

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - The UN World Health Organization is expected this month to begin phasing out the trivalent oral polio vaccine, in light of improvements to diagnostic tests and better vaccines. The virus, which UNWHO had hoped to eradicate by the end of this year, is endemic in only three countries: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA - Parts of Ethiopia are still reeling from the effects of recent drought, flooding, conflict or a combination of the three, resulting in increased numbers of children dropping out of school, say officials.

KENYA - Involving men is increasingly being promoted as a key element in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and while its benefits are well-documented - in one study it reduced the risks of vertical transmission and infant mortality by more than 40 percent compared with no involvement - it can occasionally lead to domestic discord and even violence.

MALAWI - Smallholder farmers struggling with climate change in this southeast African nation are turning to trees to help their crops grow. Many are intercropping trees with maize to provide moisture-preserving shade for the growing corn, while others bury tree leaves in the ground to make the soil more fertile and help retain moisture at planting time.

TANZANIA - The demand for medical male circumcision is growing among Tanzania's non-circumcising communities, and officials say the country is on track to surpass its goal of reaching 2.8 million men by 2015.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Avalanches in northeastern Afghanistan have cut off tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people already at risk of hunger due to drought, opening the door to a potential humanitarian crisis if aid cannot reach them, says a provincial official.

CHINA tripled its solar energy generating capacity last year and notched up major increases in wind and hydropower, government figures showed this week, but officials are still struggling to cap the growth in coal burning, which is the biggest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the world.

INDIA - The last recorded case of polio in India affected an 18-month-old girl in West Bengal, who recovered from the disease without lasting paralysis, only a few years ago, the country recorded as many as 100,000 cases a year.

WFWO's Communications Team