

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - British researchers have released genetically modified mosquitoes into the wild in a bid to combat the spread of dengue fever. The disease infects 50 million people a year and causes about 20,000 deaths annually.

AFRICA

FOOD SECURITY - African governments have yet to come forth with \$350 million in pledged funds to combat famine and food insecurity across the continent. African leaders vowed in August at the continent's first-ever famine fundraising conference for Africa to add to the funds being provided by traditional donors such as the World Bank and Western governments.

HEALTH - Africa faces serious funding gaps that could severely affect the fight against malaria, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance warns. Funding to support anti-malaria efforts such as diagnostic tests and insecticide-treated bed nets through 2015 is short by about \$3.3 billion.

D.R. CONGO - The lives of thousands of HIV-positive people in the Democratic Republic of Congo are at risk as the country faces declining donor funding and a severe shortage of HIV treatment.

COTE D'IVOIRE - Eleven people have died from meningitis out of 40 reported cases in four departments across Côte d'Ivoire as of 31 January, leaving people scrambling to access the vaccine for their families.

SOMALIA - The self-declared Republic of Somaliland is grappling with high child and maternal mortality rates, malnutrition and inadequate medical personnel, health officials says.

ZIMBABWE - With global funding for HIV/AIDS on the decline, Zimbabwe's innovative AIDS levy - a 3 percent tax on income - has become a promising source of funding for the country, with a dramatic increase in revenue collected in the past two years.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - Reform occurring in Myanmar has opened the door to the possible repatriation of 1 million refugees scattered throughout camps across Bangladesh, India, China, Thailand and Malaysia. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Karen and Rohingya refugees have no legal status and have been displaced for decades.

WFWO's Communications Team