

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**FOOD** - Disease and climate-resistant vegetables can be cultivated by grafting parts of one vegetable to another, producing a hardy plant that withstands soil-borne diseases and harsh weather, and which can improve nutrient-anaemic diets, experts say.

**CHILDREN** - More children are living to see their fifth birthday than ever before, thanks to rapid healthcare advances in the last two decades, but largely preventable diseases still claim the lives of nearly 7 million under-fives annually, says a new report from the United Nations Children's Fund.

**HEALTH** - Cuts in global funding for Eastern Europe and Central Asia are undermining the fight against tuberculosis (TB) and the AIDS virus, threatening to push already high rates of disease and drug-resistance even higher, experts said.

## AFRICA

**KENYA** - Scientists have discovered a new malaria-transmitting breed of mosquito which may pose an unknown threat in Kenya, where malaria is the leading cause of death.

**MALI** - More than half a million people in northern Mali, need aid to cope with rising food prices, collapsed public services and a lack of health care, the ONG says.

**NIGER** has nearly halved the death rate of children below five years old since 1998, a significant drop highlighting the benefits of free universal health care for children and pregnant women as well as increased donor funding for health, The Lancet said in a study released on 20 September.

**DR CONGO** - An outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo risks spreading to major towns if not brought under control soon after the death toll doubled within a week, the UN World Health Organisation warns.

**SOUTH SUDAN** - Aid agencies say water and food provision has improved in four camps housing more than 105,000 refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile State, but flooding, disease and an influx of additional refugees pose new threats.

**SWAZILAND** - The practice of men marrying underage girls - which has been an accepted social norm for centuries but has been linked in recent years to the spread of HIV - was recently declared illegal in Swaziland.

WFWO's Communications Team