



# NEWS BULLETIN



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## GLOBAL

**MDG** - The UN Children's Fund and the UN World Health Organization, have launched their Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea, which aims to end preventable child deaths from these conditions by 2025. The launch was supported by the publication of a series of articles in the medical journal *The Lancet* showing that the tools to accomplish this goal already exist, and that the targets should be achievable at a reasonable cost.

## AFRICA

**WOMEN** - Countries across Africa are experiencing unprecedented urban growth, presenting women with greater economic and social opportunities as well as greater risks to their safety and welfare.

**CHAD / CAR** - Chad is grappling with an influx of refugees and returnees into its south-eastern regions, mainly from neighbouring Sudan, and others from the Central African Republic (CAR) following a series of inter-ethnic clashes in Darfur and a recent coup in the CAR, respectively.

**DARFUR** - A recent spate of violence in Sudan's western region of Darfur has left tens of thousands displaced; humanitarian agencies say they are struggling to access populations in need of support.

**EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA** - Improvements in nutrition and stronger government policies have led to a decline in childhood stunting, according to a new report on child nutrition. However, the condition continues to affect some 165 million children under the age of five globally.

**KENYA** - The use of technology is revolutionizing the way Kenya manages tuberculosis (TB). Through a computer- and mobile-phone based programme called TIBU, health facilities are able to request TB drugs in real-time and manage TB patient data more effectively, health officials say. They also use the platform to carry out health education.

**MALI** - Hunger in Mali has reached crisis levels in the northern Kidal Region and has reached critical levels in Gao and Timbuktu regions, according to food security agencies and the government's early warning body.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**HEALTH** - Two more people in China have died from a new strain of avian influenza, bringing to 16 the number of deaths from the H7N9 virus, and the government has warned that the number of infections could rise.

**NEPAL** - Experts have long predicted widespread devastation and death should a large earthquake hit Nepal, a country with vulnerable infrastructure and ill-equipped urban search-and-rescue teams. In an effort to prepare for such an event, officials have created a strategy to boost emergency responders' skills.

WFWO's Communications Team