

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD SECURITY - Weather events such as extreme temperatures and drought caused global agricultural losses of 11.4 billion dollars in 2011, while 12 million hectares of farmland are lost to land degradation every year, and unsustainable agricultural practices contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases.

HEALTH - At a time when the international aid budgets of traditional donors are being cut, or put on ice, the so-called BRICS, Brazil, Russia, India, China, along with South Africa, are increasing their levels of foreign assistance, according to a report by Global Health Strategies Initiatives. China stands out among the BRICS for its financial donations, but the others are contributing through innovation, investment and by sharing their domestic experience of economic growth.

AFRICA

HEALTH - Beginning today an estimated 111 million children younger than 5 will be targeted for vaccination against polio in 20 countries in West and Central Africa as part of a massive campaign by United Nations agencies, and their local partners. Some 58 million children will be immunized in Nigeria.

SAHEL - Mali is facing its "worst humanitarian crisis for 20 years", brought on by a combination of food insecurity affecting around three million, some 93,500 internally displaced persons in northern Mali, whose whereabouts and status is uncertain, and 113,000 refugees who have fled conflict in the north to neighbouring countries. Between 175,000 and 220,000 children will be acutely malnourished this year and access to northern Mali and the refugee destinations across the borders is problematic, all of which is topped off by a perennial lack of real interest in the Sahel.

UGANDA - Health workers manning five health centres in two refugee camps in the southwestern Ugandan district of Isingiro say they are overwhelmed by the high number of refugees and local residents in need of HIV services.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

CHILE - A magnitude 7.2 quake hits central Chile, rattling buildings and temporarily triggering a coastal evacuation on fears of a tsunami, but no serious damage has been reported.

HAITI - The United Nations has warned that a lack aid money for Haiti is putting hundreds of thousands of displaced people at risk by forcing humanitarian agencies to cut services in one of the world's poorest countries.

WFWO's Communications Team