

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - Donor governments are considering changes to the Food Aid Convention after drastic changes in food prices in recent years and the social unrest the increases have caused. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is encouraging developed countries to shift aid away from emergency response supplies to efforts that promote agricultural development.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - In northern Côte d'Ivoire vaccines are going bad, taps are dry and the families of women in labour are ferrying buckets of water to hospital, three days after the government of Laurent Gbagbo ordered power cut in the region.

KENYA - Access to affordable medicine for millions of people in the South could be at risk if the production and distribution of generic medicine from India is restricted.

SOMALIA - A United Nations human rights expert called on the international community to step up efforts to address the impact of the devastating drought in Somalia, warning that the country is on the brink of a humanitarian disaster if action is not taken immediately.

SOUTH AFRICA has been hit hard by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Some 5.5 million people - around 18 percent of its population - are infected. According to U.N. figures for 2007, there are 1.4 million AIDS orphans in the country, 64 percent of them being raised by their grandparents, usually single grannies.

ZIMBABWEAN authorities should release dozens of activists detained for discussing popular uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says. Zimbabwe has been criticized by rights advocates in recent weeks for a crackdown against civil society, political opposition figures and human rights campaigners.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA - Indonesia's recently released 2010 national basic health survey shows the country is making progress on several health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but is still struggling to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

WFWO's Communications Team