

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - A new study into the linkages between rain, temperature and cholera shows scientists may be able to predict epidemics in time to save people from the life-threatening disease. Every year mostly African and Asian countries record 3-5 million cholera cases and 100,000-130,000 deaths because of the disease, according to the UN World Health Organization.

HIV/AIDS - That young people are particularly vulnerable to HIV and AIDS is well established, but a new report reveals for the first time new data on HIV prevalence in this group, which accounts for almost half of new adult infections globally.

AFRICA

CLIMATE CHANGE - Keeping low-lying Guyana's seawalls functioning is a challenge as tidal surges grow larger. In Kenya, prolonged drought means traditional medicines have run out and traditional forms of dealing with drought are no longer working

SOMALIA - Increased fighting in the Somali capital is taking a heavy toll on children, with more than half of all casualties in May under the age of 5, according to United Nations officials. Children are being treated for burns, shrapnel and bullet wounds, with 46% of the weapons-related injuries treated in May involving small children.

SUDAN - The prevalence of child marriage and conservative traditions in South Sudan keeps most young girls from attending school. South Sudan education system suffers from a general lack of infrastructure and qualified teachers, and UNESCO estimates nine out of 10 females are illiterate.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - The UN children's agency has called on Syria to investigate reports of horrific acts of violence against children who were detained during the current wave of unrest in the Arab country.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - United Nations and aid officials have reacted with skepticism to a new report that suggests the death toll from Haiti's devastating January 2010 earthquake may be significantly lower than estimates from Haitian authorities. Some observers worry the findings may adversely affect international donors' willingness to turn over funds pledged for relief and reconstruction efforts.

WFWO's Communications Team