

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WATER - "In many countries water availability for agriculture is already limited and uncertain, and is set to worsen," concludes the latest UN World Water Development Report, which finds that farmers will need one-fifth more water by 2050 to meet increasing demands for food by a population estimated to reach 9.3 billion. Today, more than 80% of used water goes uncollected and untreated, an issue slated to be discussed at this week's World Water Forum.

AFRICA

KENYA - Lack of adherence to the full course of Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) treatment is threatening the effectiveness of the drug recommended as first-line treatment for uncomplicated malaria in countries where the disease is endemic, according to recent studies.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CAMBODIA - In Cambodia, the psychological fallout from one of the world's heaviest bombing campaigns, genocide and two decades of conflict, coupled with chronic poverty, have left a heavy mental health burden that medical services are ill-equipped to handle, say experts.

PHILIPPINES - Health officials in the Philippines, one of the most disaster-prone countries worldwide, are launching a nationwide study to determine whether medical facilities can function during an emergency.

THAILAND - Heavy flooding across parts of Thailand in 2011 has fuelled outbreaks of a rice pest that can decimate harvests, experts say.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

WATER - It takes 1,600 litres of water to produce one kilo of bread. This is the type of calculation used to measure a water footprint, the total volume of freshwater used to produce the goods and services consumed by people and communities. A water footprint can be applied to countries as a whole, or to specific industries or economic activities, such as mining or agriculture. The countries of Mesoamerica, however, have made no attempt to calculate this indicator, beyond a few isolated initiatives.

WFWO's Communications Team