



NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

MALARIA - The UN World Health Organization has accepted the first semi-synthetic version of artemisinin, the key ingredient for malaria treatment globally, for use in the manufacture of drugs, boosting hopes that more people will have access to life-saving medication.

AID AND COMMUNICATION - Humanitarian responders must recognise that information and communication are basic humanitarian needs, just as much as food, water, shelter and sanitation, a new report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says.

AFRICA

HEALTH AND DISEASE - Eight of the 10 worst nations in which to be a mother are in West and Central Africa, and the two others are also African countries, according to a new report by the international children's charity.

SWAZILAND - It was an ambitious plan to circumcising the majority of men in Swaziland, an effort to reduce the risk of HIV transmission in a country with the world's highest HIV prevalence.

UGANDA - Ugandan children are going unimmunized as the country grapples with persistent and widespread vaccine shortages, the result of insufficient funds and inefficient procurement and supply systems, officials say.

ZIMBABWE - Inadequate funding and limited resources are frustrating Zimbabwe's efforts to develop plans to deal with the impact of climate change, says a government progress report.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - The availability of safe drinking water, particularly in Bangladesh's "hard-to-reach areas," is expected to worsen as the country continues to suffer the effects of climate change, experts say.

MYANMAR needs to recognise the indigenous land tenure systems practiced by ethnic groups and take their concerns on land seriously if it is to build long-lasting peace, experts say on the eve of the first public meeting where ethnic views on land conflicts will be heard.

SRI LANKA - Planners in Sri Lanka should do more to mitigate the effects of extreme weather in order to help those most likely to be affected, experts say.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - In the 1980s, Iraqi women enjoyed more basic rights than their counterparts in the region; today, despite steps taken after decades of conflict and sanctions, Iraqi women do not have equal educational or employment opportunities, and many are subjected to gender-based violence.

WFWO's Communications Team