

NEWS BULLETIN

30 June 2011



GLOBAL

HEALTH - Funding for malaria research and development has quadrupled in the past 16 years - new drugs, diagnostics and insecticides have been developed and a vaccine is in the final stage of testing - but the constantly adapting malaria parasite means the pipeline of new products and technologies needs to keep flowing.

AFRICA

FOOD CRISIS - Eastern Africa is experiencing what has been described as the "most severe food crisis in the world today", with at least 10 million people affected in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

CHAD - Chadian families are facing worsening food insecurity, becoming more indebted, and selling off personal possessions as they try to cope with the loss of remittances from relatives who have returned home from Libya.

DRC - Urban farming in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is providing a livelihood for thousands of city dwellers, with vegetables bringing in good money for small growers and helping to alleviate high levels of malnutrition nationally, agricultural officials say.

HORN OF AFRICA - The head of the United Nations World Food Programme today voiced concern over the plight of nearly 10 million people facing severe food shortages as a result of a prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa, adding that resources for the relief effort in the region are dwindling at a time when assistance needs to be stepped up.

ZIMBABWE - The mostly dry Chiredzi district in southeastern Zimbabwe will grow drier as rainfall becomes increasingly uncertain, but trophy hunting and rearing crocodiles for their meat and skins can become major money earners to help rural households overcome poverty while adapting to climate change.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR President Thein Sein's statement in May that a sustainable microfinance system should be established has sparked interest among aid workers and those already involved in the country's embryonic microfinance system.

NEPAL - Rapid urbanization and the extension of the road network in some parts of Nepal are bringing chronic, non-communicable diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular disease to formerly isolated rural communities, health experts say.

PAKISTAN - Up to five million Pakistanis are at risk from floods this year, partly due to the inadequate rehabilitation of survivors still reeling from last year's unprecedented deluge there and poor reconstruction, the United Nations says.

WFWO's Communications Team