

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro called on countries to embrace a low-carbon, resource-efficient, pro-poor economic model, which will ensure progress while also promoting harmony with nature.

HUMAN RIGHTS - Diplomats from around the world are maneuvering to force a special session of the UN Human Rights Council to address the government crackdowns against the popular protests in the Middle East and North Africa. Among the countries expected to be on the agenda, should a meeting be called next week, are Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain and Syria.

HEALTH - The world must dramatically step up its existing efforts to conquer malaria if it is to reach the goal of near zero deaths from the disease – which, despite being preventable and curable, currently kills almost 800,000 people every year – by 2015, the United Nations warns.

AFRICA

FOOD - Africa is being hit hardest by rising food prices around the world, with drastic increases sparking protests and violent clashes. In Uganda, the price of maize has risen 114% year-on-year. Recent unrest in the Middle East and North Africa has increased oil prices -- costs that are being passed on to food vendors.

HEALTH - The UN World Health Organization this week recommended a change in the first-line treatment for malaria that could save nearly 200,000 lives a year, but health activists in Africa are bracing themselves for a potentially long battle in getting the new guidelines implemented.

BURUNDI - A disease affecting banana plants has spread to five provinces of Burundi, raising concern among agricultural officials, who fear the disease could hit the country's food security.

EASTERN AFRICA - Low- and middle-income earners across eastern and central Africa are reeling from the mounting cost of living brought on by a sharp increase in commodity prices in the past few months.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PHILIPPINES - Health officials in the Philippines are struggling to contain a cholera outbreak in a remote area on the western island of Palawan.

WFWO's Communications Team