

NEWS BULLETIN

14 July 2011



GLOBAL

HIV / AIDS - Aid agencies have hailed a landmark deal between a major AIDS drug manufacturer and a new patent pooling system designed to boost access to low-cost treatment for millions of people in poor countries.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Scientists tackled the highly debated, and somewhat perplexing, relationship between climate change and weather disasters at the recent launch of a US magazine series on the subject, concluding that an indisputable connection exists between the two. Much of the confusion surrounding the link stems from the public's desire for definitive cause-and-effect answers and scientists' unwillingness to provide them, they said.

DEFORESTATION - Across Asia, governments are making great strides toward slowing the pace of deforestation and expanding existing forests, according to a report from the Rights and Resources Initiative. Many countries, such as China, India and Vietnam, have undertaken reform programs that include giving communities and indigenous peoples more rights to the land where they live.

AFRICA

D.R. CONGO - The mass rape of nearly 400 people in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo last year could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, the United Nations has said in a report.

EAST AFRICA - The United Nations says it's struggling to keep up with an exodus of hungry Somali refugee and many emaciated children are dying of malnutrition along the way or after arriving in neighbouring countries. More than 11 million people in the Horn of Africa now need assistance to survive the crisis sparked by the worst drought in decades, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Two to three million people across Afghanistan are likely to need extra food aid from September following drought and a poor wheat harvest this year, the United Nations food aid agency says.

INDIA - The Indian government has approved a draft law that will guarantee further subsidised grains to millions of poor people in a country where one third of the world's malnourished children live, a newspaper has reported. The Food Security bill aims to make affordable access to staples such as rice and wheat a constitutional right for many poor Indians.

WFWO's Communications Team