

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - A hundred years ago there was no way to treat tuberculosis (TB) except with rest, fresh air and nutritious food. Forty years later the discovery of antibiotics transformed treatment and TB has been a curable disease for more than half a century, but the disease still kills nearly 4,0000 people a day. The goals set by the UNWHO to halve the incidence of TB by 2015 and eliminate it as a public health problem by 2050 seem far out of reach.

HIV/AIDS - Four months after a study suggested women on hormonal contraception may be at an increased HIV risk, the UN World Health Organization has reaffirmed the birth control method's safety, but strongly recommends that women on progesterone-only injections, like Depo-Provera, also use condoms to prevent HIV infection.

AFRICA

MALI - Fighting between Government forces and ethnic Tuareg rebels in northern Mali has forced more than 44,000 people to flee the area over the past month, with the number of refugees arriving in neighbouring countries doubling in the past 10 days, the United Nations reported.

NIGER - Two top United Nations officials visiting Niger, one of the countries hit hardest by the current food crisis across Africa's Sahel region, have called on governments and donors to respond to the crisis in ways that will build resilience among local communities for the future.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA's attempt to wean its population off rice has been hampered by a lack of viable alternative staples and cultural attachment to the grain, experts say.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - Instability in Syria has aggravated an already vulnerable situation for tens of thousands of farmers and herders affected by recurrent drought, but only a fraction of them have received assistance because of chronic "serious underfunding" of humanitarian programmes in Syria, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization warns.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

URUGUAY - An independent United Nations human rights expert today called on Uruguayan authorities to implement measures to provide access to health and sanitation to its poorest and most marginalized communities.

WFWO's Communications Team