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## Family Planning | Reproductive Health

### Poor Quality Population Can't Transform a Country: Uganda President

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has scored an impressive first, as for the first time, since coming into power almost 30 years ago, he has lent support to family planning efforts, as the country's rising population raises concerns. "Although I advocate for a big population, I have realised that a poor quality population cannot transform the country," he told delegates to the country's first ever national family planning conference. Uganda's current growth rate is estimated at 3.1 per cent, against a 1.2 per cent world average. "Family planning, if combined with economic growth and transformation, will improve the lives of women and children. It will also save families and country's expenditure on too many dependents." [More](#)

### Tanzania Urged to Carry On With Family Planning Efforts

THE 2014 Millennium Development Goals report has hailed Tanzania for its efforts to reach the unmet need in family planning but urged it to work on reaching its target. The report, which examines the country's latest progress towards achieving the MDGs, notes that the number of births to adolescent girls aged 15-19 declined across the world between 1990 and 2011. It also notes that the drop in birth rates was accompanied by an increase in school participation, an increase in the demand for contraception, and a decrease in the proportion of adolescents who married. This unmet need for family planning was highest in sub-Saharan Africa, whereas the total demand for family planning there was lower than in any other region. [More](#)

### Poor Health Education Blamed For High Teenage Abortions in Vietnam

Poor reproductive health education among families has been attributed to rising teenage abortions which account for over 20 percent of the country's abortions, Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reports. A study conducted by the Centre for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population at two junior high schools in Hanoi early this year found 60 percent of students said their parents had not discussed gender and reproductive health issues with them in the past one year. About 14 percent said their parents had never brought up these subjects at home. Most parents avoided answering questions from children on sexual matters, resulting in unintended pregnancies and abortions among adolescents, the study found. Lack of gender knowledge exposes youths to a high risk of sexual abuse and psychological disorders, the study added. – BERNAMA

### As Population Surges, Chennai's Water Needs to Double: India

Things don't look rosy for water-starved Chennai. The latest government data indicates that the city will require 1,584 million litres a day (MLD) in 2017, three times Metro current water supply and double the total current requirement of the expanded city. The government feels there is very little scope of increasing the supply or creating new sources through conventional means. "Considering the demand, the chief minister has ordered setting up a 400MLD desalination plant in Perur and a 150MLD plant in Nemmeli near Chennai," [More](#)

### Parents in Ghana Advised to Encourage Daughters to Use Condoms

A community health nurse in the Dormaa Central Municipality, has appealed to parents to encourage their daughters to use female condoms to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections. The best method to prevent girls from unwanted pregnancies is to inspire them to access family planning methods. She explained that because the girls, mostly between the ages of 13 and 19, can not control their sexual desires, teenage pregnancy is rife in the area. [More](#)

### Family Planning and Environmental Sustainability: A New Study

As global environmental change accelerates, understanding how population dynamics affect the environment is more important than ever. It seems obvious that human-caused climate change has at least something to do with the quadrupling of world population over the last 100 years. But the evidence that slower population growth is good for the environment – logical as that statement may seem – has never been extensive, with conceptual models, empirical research, and data often lacking on key issues. An ambitious new Worldwatch project, the Family Planning and Environmental Sustainability Assessment, hopes to help redress this, shedding light on how increased access to voluntary family planning services can support environmental sustainability. [More](#)

### Chinese 'baby boom' yet to materialize

When China relaxed its one child policy late last year onlookers around the world expected a cultural shift. The Chinese government and investors predicted a baby boom, with government officials making the application process cumbersome lest too many people apply at once. However, neither baby boom nor cultural shift has yet materialised and China will fall well short of the 1m-2m extra births that National Health Family Planning Commission, had predicted. about 271,600 couples had so far applied to have a second child, with permission given to 241,300. Many indicate that too much bureaucracy as one cause. The Economist notes that in the eastern city of Jinan married couples must provide seven different documents, including statements from employers certifying their marital status. Some also report that propaganda campaigns against having a second child by local government officials in certain regions who were worried about a baby boom. Despite this, central government is still hesitant to extend the 'privilege' of having two children to all citizens and have indicated that this isn't on the cards any time soon. [More](#)

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### Message for Leaders

**“Yet food is something that is taken for granted by most world leaders despite the fact that more than half of the population of the world is hungry.”**

**Norman Borlaug**



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