

NEWS BULLETIN

19 September 2011



GLOBAL

MDGs - A collaborative approach to humanitarian assistance planning between governments, aid donors and communities will reduce costs, poverty and disease over the long term, according to a report from six aid organizations. Efforts to increase communication and joint planning will also help countries meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in a manner that is more cost-efficient for donors, the report said.

HEALTH - New global guidelines on best practices to counter non-communicable diseases (NCDs) could avert up to 15 percent of preventable deaths over the next 20 years, but may fail to gain currency in countries already struggling to keep pace with communicable diseases, maternal and child mortality and other public health issues, economic and health experts say.

FOOD - Representatives of industries that make their money by selling fatty foods, alcohol and cigarettes could hijack next week's high-level United Nations meeting on reversing non-communicable diseases that kill 36 million people a year, according to a letter from more than 140 international health organizations and campaign.

AFRICA

CONGO / GABON - The refugee status of 9,500 people from the Republic of Congo, who have been in neighbouring Gabon since the late 1990s, expired on 31 July, but many are still reluctant to return home.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - A three-day polio vaccination drive in Afghanistan will begin Saturday, carried out by a 55,000-person team including Taliban and other insurgents, in 13 high-risk districts that account for nearly all the country's reported cases of the disease

NEPAL - A 6.9 magnitude earthquake on 18 September in northeastern India which also caused deaths in parts of Nepal and China, serves as a stark warning to the earthquake-prone region, experts say.

PAKISTAN - Heavy monsoon rain in southern Pakistan is in many ways hitting children worst of all, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, which says five million people are affected.

WFWO's Communications Team