

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Climate change is behind the shortages of food, and the sharp rises in food prices, that have contributed to the civil unrest throughout the Middle East, and elsewhere, the UN's top climate change official said. She added that a failure by countries to cut carbon emissions would eventually lead to unrest that would not only spur military spending, but overturn governments.

HEALTH - Malaria campaigners have urged governments to drop all taxes and tariffs on medicines, mosquito nets and other anti-malaria tools to help reduce the costs of life-saving products and speed up their delivery.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in parts of the Central African Republic (CAR) have created a complex situation that not only limits the humanitarian response but also raises concerns over widespread human rights abuses, experts say.

NAMIBIA - A universal income grant in Namibia would alleviate poverty in one of the most unequal societies on earth, say campaigners.

UGANDA - Civil society activists say Uganda's presidential candidates have not placed sufficient emphasis on how they plan to tackle the epidemic should they come into office, despite rising HIV prevalence and huge funding problems.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CHINA - It will require billions of dollars and a concentrated policy to address China's massive water problems, according to water activists. Updating the country's urban water supplies alone would cost \$20 billion a year. Rapid urban growth, fertilizers use, factory pollution and lax environmental protection enforcement, says environmentalists, are the main driving factors behind water pollution.

MYANMAR - A rare strain of the polio virus is re-emerging in Myanmar after three years, say health workers. One case was confirmed in Myanmar last December - followed by two more of unknown origin reported but not yet confirmed in January - prompting health officials to organize a mass vaccination campaign to target millions of under-five children.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ECUADOR - Major progress has been made in Ecuador over the last few years in reducing child malnutrition and expanding educational coverage.

HAITI - Farmers and laborers across Haiti's agricultural region L'Artibonite are refusing to go into the paddies to harvest rice over fears of contracting cholera. The country's ongoing cholera epidemic has sickened more than 150,000 people and killed thousands.

WFWO's Communications Team