

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HIV / AIDS - A scientific alliance in which developing countries are playing a key role has taken on the challenge of producing paediatric AIDS drugs, an area that is no longer a priority for pharmaceutical companies because mother-to-child transmission of HIV has virtually been eliminated in the industrialised world.

MALARIA - Scientists have identified two promising approaches to new anti-malaria therapies - one of which targets a critical weakness in the parasite that causes malaria, and one of which uses spores of a microscopic fungi to control the actions of mosquitoes.

AFRICA

Africa Region - The statistics coming out of Africa are staggering: 40 percent of Africa's 1 billion people live in urban areas and 60 percent live in slums, where water supplies and sanitation are "severely inadequate", according to the Nairobi-based U.N. Environment Programme.

HORN OF AFRICA - Drought in the Horn of Africa is affecting some 12.4 million people, leaving some 3.7 million people in need of food assistance and some 450,000 children malnourished in Somalia.

MAURITANIA - In a bid to reduce food insecurity, the Mauritanian government is turning to several new approaches to agriculture, including expanded irrigation schemes, popularising new crops and harnessing the energy of recent graduates.

SUDAN - More than 200,000 people affected by recent fighting in Sudan's Southern Kordofan state face potentially catastrophic levels of malnutrition and mortality after the Government's refusal to let aid agencies replenish stocks and deploy personnel, the United Nations warned today.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BOLIVIA - The lack of regulations for consulting indigenous communities in Bolivia on initiatives that affect their territories is at the heart of a dispute over a road to facilitate traffic from Brazil, which would run through an enormous tropical national park self-governed by indigenous communities.

GUATEMALA - The "green economy" will not solve the problems of poverty and natural disasters in Central America as long as the development model continues to be based on over-consumption and over-production, regional experts say.

WFWO's Communications Team