

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - The number of people dying from tuberculosis fell to its lowest level in a decade in 2010, but experts warn that a shortfall of US\$1 billion for TB programmes in 2012, and the recent cancellation of funding by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, threaten these gains.

AFRICA

LESOTHO - Livestock herders in Lesotho are suspicious of the government's motives for "modernizing" the land tenure system, fearing it will bring about a radical change in their way of life and deprive them of their birthright to land.

MALAWI - As international HIV funding declines, nations are bracing for a future with less money and tougher choices. In countries like donor-dependent Malawi, a new UNAIDS tool is already beginning to shape how to rationalize their HIV responses to cope with the altered circumstances.

SOUTH AFRICA - South African government has chosen World AIDS Day 2011 to launch its new national strategic plan that, for the first time, will guide not only the national fight against HIV but also tuberculosis (TB) until 2016. The document contains several major policy changes, including the immediate provision of lifelong antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to all HIV-positive mothers and TB patients, as well as a focus on positive prevention.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AIDS - Years of scientific effort, financial investment and health campaigning have yet to yield a cure for AIDS, but they have combined to provide a basic treatment. Yesterday advocacy groups urged that more attention be given to young HIV patients, especially those in Asia, where children as young as five are becoming resistant to AIDS drugs.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Decades of neglect, a failing health system and remote mountainous topography have created a "crisis in maternal health", according to a government taskforce in Papua New Guinea.

WFWO's Communications Team