

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

MALAWI - Devaluation, fuel shortages and economic mismanagement have conspired to push staple food prices to "alarming levels" in urban areas of Malawi, where even catching a bus to work has become an unaffordable luxury for many, according to residents and analysts.

NIGERIA - Nigerian farmers have been slow to get behind a government effort to bolster food self-sufficiency by promoting the cultivation of cassava and reducing imports of rice and wheat. The policy will ban the import of cassava beginning next year and offer tax rebates for millers who use at least 40% of cassava flour in bread-making.

SOMALIA - The plight of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo, controlled by Al-Shabab insurgents, has deteriorated, with thousands facing a food crisis after supply routes were blocked, and drug shortages as patient numbers increase, locals said.

SOUTH AFRICA - While most nations are dependent to some extent on the world's 214 million migrants for skills and labour, few ensure these migrants have access to their health systems, something that could have dire public health consequences, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

SUDAN - More than 20,000 people have fled bombs and violence in Sudan's Blue Nile state to Doro refugee camp in South Sudan to seek food and shelter.

ASIA & PACIFIC

HEALTH - The increase in recorded cases of polio in Pakistan, from 134 to 173 over the past year, poses a threat to India's efforts to eliminate the virus, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Only one person was reportedly stricken by the virus over the past year in India.

PHILIPPINES - United Nations agencies stepped up relief efforts in the Philippines today to help survivors of tropical storm Washi, which the country's authorities say has killed nearly 1,000 people and left hundreds of thousands of residents of the island of Mindanao in need of humanitarian assistance.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Aid workers in Yemen, the Middle East's poorest country, appear to have made some headway in broadening the mainstream narrative to include the deepening humanitarian crisis.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

GUYANA's efforts to launch a carbon-credit plan to protect the country's rain forests have stalled as authorities have been unable to successfully present proposals to win funding. United Nations-backed plans for wealthy countries and the private sector to pay developing countries to protect their forests have stumbled over concerns around corruption and the lack of a global greenhouse-gas emissions reduction treaty.

WFWO's Communications Team