

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - Scientists say that global food security, already under threat by speculation in commodities markets, likely will be further destabilized by plant pests and diseases that devastate crop production, and already account for an estimated 40% loss in global production.

HEALTH - Scientists are developing a hand-held device called an Electronic Nose to detect tuberculosis on a patient's breath, similar to a roadside alcohol breathalyser. The technology could potentially save hundreds of thousands of lives in the developing world where TB kills around 1.7 million people a year, making it the second most deadly infectious disease after HIV/AIDS.

AFRICA

KENYA is taking its climate change response to the streets. In a move aimed at boosting environmental sustainability while reducing costs and making residents safer, Nairobi city council has begun installing solar-powered street lighting.

ASIA

FLOODS - Water-borne diseases, electrocution and drowning are some of the biggest concerns for the 2.45 million people affected by Thailand's worst floods in half a century. Meanwhile, severe flooding in impoverished Cambodia has killed 247 people, disrupted the lives of 1.6 million - more than one in 10 people - and affected three-quarters of the country, a United Nations' report has said. Western aid agencies in Pakistan have warned they might have to halt flood relief efforts in the cash-strapped country because of funding shortfalls. Floods in August hit Sindh province in the south, killing at least 430 people and disrupting the lives of nine million.

AFGHANISTAN - Resettlement challenges in Afghanistan have discouraged refugees living in neighbouring countries from going home, with 60,000 returning in the past 10 months against 100,000 during the same period last year, officials said.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COLOMBIA - A mudslide has killed 37 people in Colombia and buried homes in the central city of Manizales after torrential rains, the government has said.

HAITI - The United Nations was hit with a demand for hundreds of millions of dollars in reparations because of a year-old cholera outbreak that has killed more than 6,700 Haitians.

WFWO's Communications Team