

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - The Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria has more than halved the estimated amount of money available in its next round of funding, the disbursement of which has been delayed until 2013, due to the world economic crisis.

AFRICA

CHILDREN - Every year about three million children die before they reach the age of five as a result of undernutrition, with the majority of deaths the result of long-term chronic hunger rather than famines and sudden food crises, according to a new report.

WATER - A United Nations report released today on the use and management of water in the Nile River basin calls for new methods to boost agricultural productivity and warns that governments must take action to keep population growth and resource degradation from intensifying poverty.

HIV - OF the more than 34 million people living with HIV worldwide, half are women and three quarters of the world's HIV positive women live in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

MALARIA - Medical researchers conducting clinical trials of a malaria vaccine in 11 African institutions in seven countries - Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania - report that the vaccine offers significant protection to infants.

EAST AFRICA - High population density, low government support for agriculture, and poor infrastructure and farming methods have resulted in chronic food insecurity in Africa's Great Lakes region, experts say, despite a climate conducive to growing various crops. Predominantly small farms, about less than half a hectare, make agricultural intensification - increasing productivity per unit area of land - necessary to help meet increasing food demands.

SUDAN - South Sudanese women face the biggest risks from childbirth in the world, with 1 out of every 7 dying while giving birth. The country has only a handful of medical facilities and less than 100 trained midwives, according to this report.

ZIMBABWE - Poverty, abuse and cultural practices are preventing a third of Zimbabwean girls from attending primary school and 67 percent from attending secondary school, denying them a basic education, according to a recent study which found alarming dropout rates for girls.

ASIA

CHINA - Chinese authorities are raising the alarm over levels of heavy metals polluting 10% the country's farmlands. The environment ministry has called for immediate action to counter heavy metal pollution, which can cause a variety of serious health concerns.

WFWO's Communications Team