



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Food and Agriculture Organization says that food prices will rise as much as 40% over the next decade despite a recent drop in farm commodity prices. The UN predicts a rise in wheat and grain prices of 15% to 40% over the next decade and a potentially even steeper rise for vegetable oil prices. Livestock prices are not expected to rise as quickly, though worldwide demand for meat is climbing.

ENVIRONMENT - Scientists have begun taking ice core samples and other measurements at Puncak Jaya, Indonesia's mysterious tropical glacier, in order to gather new data on past periods of climate change. The tropical glacier - one of a handful found on the planet - is rapidly receding with rising global temperatures. Compacted animal and plant matter as well as the varying isotopes of water found in the glacier speak to changes in global temperature over time.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The world will probably not crack a comprehensive climate change treaty in Cancún, Mexico, in December 2010 but the forecast for a deal on how to help countries adapt to erratic weather patterns is partly sunny.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - One after the other, the women entered the doctor's office full of hope and expectation and left with a sense of doom: their pregnancies were confirmed but so was their HIV status - positive. To them it sounded like a death sentence, for themselves and their unborn babies.

KENYA - The government of Kenya is running an ambitious programme that aims to have all uncircumcised men - an estimated 1.1 million - circumcised by 2013. Most uncircumcised men live in the western province of Nyanza, where so far more than 100,000 have had the procedure, and the drive is seen as hugely successful.

NIGER - Logistical and funding constraints could cause shortages in the food aid pipeline from July onward, hampering distributions to some of Niger's 7.8 million food-insecure people, say NGOs and UNWFP. More cash distributions could be the answer.

RWANDA's ability to offer health care insurance to all its citizens for \$2 a year, with some outside donor support, has raised life expectancy and cut maternal mortality and malaria death rates since the program began 12 years ago. Care in most locales is rudimentary but sufficient to treat most common causes of death in Rwanda - malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia.

SOUTH AFRICA has one of the highest rates of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), but a study has found that many nurses have not been trained to handle this deadly, difficult-to-treat strain of the disease.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - The densely populated Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, which lies dangerously close to a major fault line, comprises thousands of shoddily engineered buildings at risk of collapse in a powerful earthquake, experts warn.

UZBEKISTAN / KYRGYSTAN - The Uzbek government said on Tuesday that it would close its border with Kyrgyzstan and stop accepting refugees fleeing ethnic violence. Clashes between ethnic Kyrgyz and Uzbeks erupted on Thursday in the city of Osh in southern Kyrgyzstan. Officials said on Tuesday that at least 171 people have been killed and a further 1,800 injured so far, but the toll is likely to rise as the violence continues. More than 80,000 ethnic Uzbeks and Tajiks have already escaped to Uzbekistan while a further 15,000 remain in the border areas.

■MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - An irreversible degeneration of some of Syria's landmass could occur because of three consecutive years of drought, warns the UNFAO.

WFWO's Communications Team