

## One in 69 people

20 June World Refugee Day - it is the day that reminds us that millions of people are forced to leave their homes. Around 120 million people 1 in 69 or 1.5 % of the world's population have been displaced from their homes. 68 million of them are internally displaced persons in their own countries. The rest are refugees in need of protection (43.4 million) and asylum seekers (6.9 million), according to the annual displacement report of UNHCR. Behind these figures are countless human stories of separated families, lost livelihoods and destroyed communities. "A person flees voluntarily - but we can decide to help these people completely voluntarily." Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

## Called by name

A new study shows that wild African elephants call each other and respond to individual names, something previously only observed in dolphins and parrots. The names are like a low rumble from the elephants. The rumbling, which is barely audible to humans and is referred to by experts as a "rumble", is recorded by special microphones and played back to the herd. Researchers can observe whether the mother is calling a calf, or the matriarch is calling a straggler. It is a foray into the world of elephants, which have long been known for their unbeatable memory and which, according to researchers, may even be able to think abstractly. 19.06

## Rwanda: RwandAir Cargo expands its network

RwandAir Cargo launches flights to Dubai and Djibouti on 17 June, both served by its dedicated B738SF freighter aircraft. The expansion is part of the airline's mission to connect Africa and the world. As a landlocked country, air cargo is important for Rwanda's economic growth. Bosco Gakwaya, Director of RwandAir: "Our expansion to Dubai and Djibouti reinforces RwandAir Cargo's role as a key trade facilitator on the African continent and is well aligned with the objectives of the *African Continental Free Trade Area* which makes Kigali a regional cargo hub."

## Ghana: Largest floating solar project

Ghana has now completed the largest floating photovoltaic plant in West Africa in the Bui Reservoir. The 5-megawatt plant at the Bui power station in the Bono region uses photovoltaic panels mounted on water infrastructure, saving land and avoiding the need to cut down trees. Engineers say the panels create a healthy environment for fish spawning, which encourages the production of juvenile fish and supports the aquatic ecosystem. However, the development of the hybrid system of hydropower and photovoltaics was controversial. More than a thousand people from 8 communities had to be relocated, and critics are concerned about the impact on the environment. However, the power plant is helping Ghana to become less dependent on fossil fuels and achieve its goal of generating 10% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030. 18.06.2024

## Benin: Courageous speech

During his visit to Brazil, Benin's President Patrice Talon called on the black peoples to "wake up differently". They should see Africa's weakness not only because of slavery, exploitation, colonialism and neo-colonialism. At this time, the African continent is solely responsible for its underdevelopment. Just because it was robbed of its

energy is no excuse to justify Africa's weakness forever. Africans should not remain in the "resentment of the past". They should know that they have the same potential and that if they free themselves from the memory, they will develop. With the growing anti-French sentiment in Africa, Patrice Talon could easily be labelled as a defender of France.

## Tanzania: Take to heart - Moral principles

During the Eid ElAdha Baraza, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa reminded Tanzanians of the urgent need to adhere to moral principles. It helps people to distinguish between right and wrong and make them upright citizens, he said. He also urged the public to ensure that the youth adopt the national customs, traditions and culture. At the same time, he called on Tanzanians to continue advocating for peace, love, unity, solidarity and compassion and to refrain from violence, oppression and disruption of peace. He also said: "I would like to thank you and all religious communities for continuing to pray for peace, solidarity and stability in our country." 17.06.24

## Fish stocks jeopardised by Asian demand

Overfishing on Lake Victoria has led to a decline in the Nile perch population. Nile perch fetch very high prices. However, buyers are not after the meat, but the swim bladders, also known as "mondo" or "mouth". The swim bladders are in high demand on Asian markets, where they are considered a delicacy, are said to have an anti-ageing effect and are also used to make surgical sutures. Increasing demand has led to illegal fishing methods targeting breeding. The Nile perch is an invasive species that was introduced into Lake Victoria in the 1950s and has disrupted the ecosystem. However, it is still an important source of income for local fishermen. 18.06.2024

## South Africa: Heavy rain, snow and tornadoes

KwaZulu-Natal was hit by severe storms. More than 1,200 people were displaced and at least 10 died in floods in the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces. Snowfall covered parts of the country, including the Free State, the Northern Cape and the Eastern Cape. There was also heavy rainfall in Cape Town. 17.06.2024

## Senegal: Historic: Oil production

The Australian company Woodside Energy has started production at its first offshore project. The deep-sea project Sangomar, around 100 kilometres south of Dakar, is expected to produce 100,000 barrels of oil per day. The floating facility has a storage capacity of 1.3 million barrels. It contains both oil and gas at a depth of 780 metres. The discovery of oil and gas fields in 2014 raised high hopes for the Senegalese economy. The Senegalese state energy company Petrosen estimates that the sector could bring in more than USD 1 billion per year over the next three decades. President Faye has assured that the profits from the sale of oil and gas will be "well managed". Woodside holds an 82% stake in the deepwater project, with the remainder held by Senegal's state-owned energy company Petrosen.

## More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

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Kenya: New financial law - more than 200 arrests

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