

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HIV/AIDS - Great medical strides have been made in the global fight against HIV/AIDS but they are often undermined by punitive laws and discriminatory local practices that prevent the most vulnerable people from accessing treatment and prevention programmes, a new UN-sponsored study has shown.

AFRICA

HEALTH - The prime ministers of Ethiopia and Rwanda said ahead of an international summit on family planning in London that African leaders should increase funding for contraceptive services if they want to reduce poverty and hunger.

NIGERIA - Poverty, inequality and injustice are threatening to trigger a broad sectarian conflict in Nigeria, an international Christian-Muslim task force has said. Clashes between Nigerian Christians and Muslims have already killed hundreds of people this year alone.

SENEGAL - Removing the landmines from villages, farms and plantations of Casamance in southern Senegal has taken several years to get up to speed, but now demining teams may be forced to step down, hampering the country's ability to reach its Ottawa Treaty goal of eliminating anti-personnel mines by 2016.

TANZANIA - Changing weather patterns have forced farmers in Tanzania's Muheza district to move away from growing traditional crops and switch to cassava, which is playing a growing role in lifting communities out of poverty.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Thousands of people have been left food insecure after extensive flooding, landslides and flash floods in eastern Bangladesh at the end of June. Crops and seed stocks have been badly damaged and it will be three to four months before farmers are able to replant.

CAMBODIA - A virus that causes hand, foot and mouth disease may have been responsible for some of the mysterious deaths of dozens of children in Cambodia since April, the Health Ministry has said in a joint statement with the UN World Health Organization.

INDIA has put in place a \$5.4 billion policy to provide free medicine to its people, a decision that could change the lives of hundreds of millions.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Developing countries are looking toward Brazil as a model of development that successfully balances growth with social progress. Even Brazil's evolving foreign-assistance model is unique: Assistance is largely demand-driven and reportedly free of requirements governing the purchase of goods and services by recipients.

GUYANA - A conservation and research organisation in Guyana is teaming up with indigenous people to benefit the country's forest communities and provide insights into weather and climate change.

WFWO's Communications Team