimes of forced marriages and acid attacks on women. The laws will also mean tougher sentences in cases of domestic violence. Cases of brutality against women are still often justified in the name of honour.

WFWO's Communications Team