



NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT GOALS - The new development agenda to follow on from the Millennium Development Goals, which expire in 2015, should focus on how countries can achieve growth that includes everyone, going beyond poverty eradication and international aid, according to an early snapshot of UN consultations with people around the world.

FOOD AND HUNGER - Global food prices have declined in recent months as lower demand for cereals and improved supplies pushed prices down, the World Bank says, warning that prices were still near record peaks and volatile.

HEALTH - Twenty years ago, tuberculosis (TB) was one of the least glamorous branches of medicine. The cause had long been known, as had the cure, so all that was left was the unromantic slog of reducing the poverty, hunger and overcrowding that fostered the disease, and working out better ways to get patients to comply with the lengthy course of treatment needed to cure it.

AFRICA

NIGERIA - For years, polio vaccination has faced strong resistance among conservative Islamic communities in northern Nigerian communities, largely due to a deep distrust of the West, persistent rumours that the vaccine is harmful, and the house-to-house approach taken by immunization campaigners, which many saw as intrusive.

RWANDA - Camps in Rwanda hosting thousands of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are running out of space following an influx of people fleeing insecurity in eastern DRC, says a senior government official.

SOUTH AFRICA will expand its rollout of GeneXpert tuberculosis (TB) testing machines, which can diagnose TB and drug-resistant TB within 90 minutes, but concerns remain about the capacity to back up this commitment with supplies and treatment.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - More than 1,000 people have been displaced following sectarian violence in central Myanmar this week, government officials says.

NEPAL's recently adopted policy of subsidizing renewable energy is the latest of many attempts to electrify long-deprived areas, but much more is needed, say experts

PAKISTAN - Parents and officials are going to great lengths to immunize children after militants imposed a ban on polio vaccinations in Pakistan's restive North Waziristan Agency. Government officials are withholding money and identity documents from groups affiliated with the ban, and parents are travelling long distances to get their children vaccinated, in some cases smuggling the vaccine back home.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - Nearly half a million people sought asylum in the developed world last year, a 10-year high, with the sharpest rise in requests from Syrians fleeing war and persecution, the United Nations said.

WFWO's Communications Team