

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE - Delegates at United Nations climate talks in Bonn, Germany, report slow progress toward limiting global warming. Wealthy and poor countries, citing financial strains, have yet to identify sufficient measures to cut emissions such as developing renewable sources and improving energy efficiency.

HEALTH - Data from more than two dozen countries in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa reveals that about 33% of malaria drugs are fake or of poor quality, serving to contribute to the growing resistance to malaria treatment, according to researchers at the Fogarty International Center at the US National Institutes of Health.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Some 320,000 people in Côte d'Ivoire are grappling with hunger partly because they cannot afford the high prices of imported rice, but government efforts to bring down the cost of the staple food are so far not working well.

MOZAMBIQUE - A new biofuel plant in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, could enable households to end reliance on charcoal for cooking in favor of ethanol produced from cassava. About 500 farmers are participating in the initiative, restricting their efforts to land previously cleared to produce charcoal.

SUDAN - Outbreaks of infectious diseases such as measles are possible in the Nuba mountains of Sudan, where families have fled fighting, say physicians assisting child refugees. United Nations agencies are being asked to do more to deliver medical aid, but the region along the border with South Sudan is unsafe, and Sudan's president has banned most operations by agencies in the area.

SOUTH AFRICA - Nearly two-thirds of the 19 million children in South Africa are classified as poor, and they are three times less likely to finish school, according to a forthcoming report by the United Nations children's agency.

UGANDA - The prevalence of drug-resistant HIV strains in Uganda has risen from 8.6 percent to 12 percent in the last five years, one of the highest rates in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to a recent study.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Up to 40,000 people living in the biggest slum in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, could be facing eviction after a court order to clear government land in the city. So far 4,500 have been put out of their homes, and activists claim there are similar plans for the rest of the residents in the coming months.

NEPAL - Sexual harassment is an everyday issue for women in Nepal, particularly in urban areas. Although exact numbers are unavailable, activists say the problem is on the rise and are demanding change.

WFWO's Communications Team