

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

GAMBIA - The development is inline with the vision 2020 aspirations of the country and in the long-term can lead to the country's realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which agitates for freedom from food poverty.

MALAWI - In 2007, Malawi's maternal mortality rate stood at 807 women per 100,000 live births. According to figures released at the UN Millennium Development Goal Review in September 2010, it had fallen to 510 women per 100,000.

NIGERIA - Head of service, Prof Oladapo Afolabi, has identified positive development of the environment as the key to acheiving the 7th goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Head of Service, stated this at the Roundtable session on ensuring environmental sustainability in Nigeria during the 27th Annual National Scientific Conference and General meeting held in Abuja with the theme " The Millennium Development Goals the Journey so far and challenges ahead".

RWANDA - The ministry of health has unveiled plans that will see the country become malaria-free, with the pre-elimination stage, starting in 2010. While this may sound an ambitious project, total elimination of malaria is achievable, more so with the concerted efforts by all stake holders, as has been demonstrated in other projects, such as the communal health insurance scheme where more than 90 percent of the population are subscribers.

SUDAN - Less than four months before Sudan is due to split into two sovereign states, the future status of more than a million people of southern origin living in the North - and a smaller number of northerners living in the South - remains unresolved.

SOUTH AFRICA - Officials in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province are struggling to contain the first major outbreak of foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease in more than a decade.

ZAMBIA - Only four per cent of patients on ARVs need second or third line treatment, the Ministry of Health has said. Ministry of Health spokesperson said of the 325,000 children and adults country wide on Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART), approximately 96 per cent were on the first line regimen.

ASIA & PACIFIC

JAPAN - Desperate efforts by the government to avoid the looming nightmare of a nuclear meltdown in tsunami damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plants, 240 kilometres north of Tokyo, have brought no relief to the public who face the possibility of another explosion that could spew deadly radiation across the country.

PHILIPPINES - The Philippines sought to assure a panicked public on 15 March that a potential nuclear meltdown in Japan would not affect the country amid fears following widely circulated text messages - dismissed by the country's leading nuclear regulatory agency as a prank - that warned Filipinos to wear raincoats outdoors, hunker down, and stockpile food and medicine because of an imminent radioactive hit.

WFWO's Communications Team