

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - With 80 per cent of the world's people lacking adequate social protection and global inequalities growing, top United Nations officials are calling for a new era of social justice that offers basic services, decently paid jobs, and safeguards for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized.

UNITED NATIONS - Producing food and energy side-by-side may offer one of the best formulas for boosting countries' food and energy security while simultaneously reducing poverty, according to a new UNFAO report published.

AFRICA

KENYA - Nutrition experts recommend that HIV-positive mothers exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months to reduce the risk of HIV transmission, but food-insecure Kenyan mothers worry they have insufficient milk to keep their babies full and healthy.

EAST AFRICA - Since November, East African countries have registered serious drought conditions that are likely to worsen in coming months. According to data recently released by the World Meteorological Organization, the La Niña weather effect is largely responsible.

NIGERIA Nigeria though blessed with abundant natural and human resources is plagued with series of health problems ranging from HIV/AIDS, cancer, tuberculosis and other lung diseases. The most worrisome thing was that the government is not doing much to address these health challenges that are threatening the lives of many Nigeria irrespective of their social status and age.

MADAGASCAR - The immediate impact of Cyclone Bingiza after it slammed into Madagascar was less than feared, but in its wake the expectation is for greater food insecurity across the island.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH is trying out an affordable cholera vaccine on a large scale in an effort that could save thousands of lives every year. Vaccines for the disease, which afflicts 5 million people annually, have long been available but too costly to administer across large populations. The new vaccine, administered orally, is being tested in a study involving 240,000 people in one of the poorest suburbs of Dhaka.

INDONESIA - Bantul regency in Indonesia's central Java region has declared a state of emergency and health agencies nationwide are on alert following an outbreak of leptospirosis, a fatal animal-borne disease that can result in high fever, internal bleeding and organ failure, said the Health Ministry.

SRI LANKA may have lost up to 40 per cent of the national rice harvest to the two waves of floods that ravaged the country in December and January, and inhabitants of the affected areas will need continued humanitarian support until they recover from the destruction, a United Nations official said.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - The Iraqi government has pledged to improve the state-run food aid system in the wake of sporadic protests and long-standing discontent over the quality and targeting of the rations provided.

WFWO's Communications Team