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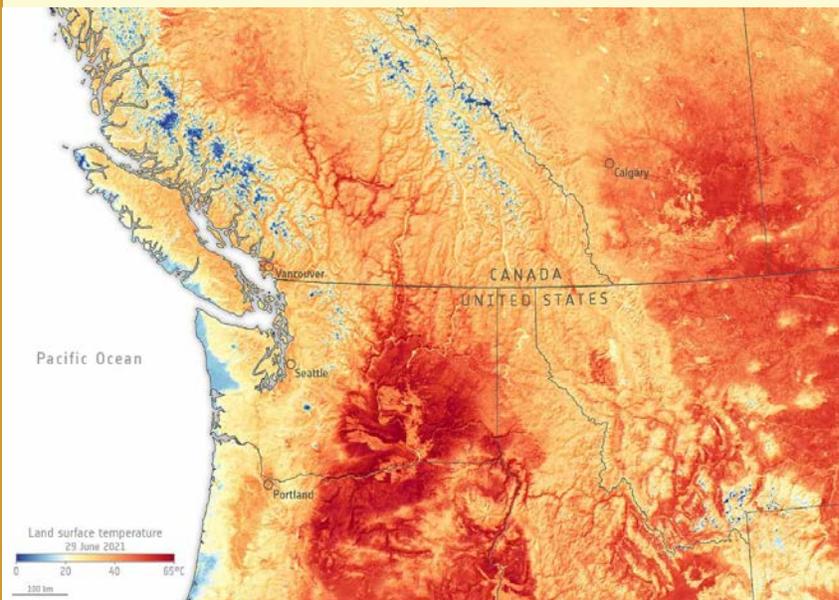
COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWS

Justice and peace-related news, actions, and resources from the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

July 2024



SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS



Extreme Heat Kills Hundreds as Summer Begins

Deadly heatwaves are scorching cities on four continents as the Northern Hemisphere marks the first day of summer, a sign that climate change may again help to *fuel record-breaking heat* that could surpass last summer as the warmest in 2,000 years.

Record temperatures in recent days are suspected to have caused hundreds, if not thousands, of *deaths across Asia and Europe*.

In Saudi Arabia, nearly two million Muslim pilgrims are finishing the haj at the Grand Mosque in Mecca this week. But hundreds have died during the journey amid temperatures above 51 degrees Celsius (124 degrees Fahrenheit), according to reports from foreign authorities.

Read more [here](#).



Kenya's President Won't Sign Finance Bill After Protests Turn Deadly

After days of escalating protests by Generation Z against Kenya's Finance Bill 2024, which culminated in violent clashes with police and widespread condemnation, President William Samoei Ruto has made a significant reversal. In a televised address from Nairobi's State House on June 26, President Ruto announced his decision not to sign the contentious bill into law.

Acknowledging the vehement opposition from Kenyan citizens, particularly the youth, President Ruto expressed his commitment to engaging with them directly.

Read more [here](#).



Bishops' Conference Layoffs Spark Wave of Concern and Speculation

The recent *announcement of significant layoffs* within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development* has sparked a wave of concern and speculation among the Catholic community and the broader public, particularly regarding the implications for the office's ongoing projects and initiatives.

"Needless to say, I am deeply disappointed by this latest development at the conference," said Bishop Joseph Tyson of Yakima, Washington, who sits on the subcommittee of the bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

Read more [here](#).



Egypt-Ethiopia: New Tensions Over the Filling of the GERD

Satellite photos taken earlier this week revealed Ethiopia's preparations to begin the fifth phase of filling the huge reservoir of the *controversial* Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile.

The Egyptian government has expressed great fear in this regard, declaring that the further transfer of water from the river to the dam could have a "catastrophic effect" on the essential quantity Egypt needs. The fifth filling is scheduled to start at the end of July, but would once again happen without any agreement or coordination with the downstream countries, Egypt and Sudan.

Read more [here](#).

MORE TOPICS TO EXPLORE

US: Border Deterrence Leads to Deaths, Disappearances

Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizeal Templeton Prize Winner

At 11,000 Feet up Scientists Find Earth Broke a Scary Record

Civil War in Sudan: What is Happening and Why

TAKE ACTION

Goal 13: Climate Action

The world is home to 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 to 24 — the largest generation of youth in history. Young people are increasingly aware of the challenges and risks presented by the climate crisis and of the opportunity to achieve sustainable development brought by a solution to climate change.

Young people's unprecedented mobilization around the world shows the massive power they possess to hold decision-makers accountable. Their message is clear: the older generation has failed, and it is the young who will pay in full — with their very futures. Young people are not only victims of climate change. They are also valuable contributors to climate action.

Things to do:

- Join the United Nations' [*#ActNow*](#) campaign for climate action and sustainability
- Calculate your [*carbon footprint*](#)
- Learn from your peers on the [*Reach Not Preach platform*](#)
- Educate yourself on the impact of climate change through an [*online course*](#) offered by UNICEF

- Play *Mission 1.5* and cast your vote for climate action
 - Be a *Climate Superhero!*
 - Read the *Global Youth Statement* on Climate Change *and COP26* Outcomes
 - Join *YOUNGO*, a global network of children, youth activists, and youth NGOs on climate change
 - Speak up! Share this information through social media
-

Global Goals for Sustainable Development

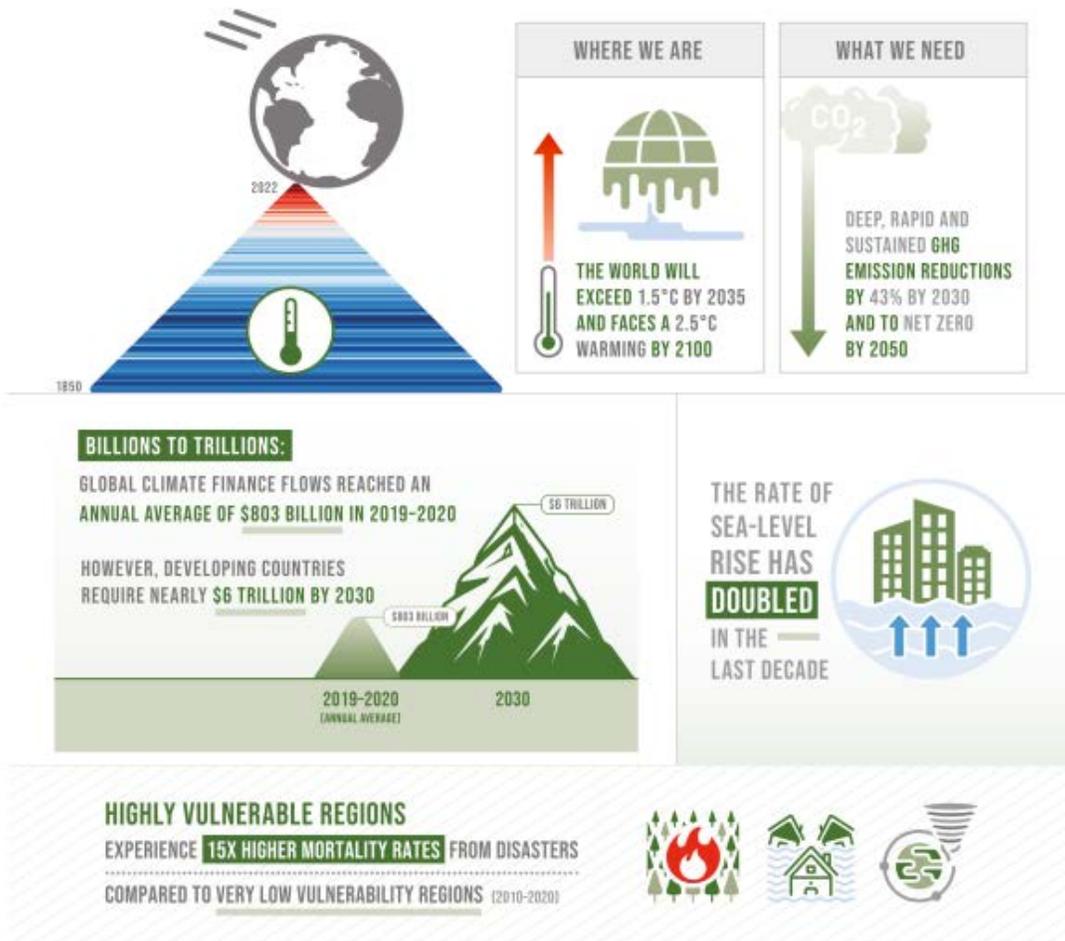
Goal 13: Climate Action



TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

EARTH'S TIPPING POINT

STANDING AT THE BRINK OF CLIMATE CALAMITY



The climate crisis continues unabated as the global community shies away from the full commitment required for its reversal. 2010 – 2019 was the warmest decade ever recorded, bringing with it massive wildfires, hurricanes, droughts, floods and other climate disasters across continents. Climate change is disrupting national economies and affecting lives and livelihoods, especially for the most vulnerable.

Between 2010 and 2020, highly vulnerable regions, home to approximately 3.3–3.6 billion people, experienced 15 x higher human mortality rates from floods, droughts and storms compared to regions with very low vulnerability.

[Learn more.](#)

U.N. International Days

2024

July 11

World Population Day

World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on July 11, 1987. [Learn more.](#)

July 12

International Day of Combating Sand Dust Storms

Sand and dust storms (SDS) present a formidable and wide-spread challenge to achieving sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions. They have become a serious global concern in recent decades due to their significant impacts on the environment, health, agriculture, livelihoods, and socio-economic well-being. Sand and dust storms are an essential element of the Earth's natural bio-chemical cycles, but are also caused in part by human-induced drivers, including climate change, and unsustainable land management and water use. In turn, sand and dust storms contribute to climate change and air pollution. [Learn more.](#)

July 15

World Youth Skills Day

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. [Learn more.](#)

July 18

Nelson Mandela International Day

On July 18 every year, we invite you to mark Nelson Mandela International Day by making a difference in your communities. Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better! Mandela Day is an occasion for all to [take action](#) and inspire change. [Learn more.](#)

July 20

International Moon Day

From the very beginning of the Space Age, the United Nations recognized that outer space added a new dimension to humanity's existence. The United Nations family strives continuously to utilize the unique benefits of outer space for the betterment of all humankind. Recognizing the common interest of humankind in outer space and seeking to answer questions on how outer space can help benefit the people's of Earth, the General Assembly adopted its *first resolution related to outer space* resolution 1348 (XIII) entitled "Question of the Peaceful Use of Outer Space." [Learn more.](#)

July 25

World Drowning Prevention Day

Every year, an estimated 236,000 people drown, making drowning a major public health problem worldwide. Drowning is one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people aged 1-24 years. Drowning is the 3rd leading cause of unintentional injury death, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths. [Learn more.](#)

July 28

World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, is an opportunity to step up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response as outlined in the WHO's Global hepatitis report of 2017. The date of July 28 was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus. Low coverage of testing and treatment is the most important gap to be addressed in order to achieve the global elimination goals by 2030. [Learn more.](#)

July 30

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Since 2003 the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has collected information on about 225,000 victims of trafficking detected worldwide. Globally countries are detecting and reporting more victims and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims. [Learn more.](#)



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