

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HUMAN RIGHTS - A United Nations-backed action plan is working to encourage member states from recruiting children into military and security forces. Uganda successfully demobilized all children within 18 months of signing on to a plan. Afghanistan has just agreed to one and talks are continuing with authorities in Myanmar.

HEALTH - An estimated 700,000 deaths could be averted by 2015 with the widespread use of a vaccine against pneumonia and other pneumococcal diseases that are the world's biggest child-killer. More than half a million children younger than five die from pneumococcal disease every year, according to the UNWHO. It accounts for 18 percent of child deaths in developing countries.

AFRICA

ANGOLA - At least 55,500 children, pregnant and childbearing age women have been immunized, as part revitalization campaign of health services.

ZIMBABWE - African countries struggling to contain HIV epidemics can learn a thing or two about HIV prevention from Zimbabwe, say the authors of a new study which found that a reduction in sexual partners drove a decrease in new HIV infections there.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Flash floods and heavy snowfall killed 25 people and damaged up to 3,000 houses in different parts of Afghanistan over the past two weeks, according to government officials.

INDIA - New government proposals in India that would cap loan amounts and stop women from borrowing from more than two lenders threaten to stifle the microcredit industry that has helped millions of the country's women escape poverty, advocates say. The measures - spurred in part by high rates of default and low cash flows in the \$4 billion industry - also would require credit checks for borrowers, and discourage strong-arm tactics by lenders to collect payments.

MIDDLE EAST

OPT - The main reason for the worsening shortages of essential drugs and medical supplies in the Gaza Strip is that the Palestinian Authority (PA) ministry of health in the West Bank has not delivered enough drugs and medical supplies to Gaza, according to the UNWHO, international aid organizations and Gaza health ministry officials.

WFWO's Communications Team