

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - When the world's rising population hit the historic seven billion milestone last October, the United Nations predicted that population growth will continue to increase, reaching an estimated 9.3 billion by the year 2050. But keeping pace with this growth is the increasing south-south cooperation among developing nations who are sharing innovative experiences in reproductive health, family planning, gender empowerment and the integration of population into development planning.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE's leprosy programme was consistently under-funded during the civil war (2002-2007) and last year's political turmoil, say health practitioners, leading to a loss of expertise in terms of detecting or treating the disease.

SOMALIA - An exceptional harvest after good rains and food deliveries by aid agencies have ended famine in Somalia although conditions remain fragile and could worsen, the United Nations has said.

SUDAN - South Sudan's decision to shut down its oil output will make many more people dependent on food aid in one of the world's most undeveloped nations, the United Nations has said.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE - The health of millions of indigenous people across Asia is at risk, experts say, as lack of recognition of their legal status hinders data collection, making their medical problems invisible in most national health surveys.

INDIA - Volunteers and social workers across India are the unsung heroes of the country's successful push to eradicate polio, helping to administer some 900 million doses of a polio vaccine over the past year alone.

NEPAL - In Nepal where one of the biggest childhood killers is water-borne diseases, officials are slowly adopting decentralized ways of treating urban wastewater.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA - For the first time in over 200 years, visible progress is being made in cleaning up the Matanza-Riachuelo River basin, the most highly polluted in Argentina, although improvements remain largely superficial so far.

PERU - Indigenous communities in Peru have a long list of comments and objections to the proposed regulations for the law governing prior consultation on initiatives affecting their territories.

WFWO's Communications Team