

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

SOMALIA - About 120,000 people in the coastal, mid- and far western regions of the self-declared republic of Somaliland require emergency food assistance after four years of failed rains, says the chairman of Somaliland's environment research and disaster preparedness agency.

SUDAN/CHAD - Djabal refugee camp in eastern Chad, where some residents have stayed for nearly a decade after fleeing violence in neighbouring Sudan, illustrates some of the family and social problems engendered by displacement and dependency.

ASIA

HEALTH - Pressure on developing countries to adopt clauses affecting intellectual property rights could limit access to generic antiretroviral (ARV) drugs in Asia and the Pacific, experts and activists warn.

AFGHANISTAN - A decade ago, less than 1 million Afghan children were enrolled in school, few of them girls. Today, about 2.5 million girls alone are enrolled in school, according to the country's Education Ministry. Still, girls face significant obstacles to education, especially in the Taliban-controlled east.

CAMBODIA has begun nationwide surveillance for a severe form of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), a common viral illness that usually affects infants and children younger than 5 years old and is rarely life-threatening, health officials confirmed on 13 July.

MYANMAR - Aid workers are concerned about access to healthcare in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State, more than a month after communal violence left over 50,000 people displaced.

PHILIPPINES - The Philippines looks set to expand its rapid monitoring system, based on mobile phone text messaging, to lessen the number of deaths and improve emergency response times. With over 7,000 islands and more than 100 million people, the archipelago experiences an average of 20 typhoons a year, with stronger storms in recent years.

SRI LANKA has long enjoyed a low 0.1 percent HIV prevalence but, as the number of fresh infections rises steadily, experts are calling for a change in the country's archaic laws that make sex work illegal and criminalises homosexual activity.

WFWO's Communications Team