

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, 17 June - This year is the International Year of Forests and while we may all know about temperate and tropical forests, we may not know about the forests of the drylands which cover cover 18% of the land in arid zones. Forests are critical to the eradication of poverty in the drylands and they are also the first step towards healing the drylands and protecting them from desertification and drought. Dryland forests are also important biodiversity sanctuaries and provide ecosystem goods such as fuel, wood for construction, medicines and herbs. Dry forests are a buffer against drought and desertification and a safety net for the poor.

RIGHTS - Activists campaigning for the rights of domestic workers are celebrating the passing of the International Labour Organization's convention recognizing domestic work as work. The convention is a long time coming and has brought the often invisible and abused to the forefront of protection, says a leading human rights agency.

AFRICA

HEALTH - A new meningitis vaccine, could significantly decrease or even prevent future outbreaks in Africa, according to two studies published in a Journal of Medicine. The new vaccine proved more effective than previous versions against meningitis A in three clinical trials in Africa and costs just 50-cents per dose.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - UN Secretary General today reiterated the need for international organizations to continue supporting the poverty reduction efforts of the Central African Republic, one of the world's poorest nations.

KENYA - Successive poor rains coupled with rising food and fuel prices are leading to a worsening food security situation with alarming levels of acute malnutrition being recorded in drought affected parts of Kenya, mainly in the north of the country, say experts.

SUDAN - The United Nations Food Aid Agency said it is assisting thousands of people fleeing from fighting Sudan's Southern Kordofan state, but the conflict continues to hinder the agency's efforts to reach more people uprooted by the violence.

ASIA & PACIFIC

SRI LANKA - With the monsoon season upon it, Sri Lanka's war against the deadly dengue- carrying mosquito faces its toughest test yet, but early signs show that the mosquitoes are not quite ready to give up.

WFWO's Communications Team