

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - The global fight against tuberculosis (TB) has failed children: most TB programmes under-diagnose, under-treat or completely leave children with TB out, despite the increase in paediatric TB, and rising numbers of children who are infected with drug-resistant forms of TB strains, according to new research.

HIV/AIDS - Record progress in reducing the number of new HIV infections and lowering the numbers of people dying from AIDS-related causes indicate that the end of AIDS is "entirely feasible". But the epidemic is not over in any part of the world, and is gaining pace in some.

CLIMATE CHANGE - A new report released just days ahead of the UN climate change talks to be held in Doha, Qatar, paints an unnerving picture of a four-degree Celsius warmer world by the end of the century.

AFRICA

BENIN - Health workers currently immunizing thousands of children and young adults against Meningitis A in Benin are currently doing so without having to spend days preparing ice packs and sourcing generators and fridges to load on trucks because the vaccine has now won approval for being kept at up to 40 degrees Celsius for as long as four days.

BURUNDI - More than half a million Burundian refugees have returned home over the last 10 years as the effects of a 2000 peace accord took hold. Many have returned to their land, and most have received assistance with shelter, food, health and education.

SIERRA LEONE - In Bo central Sierra Leone, maternal mortality rates have dropped 61 percent since 1990 thanks to cost-free 24/7 emergency obstetric care and an efficient ambulance service and referral system.

SOUTH AFRICA - Farm labourers are the latest group to join a wave of strikes across South Africa in recent months as food price increases outstrip the official inflation rate.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN - Despite efforts by the Pakistani government and international organizations, inflation, declining income, natural disasters and stagnating domestic productivity are hampering attempts to achieve food security for the country's 180 million citizens.

MIDDLE EAST

WATER - As Ethiopia's massive dam-building plans continue to cause disquiet in downstream Egypt, new research suggests there is sufficient water in the Nile for all 10 countries it flows through, and that poverty there could be significantly eased as long as access by small-scale farmers is boosted.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Around 1.5 million Haitians are going hungry because devastating floods caused by Hurricane Sandy washed away food crops and harvests and destroyed swathes of agricultural land.

WFWO's Communications Team