

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WATER - Policymakers have agreed an ambitious plan to create a global monitoring and reporting system to oversee water supply, sanitation and water resources management, a UN expert says.

HEALTH - Dengue fever is classed by the UN World Health Organization as a "major international public health concern". WHO estimates that it infects 50-100 million people a year; it is a leading cause of death among children in Asia and Latin America, and it is now spreading outside its traditional heartlands to Africa and the Middle East.

AFRICA

KENYA - Cash transfer programmes not only improve nutrition, education and health benefits for orphans and vulnerable children, but new research now suggest that these programmes can also significantly reduce risky sexual behaviour and HIV infection.

SIERRA LEONE - Poor road networks and heavy rains are limiting the ability of aid workers to accelerate the fight against a severe cholera outbreak in Sierra Leone, which has claimed the lives of at least 250 people and infected more than 15,000.

SOMALIA - In Somalia, more than 2 million people are in urgent need of food aid, according to the United Nations, while 1 million more are at risk of severe malnutrition.

UGANDA - Floods have forced at least 15,000 people to leave their homes in northern Uganda, where the deluge has destroyed houses, crops, roads and bridges.

ZIMBABWE - At the height of Zimbabwe's humanitarian crisis in 2002, seven million people were in need of food aid. A decade later, the numbers of people in need has climbed down to a million, though it could go up by another 600,000 in 2013.

ASIA & PACIFIC

WATER - South and Southeast Asia are home to 60 percent of the world's population but have only 36 percent of its water resources - a situation likely to be exacerbated by population growth, rapid urbanization, industrialization, environmental degradation, groundwater overuse and climate change unless urgent remedial action is taken, say experts.

MYANMAR - After decades of grinding poverty under successive military dictatorships, Myanmar's rice farmers have a chance at a better future through rural reforms ushered in by the country's quasi-civilian government.

WFWO's Communications Team