**Population growth and change**

1. **How many people are in the world?**

Populations fluctuate at varying rates across regions, but growth has been a long-standing trend globally. As of July 18, 2023, the world's population is 8,045,311,447.

1. **How fast is the world's population growing?**

More than 8 billion people live on our planet. Each day, some 200,000 new babies add to this figure, which works out to roughly 140 additional people per minute.

1. **Causes Of Population Growth**

* **Fertility rates**

Population growth is highly dependent on trends in fertility rates. According to the World Populations Prospects study from the UN, the global fertility level is expected to decline from 2.5 children per woman in 2019 to 2.2 in 2050.

* **Increase in longevity**

In recent decades, the average life expectancy of people has significantly increased, and this trend is expected to continue. It is estimated to reach 77.1 years in 2050, which is currently around 73 years. However, it is important to note that there is still a significant gap in life expectancy between the most and least developed countries. The least developed countries have a life expectancy of 77.7 years less than the average.

* **International migration**

This is a less influential factor than the previous two, but it is also relevant. Those countries that received large numbers of refugees or economic migrants (between 2010 and 2020, fourteen countries or areas had a net inflow of more than one million) may offer a longer life expectancy to newcomers.

1. **Effects of population growth**

* **Increase in climate change**

Climate change refers to the alteration of the climate, which is directly or indirectly attributable to human activity. Therefore, the more humans, the greater the impact.

* **Decreased food security**

According to the FAO, food security is when all people have permanent physical, social, and economic access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food to meet their nutritional requirements. The population explosion affects the fundamentals of food security, for example, its availability, stability, access, and consumption.

* **Impact on biodiversity loss**

Biodiversity loss refers to the decrease or disappearance of biological diversity, understood as the variety of living beings that inhabit the planet. Population growth impacts biodiversity by increasing human activity and the presence of the artificial over the natural, a phenomenon known as the Anthropocene.

* **Overexploitation of resources**

Humans are depleting the planet's natural resources. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) warns that the current overexploitation of natural resources is generating a huge deficit, as 20% more is consumed each year than can be regenerated, and this percentage is growing steadily.