

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - An estimated 655,000 people die each year from malaria, most of whom are children younger than 5. Between 2010 and 2011, cases of malaria actually fell by 17 per cent - as a result of simple, medicated mosquito nets given out to those who need them most. Many of those people are in Africa, where the prevalence of malaria is highest.

AFRICA

WATER - People in Niger, Mali and Nigeria could be sipping 50,000-year-old water from a two-aquifer system buried below their feet. But some of it may be contaminated.

BURKINA FASO - The United Nations humanitarian chief today stressed the need to respond rapidly to the food and nutrition crisis in Burkina Faso, which is affecting some 2.8 million people, and underlined the importance of building resilience in the country for future emergencies.

KENYA - Thousands of infants born in remote northern parts of Kenya in the past six weeks risk contracting tuberculosis (TB) due to a vaccine shortage, with medics warning that the effects could be severe in areas where there is already little access to maternity and vaccination services.

SAHEL - Unexpectedly sharp price rises in April for local cereals like millet, rice and maize in parts of Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad mean many vulnerable people in the drought-hit Sahel could find it even harder to get enough to eat.

UGANDA's campaign to encourage male circumcision - part of its effort to reduce HIV transmission - has attracted an enthusiastic response, but the bigger challenge is rallying resources so the health system can meet the demand for circumcision before it wanes.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PHILIPPINES - Authorities in the Philippines are reporting a sharp uptick in the number of gender-based violence cases over the last five years. The UN World Health Organization (UNWHO) described the level of sexual violence in the Philippines as "a serious cause of concern".

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - The conflict between Yemeni government forces and the militant Ansar Al Shariah group in southern Yemen has worsened the humanitarian crisis in a country where nearly half of the population is facing food insecurity and almost one million children are acutely malnourished.

WFWO's Communications Team