

NEWSREEL WORLD

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ALANNA LESLIE:

Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to Newsreel World.

Today we're talking about Australia, Nigeria and India but first...

Tanzania's population is set to double every 23 years, according to new estimates from the World Bank.

Experts are concerned that the country's health and education services aren't ready to cope with a population that is predicted to reach 140 million by 2050.

The World Bank is suggesting Tanzania prevent overpopulation by investing in family planning and providing more economic opportunities for women.

Charles Kombe has this report from Dar es Salaam.

CHARLES:

In Dar es Salaam, life is moving quickly. But behind the busy streets lies a significant truth. Tanzania's population is rapidly increasing. According to the 2022 census report, the country has a total population of 61.7 million people. With the population set to double in the next 20 years, there's worry ahead.

Population growth is driven by various factors, including harmful beliefs, particularly in rural areas where having many children is considered a sign of wealth and respect.

Hagai Imbogo is a student at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Hagai Imbogo

The rate of the population has really grown and that has affected the job sector, whereby most of the people are unemployed. Because many people do have a negative perspective than in family planning.

I think through education many people will be able to know what certain steps they need to take in order to ensure that there's sustainable population growth in our society. Even the youth, they can be able to get access to jobs and availability of services that they need.

Cleopatra Ngesi, a Dar es Salaam resident, tells me she's worried about the pressure on infrastructure.

Cleopatra Ngesi

For those infrastructure that are present are not compatible yet for the present population, so if the population continue to grow more, this infrastructure won't be conducive for the larger population.

CHARLES: She highlights the need for family planning and environmental conservation.

Cleopatra Ngehis:

If we can control the family by using different methods of family planning, it might be useful, but also conserving the environment, it can help in adapting the changes that are brought by the growth of population.

CHARLES: Professor Omary Mbura who specializes in marketing, entrepreneurship and business at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Omary Mbura:

If the size of the population increases, this one will trigger a need for expansion of various social services. The health, education, but if you look at it more in terms of other social services like even security and so on, they will definitely be necessary. In terms of the budgets, that there'll be an increase in there in terms of how much the government is to be prepared to pay for catering for the social services of its citizens. That will definitely increase.

CHARLES: Addressing the population challenge, the government prioritizes youth and rural residents with family planning education and comprehensive reproductive health programs.

Charles Kombe, Newsreel World, in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania.

ALANNA:

Thanks Charles.

Sting

Music bed

ALANNA:

The Great Barrier Reef is undergoing its fifth mass bleaching event in the last eight years.

This stretch of Australian coastline is the world's largest coral system and home to extraordinary biodiversity.

But, in recent years, rising sea temperatures caused by global warming have put stress on the coral. This causes it to expel the algae that makes it a colourful variety of purple, green and red turn to white.

The reef has been able to rebuild after previous bleaching events, but scientists fear that the problem is getting worse and will become increasingly hard to recover from.

ALANNA:

The North American Apex Legends esports final has been postponed after hackers infiltrated players' computers through anti-cheat software.

The hacking came to light after two high-profile players announced that cheats had been inserted into their games against their will, allowing them to see the location of other players and automatically target opponents.

Following the revelation, a volunteer group which monitors cheating in online games has warned against playing any titles protected by the compromised anti-cheat software from EA, the company that publishes Apex Legends.

Music: Comma by Ayra Starr

ALANNA:

That was a short clip of Comma, the new song from the Nigerian artist Ayra Starr.



The song is about the 21-year-old's growing success – with the title referring to the commas she's literally adding to her bank account.

ALANNA:

A radio station in rural India is giving teenagers the opportunity to broadcast all over the country thanks to a collaboration between local and national charities.

It's been particularly powerful for the girls that have taken part, who've spoken about a range of sensitive topics including child marriage and abuse.

Ayushi Shah is in Latur, India to meet some of the girls taking part.

[Devi and Ayesha rehearsing]

AYUSHI SHAH: Teenagers Devi and Ayesha are preparing for their radio recording, and it will be heard by people all across India. They have this opportunity thanks to the Indian NGO CRY, short for Child Rights and You.

[Radio station FX]

AYUSHI SHAH: The NGO has collaborated with another local charity, Kalapandhari Sanstha, to build a studio here in the town of Latur. Kids between the ages of 13 and 18 from 126 villages come in rotation to record. Today, Devi and Ayesha are performing a radio skit about the juvenile justice act in India.

[Devi and Ayesha rehearsing]

AYUSHI SHAH: 14-year-old Ayesha (not her real name) is participating here for the third time. She tells me about the first time she went on air.

Ayesha: When I was first given the script - I couldn't even say a word while rehearsing. But when I reached the recording studio, ma'am said there is no reason to worry. It will all be good. I did it, and since that day, I've never been scared of public speaking again.

AYUSHI SHAH: Since then, her confidence has risen tremendously.

Aysha: I learned stage courage because of this community radio. Before, I couldn't even speak in front of anyone – couldn't even say my own name to them. Now I can even speak in front of thousands of people.

AYUSHI SHAH: 13-year-old Devi (not her real name) is about to embark on her radio journey for the first time, and right before the recording she tells me she is scared.

Devi: I feel so nervous. What if I forget something?

AYUSHI SHAH: But the CRY coordinator, Akshata Suryavanshi, who is supervising the recordings is here to help them.

[Sound: Akshata giving instructions to the teenagers]

Akshata Suryavanshi: When we started, we were focusing only on prevention of child marriage then we moved to child labour, toll-free numbers they can call for help, menstrual cycle - something they can't talk about freely otherwise.

AYUSHI SHAH: I catch Devi again, right after her recording. In such a brief period, the transformation is visible. The once-nervous Devi now speaks with confidence. Akshata has seen this transformation numerous times before.

Akshata Suryavanshi: Before the recording, the kids are not confident. But after they hear their voice on the radio the confidence builds up. They are so excited when the entire village, even the entire country, hears their voice. They want to work harder and keep coming back here.

AYUSHI SHAH: Over the last two years, more than 150 girls have actively participated in these radio broadcasts. In conservative societies like rural India, where gender roles are often rigidly defined, the participation of young girls in such initiatives challenges traditional norm. Each broadcast not only reaches ears but touches hearts.

This is Ayushi Shah from Latur in India for Newsreel World

ALANNA: Thanks Ayushi. That's all from me today. Speak to you soon! Bye!