

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

DR CONGO - Access to basic education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains poor, with up to seven million children across the vast country out of school - despite a 2010 government decision to make primary education free.

KENYA - Pneumonia is killing 100 children daily even though existing vaccines and medicines could save many of these lives. The government said most of the affected children cannot access treatment from public health facilities.

NIGERIA - At least 43 villages in Nigeria continue to present cases of lead poisoning, 18 months ago after cases were first discovered in the region, the United Nations reported, calling for an increase in preventive measures in the African country.

SOMALIA - Heavy rains in Somalia have made roads some impassable, rendering the delivery of relief difficult in areas with dire humanitarian needs, the United Nations refugee agency said, adding that the bad weather and insecurity could be the reason fewer people are crossing the border into refugee camps in Kenya.

TANZANIA - Girls who complete their education are likely to have fewer children than their girls who leave during primary school, according to various studies. Every day across Tanzania, hundreds of schoolgirls become pregnant, bringing their learning to a halt. Women with a primary school education have 5.6 babies on average, those with secondary and higher education, just 3.2 babies.

ASIA

INDIAN authorities will soon require anyone receiving financial assistance and other government benefits to sign papers guaranteeing they will not endorse or participate in child marriages. In some parts of India, almost 50% of girls are married before the age of 18 even though the practice is illegal.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Representatives of the Brazilian federal and municipal governments and of indigenous, black and riverbank communities and other groups that make the population of this country so diverse assumed a commitment to fight for "the human right to an adequate diet."

MEXICO - Climate change has inspired dozens of scientists at Mexican public universities to conduct research on its effects and seek ways to confront them. Water scarcity, agrofuel production, soil degradation and loss of biodiversity are just a few of the items on the research agenda being tackled inside and outside the higher education institutions of this Latin American country that is particularly vulnerable to global warming.

NICARAGUA is slated to be the first country to receive the vaccine against the bacterial cause of pneumonia, from which more children die each year than from malaria, measles and HIV/AIDS, combined, as part of a new campaign by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization to provide the vaccine to some 60 countries over the next five years.

WFWO's Communications Team