

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HUNGER - One out of every eight people in the world is chronically undernourished, the United Nations' food agencies say, warning that progress to reduce hunger has slowed since 2007/08 when high food prices sparked riots in several poor countries.

POVERTY - The head of the World Bank has said he is preparing broad reforms at the development lender to make it more effective in ending global poverty and will discuss the changes with member countries at meetings in Tokyo next week.

HEALTH - In slums around the world, the sight of food vendors along dusty alleys, serving customers as they wave away flies, is common. Many of these consumers do not consider themselves undernourished, but experts say consuming cheap food, cooked and sold under unhygienic conditions, could be affecting the nutrition and health of many urban poor.

AFRICA

DEVELOPMENT - Poverty levels remain high in resource-rich countries in Africa and actually are rising in Angola, Gabon and Congo-Brazzaville despite strong economic growth paced by sales of minerals and oil, according to the World Bank.

FOOD - Bread, pies, pasta and pastries - changing African diets, the result of urbanization, are driving a demand for wheat that is pushing up import bills and complicating food security.

HEALTH - African research to improve patient care and treatment is growing, but the dissemination of evidence-based approaches to healthcare lags behind, experts say.

KENYA - The launch of rapid diagnostic test (RDT) kits for malaria in Kenya - where only 30 percent of people treated for suspected malaria are tested to confirm infection - is expected to improve the reach, speed and accuracy of diagnosis and treatment, says a senior health official.

UGANDA - HIV prevalence among public servants in Uganda is 16.3 percent, more than twice the national average, according to a recently released assessment of the epidemic among the country's various sectors.

ASIA

MYANMAR - Health workers in Myanmar are confident that efforts to narrow the country's huge gap between access to, and need for, life-saving medicines to treat HIV/AIDS are back on track after the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria invited the country to apply for additional funding.

WFWO's Communications Team