

NEWS BULLETIN

12 JUNE 2012



GLOBAL

HEALTH - The lives of 2 million children younger than 5 could be saved if greater access to vaccines and antibiotics against diarrhea and pneumonia were provided in 75 countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, according to a report by the United Nations children's agency.

WATER BASINS - One-fourth of the world's gross domestic product will be generated by 2050 in and around the 10 most populated water basins, primarily in China, India and North Africa, according to a study by a microeconomics consultancy, Frontier Economics. Seven of the basins will face water shortages without better management, the report says.

AFRICA

DR CONGO - A growing cholera outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has claimed nearly 400 lives and affected more than 19,100 people since January, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

SAHEL - Africa's Sahel is in its third drought in 10 years, but some farmers have managed to restore the sandy soils by planting and cultivating trees. The trees, traditionally seen as competing with crops, actually reduce the effects of winds, provide shade to manure-producing livestock and contribute organic matter to the soil.

UGANDA - Two lawsuits have been filed against the Ugandan government for alleged negligence in the handling of nodding disease which has killed at least 200 children since 2009 and currently affects 3,500 others, according to the Ministry of Health.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Poisonings and arson are leading to school closings across Afghanistan. Afghan intelligence says some of the attacks are carried out by adult Taliban, with others by students who are threatened by the Taliban. Those most affected are girls.

INDONESIA - A new World Health Organization, assessment reviews Indonesia's emergency preparedness and identifies needed improvements, which experts and government officials agree are critical.

PAKISTAN - Thousands of people who lost their homes in the 2011 floods in Sindh Province, southern Pakistan, are worried how the July-September monsoon will pan out, according to local residents.

WFWO's Communications Team