

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Risk of sexual violence, limited access to education, and health issues such as HIV/AIDS and forced female genital mutilation/cutting are just a few of the obstacles adolescent girls face in developing countries, yet these girls are the key to the future and the eradication of poverty, stress experts at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

UNITED NATIONS - With the majority (88 percent) of the world's 1.2 billion adolescents living in developing countries, investing in their education and training could break entrenched cycles of poverty and inequality, says the UN Children's Fund 2011 State of the World's Children report.

HEALTH - Researchers have identified a method to engineer a fungus called *Metarhizium anisopliae* to carry anti-malarial proteins and prevent mosquitoes from spreading the disease, according to a report. The engineered fungus kills the malaria parasite and rids a mosquito carrier of the disease within days.

AFRICA

SOMALIA - With aid groups having pulled out of camps for internally displaced people and more people fleeing violence in Mogadishu, the plight of IDPs is at its most extreme, say civil society sources and local aid workers in the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

SOUTH AFRICA - The Health Department's plan to introduce HIV counselling and testing in high schools has met with concern from various organisations and individuals. Many fear that the implementation of the campaign will create more problems, including breeding stigma and discrimination.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Continued insecurity, lack of funding and poorly trained teachers are hampering efforts to educate Afghan girls, according to research from aid groups. About 2.4 million girls are enrolled in school, but about 20% are not attending classes on a regular basis.

BANGLADESH - Government surveys showed a reduction from 1996 to 2009 in the percentage of children underweight for their age (56 to 43 percent); stunting, or short for age, (55 to 41 percent); and wasting, or underweight for height, (18 to 13 percent) - though this translated into a still high 2.1 million acutely malnourished children.

WFWO's Communications Team