

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

HEALTH - Africa's current economic growth can be improved if concerted efforts are made to improve the continent's health care systems, a new study reveals. At the same time, investments in health would accelerate the move towards attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

HIV/AIDS - A three-country study has been halted after daily doses of the antiretroviral (ARV) Truvada, used as a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), failed to prevent HIV infection in the women participating.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Seasonal climate predictions have been limited in their ability to meet the needs of rural farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to a study. Poor access to relevant climate information for farmers results from a number of factors, such as the agricultural sector lacking ownership and a voice in climate services, the study concluded.

COTE D'IVOIRE - As calm gradually returns to Cote d'Ivoire after months of post-election violence, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said that it is rushing to assist farmers as they prepare to sow their rice and maize crops at the onset of the rainy season in the north and west of the country.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Aid agencies and education officials are concerned that scaling down school feeding programmes in impoverished rural areas of Afghanistan could adversely affect school attendance and the health and nutrition of hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren.

MYANMAR - Health experts had barely finished one project to contain anti-malarial drug resistance along the Thai-Cambodia border when their attention was drawn to Myanmar, where early warning signs suggest a waning influence of the anti-malarial drug Artemisinin.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - The cultivation of sugar cane in Brazil as a means to provide an alternative fuel source for vehicles is also helping to cool local air temperatures, researchers said in report published in the journal Nature Climate Change. The benefit, researchers said, occurs when sugar cane fields are introduced into existing agricultural efforts to replace crops like soy beans.

WFWO's Communications Team