

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

DESERTIFICATION - More than 12 million hectares of arable land are lost to desertification each year, affecting some of the world's poorest people. The 193 nations party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification are slated to meet next week in Changwon, Korea, to discuss solutions to problems stemming from land degradation and drought.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Efforts to forge international agreement on binding greenhouse-gas emission-reduction targets to come into force as the Kyoto Treaty expires in 2012 look increasingly unlikely to succeed in the run-up to the Durban climate summit. The US, Japan, Russia and other significant countries remain unwilling to commit to new targets as long as India and China resist post-2012 targets without firm action from the industrialized countries.

MALARIA - Deaths from malaria have fallen 20% worldwide over the past decade, largely as a result of more spending, from about \$100 million in 2003 to \$1.5 billion in 2010.

WOMEN & GIRLS - Girls representing the G20 countries and the African Union have gathered for a G(irls) 20 Summit to highlight efforts to end child marriage and discuss other issues that affect young women around the world. Participants will prepare a communiqué on the issue to be delivered to policymakers at the G20 summit next month.

AFRICA

KENYA's government is scrambling to remove thousands of batches of counterfeit antiretrovirals (ARVs) from circulation after patients and health workers reported irregularities in the appearance and texture of a widely used drug.

ASIA

PHILIPPINES - The government of the Philippines is fighting a losing battle with residents living in flood-prone areas as they refuse to relocate.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HEALTH - Researchers are looking to enhance data on breast cancer after recent study results found a rise in cases in the Bahamas affecting relatively young women. Health professionals have reported rising breast cancer rates across the developing world, but little country-specific data is available to aid prevention and treatment planning.

WFWO's Communications Team