



NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

FOOD & HUNGER - Higher grain prices have buoyed farmers in affluent countries but they have done more harm than good for the world's poorest farmers, the United Nations official in charge of helping small, poor growers says.

HEALTH - Member states of the UN World Health Organisation are expected to adopt an action plan to address mental health disorders, a leading – but often neglected – cause of suffering and disability around the globe.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Studies out of Ethiopia, India, Kenya and Niger show that children born during natural hazards, like droughts or floods, are more likely to be malnourished. Yet as the climate changes, it is poor countries - already struggling with hunger and food insecurity - that are increasingly likely to face these natural hazards.

AFRICA

HEALTH - Malaria continues to be one of the world's deadliest diseases, infecting more than 200 million people and killing more than 660,000 - mostly African - children annually, according to the UN World Health Organization.

CAR - Sporadic armed clashes, looting of orphanages, recruitment into armed groups, and widespread school closures have made life perilous for children in the Central African Republic (CAR) in the wake of a 24 March rebel coup by the Séléka alliance.

KENYA - Assistance to thousands of flood-affected families in Kenya has been curtailed by lack of a national disaster management body, poor coordination, poor rural infrastructure and other challenges.

SUDAN - Through frequent door-to-door polio immunization campaigns, South Sudan has vaccinated more than 94 percent of children under age five against the disease, according to the Ministry of Health. The immunization effort has been one of the country's few health success stories since it achieved independence a year and a half ago.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN - Delivering humanitarian aid in northwestern Pakistan has recently been hampered by attacks on schools, aid workers and polio vaccination teams, and bureaucratic procedures for aid projects are making matters worse.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ's education system was once the jewel of the Middle East. Today, it is struggling to catch up, with five million children out of school, according to a 2007 survey.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COLUMBIAN families are fleeing their homes to stop their children being recruited into rebel groups and drug-running gangs in a trend that is largely invisible, says the United Nations refugee agency.

WFWO's Communications Team