

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

HEALTH - As donors retreat from funding HIV prevention and treatment, the vulnerability of national programmes reliant on external funding has become apparent. Without long-term sustainability, the lives of millions could be at risk. In the run-up to this year's UN High-Level meeting on HIV/AIDS, activists from East and Southern Africa are calling on governments to take increased ownership of these programmes to ensure treatment continues after donor funds have gone.

MADAGASCAR - The burden of paying for education in Madagascar has shifted to the poor after donor funding was frozen in the wake of a coup on 17 March 2009.

NIGERIA - Anambra State government is determined to achieve the seventh goal of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is ensuring environmental sustainability. Part of this is halving by 2015, the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

SIERRA LEONE - Malnutrition was the leading cause of child death and morbidity in Sierra Leone and one of the resultant effects which limit the physical, mental and emotional development of children and adults thereby restricting the potential economic and social development of Sierra Leone.

SOMALIA - Health-care workers in Somalia today began a three-day, United Nations-backed campaign to vaccinate more than 1.8 million young children against polio, four years after the Horn of Africa country was declared to be polio-free.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - The Indian prime minister has ordered a review of the country's strategies for nuclear safety in light of the crises at Japanese nuclear plants after a tsunami-triggering earthquake. India, which plans to build 58 new plants, recently passed a law exposing to liability companies that provide nuclear reactors and equipment, not only plant operators.

INDONESIA - In the hope of bringing electricity to some of Indonesia's 90 million people who are currently without it, the country is proceeding with plans to build four nuclear reactors, despite growing opposition sparked by the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan.

MIDDLE EAST

OPT - Food supplies are running low, ambulances have been detained for hours at checkpoints, and hundreds of young men have been held, interrogated and beaten up, some requiring hospitalisation, in the Palestinian village of Awarta in the northern West Bank. The village has been under continuous curfew for four days.

WFWO's Communications Team