

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Nations must pay more than lip service to the idea of indigenous rights if they hope to seriously address problems like species loss and climate change, say delegates at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a UN body created to safeguard the rights of the world's 370 million indigenous people.

AFRICA

HEALTH - The international community is on the cusp of eradicating dracunculiasis, the disease caused by the guinea worm. Currently, the affliction is confined to just four countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali and Sudan. The key to eradication is a clean water supply.

HIV / AIDS - Rwanda is in the third and final phase of testing a vaginal ring containing antiretrovirals, which, if successful, could provide an important female-controlled method of HIV prevention. Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe have all been selected to conduct the final phase of the trial. Phases I and II - conducted in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa - assessed the safety and acceptability of a daily application of a gel containing the ARV, dapivirine.

COTE D'IVOIRE - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commiserated with residents of an internally displaced persons' (IDP) camp in a suburb of Côte d'Ivoire's commercial capital, Abidjan, pledging that the United Nations will stand with them as they endeavour to rebuild their lives and restore stability in their country.

MOZAMBIQUE - A colonial-era coconut plantation is being revived in southern Mozambique to provide small incomes to a largely cashless rural community, and is being viewed as a pilot project that could be rolled out across poor isolated communities to generate work for hundreds if not thousands of people.

NIGERIA - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended the Nigerian Government for investing in women's and children's health, saying the United Nations would support efforts to make communities in the West African country healthier.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - The recent 6.8 quake that shook Myanmar's northeastern Shan State, killing 74 and affecting 18,000, serves as a stark warning for this largely unprepared, earthquake-prone country, say experts.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

FOOD shortages may be causing hunger in the developing world, but the large Latin American agricultural countries that belong to the Group of 20 (G20) see the situation as an opportunity to exploit. This became clear at a working meeting on commodities held by the G20 on May 19-20 in Buenos Aires, where economy and agriculture ministers discussed today's soaring food prices.

WFWO's Communications Team