

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - United Nations officials today hailed the significant impact of midwives on the health of women and newborns, and called for greater investment to ensure their life-saving services are available to all who need them around the world. UNFPA estimates that 1,000 women die every day and 5,500 newborns die in the first week of life for lack of adequate medical care.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - Thousands of children are at risk of forced recruitment into armed groups operating in the Central African Republic, according to a report. Children are kidnapped and forced to serve, while being denied access to humanitarian help, the report says.

ETHIOPIA - The Ethiopian government has started receiving food and non-food aid for hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people in the country's southern and south-eastern lowlands after an appeal in April.

KENYA - Drug regimens used in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV are effective, but infants should be monitored for drug resistance, a new study has revealed.

ASIA & PACIFIC

DEVELOPMENT - A new regional report by the United Nations finds that developing countries in Asia and the Pacific will continue driving the global economy in 2011, while warning that high food and fuel prices as well as volatile capital inflows pose fresh challenges.

SRI LANKANS are experiencing steep increases in two staple food sources, rice and wheat, because of severe floods and global shortages, says the UN.

DPRK - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) lived through a famine that killed, at conservative estimates, nearly a million people in the 1990s, and is now nearing the brink of a second food disaster, according to an extensive study conducted this year by the UNWFP.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

CHILE - Fisherfolk and indigenous people in southern Chile have petitioned the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in their 15-year conflict with Celulosa Arauco y Constitución, a paper pulp company which plans to dump toxic waste in the ocean, and with the Chilean state for alleged human rights violations.

HAITI - The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti will continue supporting all efforts to combat the spread of cholera in the Caribbean country, cautioning today that the forthcoming rainy season could pose fresh challenges because of the risk of contamination of water sources.

WFWO's Communications Team