

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE is abandoning free health care for all after a brief experiment because of skyrocketing costs.

KENYA - Voluntary counselling and testing centres around Kenya are turning people away due to a shortage of HIV testing kits after the recall in December of more than one million faulty HIV tests.

SOMALIA - Corruption, sexual assault and lack of access to services plague tens of thousands of internally displaced Somalis who have sought refuge in camps in and around the capital Mogadishu. United Nations and aid officials on the ground say Somalia will remain the world's largest humanitarian crisis throughout 2012.

UGANDA - The marginalized western Ugandan is fighting extinction; forcibly removed from their forest home two decades ago, they have struggled to cope with modern life and have been ravaged by health crises, including HIV.

ASIA & PACIFIC

NEPAL - After the discovery of unsafe levels of arsenic in Nepal's groundwater more than a decade ago, government officials and aid groups are finally taking a critical look at whether their efforts have made a difference.

SRI LANKA - Experts agree that Sri Lanka's free pre and postnatal clinics across the island nation have helped bring infant mortality down to 15 per 1,000 live births and the under-five mortality rate to 21 per 1,000 live births.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA - The low humidity in Argentina's most agriculturally productive region has already caused a decline in grain yield - in particular corn and soybean - with ensuing losses for producers and the government. So far, this austral summer's drought has been less intense than the one that affected the 2008-2009 harvest. That drought, which was the worst in the last 100 years, caused a more than 37-percent drop in agricultural production and resulted in livestock losses.

BRAZIL - Community radio stations in Brazil are finding the internet and user-friendly information technologies to be valuable allies for their broadcasts, which focus on citizenship, social equity and human rights. Community web-radios are making great strides in this Latin American country where procedures for obtaining a federal government license to use a radio waveband are becoming ever lengthier and more bogged down in red tape, which blocks the emergence of new not-for-profit broadcasters.

WFWO's Communications Team