

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - Family planning is a worthwhile investment that could reduce the cost of maternal and new-born health care by US\$11.3 billion annually and provide much-needed support to some 222 million women globally who need contraceptives but do not have access to them, according to the UN Population Fund's (UNFPA) annual State of the World's Population report.

AFRICA

CAMEROON - Scientists and farmers' associations have high hopes that a variety of cassava could help build their resilience to droughts and food insecurity.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - In a bid to increase the low level of awareness of pneumonia in the Central African Republic (CAR), where the disease is the biggest killer of children under five, a wide-ranging media campaign has been launched.

ETHIOPIA/SOMALIA - Ethiopians would like to continue to be good Samaritans to the hundreds of thousands seeking refuge from drought and conflict in neighbouring Somalia, but massive camps in fragile environments have sparked concern among both the government and the people sharing space with the refugees.

GUINEA-BISSAU - As cholera case rates decline in Guinea and Sierra Leone, they are on the rise in Guinea-Bissau, with 1,500 cases reported and nine deaths as of 11 November, according to the Ministry of Health.

KENYA - Flash floods have washed away the rice harvest of some 2,000 farmers in western Kenya, flooding some of their homes and sending latrine effluent into water courses, according to officials and residents.

SWAZILAND - Stigma against HIV-positive people is hobbling national efforts to encourage testing, and more people to access antiretrovirals (ARVs), according to findings from a stigma index compiled by Swazis living with HIV.

SOUTH SUDAN - Cut off from development by five decades of civil war, South Sudan has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world and high levels of infant mortality and morbidity. Large families struggle to get by in the war-ravaged new nation.

ASIA & PACIFIC

LAOS holds a groundbreaking ceremony for a hydropower dam on the Mekong River that is opposed by environmentalists and neighbouring countries because of the possible impact on livelihoods, fisheries and agriculture.

WFWO's Communications Team