

NEWS BULLETIN

19 October 2011



GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - Environmental degradation has accompanied the growth of global GDP in recent decades leaving the world on a trajectory of unsustainable growth, United Nations official Rae Kwon Chung warns. Population and development experts are urging governments to act on sustainable development and poverty eradication at the upcoming UN-backed Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

MALARIA - In a major breakthrough Tuesday, researchers announced that the vaccine candidate RTS,S reduces the risk of malaria by half in children ages five to 17 months, first results from a continuing phase three trial showed.

AFRICA

FOOD - Genetically modified (GM) food aid bound for Africa has long been a bone of contention among governments, scientists, activists, consumers and aid workers.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The rapid depletion of natural resources could soon trigger massive social unrest and cause the deaths of 70 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa alone by 2050, public health experts warn. Food and water supplies are being adversely affected by climate change, prompting population displacements and aiding the spread of infectious diseases.

ETHIOPIA - The largest immunization program in the developing world against pneumococcal disease, which can cause a range of infections, including pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis, began Sunday in Ethiopia.

HORN OF AFRICA - Kidnapping incidents and inclement weather are adding to the woes of aid groups working to combat drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. Aid groups have been battling infrastructure gaps and security concerns to meet expanding need amid a shortfall of funds.

SOUTH AFRICA - Almost 10 percent of South African men have experienced sexual violence by another man, according to new research that probes the complex relationships between male victimisation and HIV risk.

UGANDA - Some of Uganda's most active campaigners in its 30-year fight against HIV are losing faith in the government's ability to effectively counter the epidemic as the country struggles to provide treatment and prevent more than 100,000 new infections every year.

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Leaking water pipes, evaporation and a rapidly growing population may be significant concerns for those trying to manage and plan water supplies in Egypt, but compounding such problems - and forcing Egyptians to rethink how they use water - is the threat posed by downstream countries which also want to take more water from the Nile, say observers.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICO - Environmental innovation is gaining ground in the academic, private and government sectors in Mexico, with the creation of research and development centres for local good practices and incubators for green production initiatives.

WFWO's Communications Team