

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD & HUNGER - Global food prices are expected to rebound in the next few weeks after coming off record highs in March as demand keeps growing against tight supplies, a top official at the United Nations' food agency has said.

HEALTH - The UN World Health Organization has said the misuse and irrational use of antibiotics has undermined the global fight against tuberculosis and malaria, warning of a possible return to the days before the drugs were developed. An estimated 440,000 new cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis were reported last year in nearly 60 countries across the globe.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Developing nations in need of money to tackle climate change are struggling to access a bewildering array of international funding sources, all with different requirements and procedures, experts have said. From aid offered by individual donor governments, to funds run by the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations, the past few years have seen a proliferation of mechanisms for channeling grants and loans to poorer states to help them adapt to climate shifts, limit their greenhouse gas emissions and pursue low-carbon growth.

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA - A three-month campaign by Addis Ababa's health bureau hopes to boost adherence to antiretroviral (ARVs) drugs in the Ethiopian capital by improving communication between patients and health service providers.

SIERRA LEONE - Two-thirds of Sierra Leone's population depends on agriculture, while some 70 percent lives below the poverty line. By encouraging farmers to "farm for business", Sierra Leone hopes to lift annual agricultural growth to the 7.7 percent needed to halve poverty and hunger by 2015.

ZIMBABWE - Zimbabwe's government adopted new guidelines set by the UN World Health Organization for treating people living with HIV almost a year ago, but funding constraints have made it difficult to implement them - until now.

ASIA & PACIFIC

JAPAN - Small amounts of radioactive iodine and cesium emanating from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan have been detected by monitoring stations around the world, with trace amounts being found in drinking water in the western United States. Because the radioactive plume has largely been blown out to sea, the levels on land are considered far too low to threaten human health.

PHILIPPINES - The Philippines' main Muslim separatist group has promised to hasten efforts to remove child soldiers from its ranks, the United Nations has said, and it hopes to reach a similar deal with Maoist rebels.

WFWO's Communications Team