



News Bulletin

■AFRICA

BURKINA FASO - It is raining in Burkina Faso - flooding in some areas - but aid workers and rural families are preparing for the dry season, when water shortages tend to kill off home gardens.

KENYA - The government of Kenya has been encouraging women to deliver in hospital. Home deliveries by traditional birth attendants are considered to be a major contributor to maternal deaths.

SOMALIA - Somali citizens among thousands recently deported from Saudi Arabia have failed to trace their families in Mogadishu, the capital, due to the frequent displacement caused by ongoing fighting between government troops and Islamist insurgents.

TANZANIA / UGANDA - Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni argue that governments outside Africa must remove taxes and tariffs on anti-malarial commodities - including nets and drugs - in order to boost the fight against malaria. The presidents say that the taxes and tariffs are regressive, hurting the poorest citizens, who must depend on publicly provided anti-malarial nets and other products

■ASIA

KYRGYZSTAN - The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Kyrgyzstan, comprising 24 UN agencies and international NGOs, is concerned that it will not be able to meet all assessed needs in the troubled southern areas of the country because its revised flash appeal is only 30 percent funded.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - At least 150 workers at a hydro-electric dam in Brazil have been freed by a group of indigenous people who had taken them hostage. Around 300 Indians from 11 different tribes seized the workers on Sunday morning at a construction site of the Dardanelos dam in the state of Mato Grosso. The Indians claim the dam is being built on ancient burial ground and are demanding financial compensation. On Sunday evening they agreed to release the hostages in exchange for six of the plant's engineers and managers. Negotiations are set to continue on Monday. The hydro-electric plant has caused great cultural, social and environmental impact on their communities, according to a tribal leader.

MEXICO - Researchers said that global warming due to climate change will cause a rise in the number of Mexicans migrating to the United States. Their study indicated that higher temperatures in Mexico will affect agriculture by causing floods and droughts. This will force between 1.4 and 6.7 million Mexican farm workers to move north to the US by 2080. They found that two per cent more Mexicans are likely to leave the country for every 10 per cent drop in crop yields.

URUGUAY is on the point of reaching the Millennium Development Goal for reducing the maternal mortality ratio, but it is still behind in other aspects of maternal health, like providing integrated sexual and reproductive health care, fighting syphilis and checking on mothers and babies during the postpartum period.

WFWO's Communications Team