



NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

HEALTH AND DISEASE - Around 390 million people are infected each year with dengue fever, the world's fastest-spreading tropical disease, more than triple the current estimate by the World Health Organization, experts say.

AFRICA

FOOD SECURITY - Malnutrition could be greatly reduced and food security improved by ensuring improved access to nutrient-rich forest-derived foods like berries, bushmeat, roots, insects and nuts for the world's poorest populations, experts say.

EAST AFRICA - Unusually heavy rains have caused havoc across much of east Africa, displacing thousands of people and damaging important infrastructure.

MADAGASCAR - Farmers in Madagascar's southwestern province of Tulear have been hit hard, first by floods and then by locusts, threatening food security in a region already among the poorest in the island country.

MALI - Ongoing fighting and the fear of reprisal killings has severely disrupted normal migration patterns for pastoralists in northern Mali, putting them and their families in danger of severe food insecurity and poverty as the lean season approaches.

NIGER is seeking to end its chronic food shortages through an ambitious agricultural transformation plan - but the plan will have to meet the demands of a fast-growing population living in a mostly desert country that also faces threats to its security.

UGANDA - Despite the significant role midwives play in Uganda's maternal health programmes, they face numerous challenges, including lack of training, inadequate facilities and poor pay.

ZIMBABWE - Five years after Zimbabwe's political and economic crisis peaked in 2008, the economy continues to perform poorly, with the manufacturing sector still shedding jobs and unemployment estimated at 75 percent. But the real level of unemployment is almost impossible to gauge as countless Zimbabweans are making a living in the informal sector.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Food can just as easily kill as it keeps people alive, experts have learned in Bangladesh, where excessive use of pesticide, unregulated street food and lack of awareness about food safety sicken millions annually.

CHINA - Officials throughout Asia are implementing measures to protect people from a new strain of bird flu - H7N9 - that has so far infected 24 people in China, killing seven.

INDONESIA - Efforts to protect children in Indonesia from abuse are obstructed by barriers to crime reporting, which may worsen with the threatened closure of police-run units that handle crimes against women and children.

SRI LANKA - With the world's mega-cities growing even larger, policymakers - especially those in developing countries - need urban planning that will help these areas withstand the impacts of natural disasters.

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Rural Egyptians seeking medical treatment often face an ordeal just getting to the nearest clinic or hospital. But when they finally get there, they are unlikely to find the equipment, medicines or even doctors they need.

WFWO's Communications Team