

TEXT 18

WHAT IS THE IDEAL WORLD POPULATION?

At Population Media Center, we do not prescribe an ideal number for world population, but we do believe that it is a mathematical certainty that the planet and its resources cannot support continual population growth. As human populations grow, human demands for resources like water, land, trees, and energy also grow. Globally, over 183,000 people are added every day — each needs and deserves sufficient land, water, shelter, food, and energy for a decent life. We believe that if the full rights of women and girls are realized — population dynamics will change, thereby improving the health and prosperity of individuals, families, and the sustainability of the planet.

Adapted from <https://www.populationmedia.org/population-8-billion/solutions>

TEXT 19

Overpopulation

Overpopulation is a major cause of most of the world's problems. Whether it is a question of food shortage, lack of drinking water or energy shortages, every country in the world is affected by it — or will be.

Partly thanks to the import of goods from abroad, any particular country is able to maintain its own welfare. But this cannot go on in an unlimited way. In fact, the number of inhabitants is rising in every country. The world population is threatening to rise in the next few decades to 8 or 10 billion. There is a good chance that more and more countries will need to produce their own products by themselves.

Our planet can offer a quality of life comparable to that enjoyed in the European Union to no more than 2 billion people. With a population of 8 to 10 billion, welfare per person on a world scale will drop to that of a poor farmer who can scarcely provide sufficient food for himself and knows nothing of welfare. And thus we will have to share everything fairly in order to avoid disputes or wars.

Adapted from <https://www.overpopulationawareness.org/en>

TEXT 20

HIGHER RISK OF DISASTERS AND PANDEMICS

Many of the recent novel pathogens that have devastated humans around the world, including COVID-19, Zika virus, Ebola, and West Nile virus, originated in animals or insects before passing to humans. Part of the reason the world is entering “a period of increased outbreak activity” is because humans are destroying wildlife habitats and coming into contact with wild animals on a more regular basis. Now that we're in the midst of a pandemic, it has become clear how difficult it is to establish social distance in a world occupied by nearly 8 billion people.

Adapted from <https://www.populationmedia.org/blog/overpopulation-cause-and-effect>

TEXT 21

ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION

An increase in population will inevitably create pressures leading to more deforestation, decreased biodiversity, and spikes (1) in pollution and emissions, which will exacerbate climate change. Ultimately, unless we take actions to help minimize further population growth heading into the remainder of this century, many scientists believe the additional stress on the planet will lead to ecological disruption and collapse so severely that it will threaten the viability of life on Earth as we know it.

Each spike in the global population has a measurable impact on the planet's health. According to estimates in a study by Wynes and Nicholas (2017), a family having one fewer child could reduce emissions by 58.6 tons CO₂-equivalent per year in developed countries.

Note : 1. spike : sudden rise

Adapted from <https://www.populationmedia.org/blog/overpopulation-cause-and-effect>