



World Chronicle

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Population, Education and Poverty

World population is expected to increase from 6.4 billion today to 8.9 billion by 2050. Most of that growth will take place in the world's poorest countries, but UN agencies dealing with population issues are not talking about restricting population growth. Ever since the 1994 Cairo Conference on Population and Development the focus has been on a human-rights approach: empowering women to make choices about their reproductive health.

What role does education play in helping women with their reproductive health – and can it help reverse the spread of AIDS? What kinds of services are needed to make sure that complications in childbirth don't kill a woman every sixty seconds? How are religious teachings and cultural traditions accommodated when working in the field of population and reproductive health?

These are some of the topics addressed by Thoraya Obaid, the Executive Director of UNFPA, in this edition of World Chronicle.

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