

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS officials are seeking to establish aid corridors inside Libya to get supplies to civilian populations trapped by fighting between government and rebel forces. Libyan authorities have said there is no major need for humanitarian assistance, but patchy reports from the field indicate widespread need for medical and food supplies.

HEALTH - The UN World Health Organization is calling on world governments to commit more funds to step up the fight against the spread of tuberculosis, a multidrug-resistant form of which is expected to afflict more than 2 million people by 2015. Because current treatment methods are lengthy, and expensive, "many patients desist on their treatment and go on to develop resistant strains of the disease," said UNITAID, the organization's international facility for the purchase of TB and other drugs.

AFRICA

MALAWI - The market can do better: a sanitation and hygiene campaign to be launched in Malawi plans to apply this tenet to improve cleanliness and public health the country's cities. Up to two-thirds of Malawi's two million urban residents live in slum conditions without proper sanitation.

SOUTH AFRICA - A promising new diagnostic test for detecting drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) quickly and reliably is finally available, said a new report.

UGANDA - High cost of food prices is likely to intensify hunger and poverty in Koboko, a mini-survey done by Daily Monitor has revealed. The rising food prices are causing more hunger and misery because people cannot afford to buy food and other basic necessities and those who buy a variety end up with little money in their pockets.

ZIMBABWE - The UN World Health Organization says that because of their weakened immune system, people living with HIV are less able to fight infection and are more likely to develop active TB. Co-infection rapidly increases the mortality rate and untreated sufferers of both HIV and TB are the most infectious, posing the greatest risk to those around them. Both diseases can also be treated successfully – but the first step in treatment is testing and diagnosis.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR/THAILAND - The population of the nine refugee camps along the Myanmar-Thai border in Thailand, which have been in existence for more than 20 years, is relatively stable, despite 11,086 refugees being resettled in third countries over the past year, according to the Thai Burma Border Consortium TBBC.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - Now that the wave of water privatisation of the 1980s and 1990s has let up, the main challenge facing water utilities in Latin America is expanding coverage of high-quality water services.

WFWO's Communications Team