

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - The challenges posed by world population growth to 7 billion by the end of this month, according to UN demographers, means that the UN will be making sustainable development its top priority over the next few years, says UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "Climate change, food-security issues, energy shortages, water scarcities, disease, health issues and gender empowerment: All these are interconnected," Ban says. "We have to address these issues in an integrated way."

AFRICA

GHANA - Female attendees at a Ghanaian forum on climate justice say rural women need a greater voice in the planning and implementation of climate change policies, according to local news reports. Ghana is already experiencing prolonged droughts and faces the prospect of rising sea levels, coastal erosion and other severe weather events as the effects of climate change intensify.

UGANDA - The shortage of health workers in Uganda is a "crisis", says the Minister of Health, and activists say expectant mothers are bearing the brunt of the country's staffing deficiency.

WEST AFRICA - Erratic rains and high imported rice and wheat prices against a backdrop of chronic food insecurity and malnutrition in parts of the Sahel, will leave millions of people at risk of food insecurity, according to the latest crop assessments.

ASIA

PAKISTAN has intensified efforts to contain tuberculosis (TB), which affects about 17,000 people, making the country sixth among nations with the highest burden of disease, according to officials.

THAILAND - The equivalent of 160,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools (400 million cubic metres of water) is set to run through Thailand's capital, which can only drain a small fraction daily, according to the government's flood relief operation centre on 26 October.

WFWO's Communications Team