

NEWS BULLETIN

14 JUNE 2012



GLOBAL

UN SUMMIT - A week before the start of the Rio+20 conference in Brazil, differences remain over the draft agreement on sustainable development goals for the world. Only one-fifth of key issues had been settled with three days of talks remaining.

MALARIA - Scientists have engineered a mosquito that is unable to transmit the malaria virus, a development that could potentially change the global landscape plagued by the deadly disease. The *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito species, which transmits malaria in India and the Middle East, was genetically altered to produce antibodies that attack the infectious version of the malaria parasite, according to researchers at the University of California, Irvine, and the Pasteur Institute in Paris.

AFRICA

CLIMATE - The land deals that have given control of millions of acres of African farmland to foreign investors are leading to increased water consumption, depleting the continent's valued resource and blocking access to water for millions of people, according to a report by Grain.

SAHEL - The onset of dry months in the Sahel region of Africa, combined with the continued shortfall in funding, mean that the worst is yet to come for more than 18 million people in West Africa, aid agencies warn.

SOUTH AFRICA's move to decentralize the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) has given rise to a crop of nurses equipped not only to initiate patients on HIV treatment, but also to prescribe for and monitor drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) patients. However, experts and government officials say the need for specialist physicians and hospitals will continue, based on research presented at the South African TB conference in the port city of Durban.

UGANDA - Lack of funding has stalled a campaign to eliminate a deadly bacterial banana wilt disease that has spread to "worrying levels" in Uganda, threatening the food security of up to 14 million consumers of bananas as a staple food, say scientists.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - Among Group of 20 countries, India is the worst place to be a woman, according to a poll of gender specialists. Nearly half of all women there are married before they turn 18, and incidences of domestic violence, molestation, rape and trafficking are rife.

PAKISTAN - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is calling on the government of Pakistan not to hastily expel Afghan refugees, even as a deadline for their legal stay in the country approaches.

WFWO's Communications Team