

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CHILD MORTALITY - Fifteen million babies, or more than one in 10 infants, are born prematurely each year. Over one million die soon after birth, or survive to face a lifetime of health complications, says a new report by the UN World Health Organisation and co-sponsors.

AGRICULTURE - Human development and biodiversity will not be the only focus of the Rio +20 Earth Summit in June, for which representatives of hundreds of states and non-governmental organisations will gather to discuss sustainable development.

AFRICA

GHANA - With a whopping 40 percent of Ghana's population under the age of 24, the government's ability to foster their development and include them in the country's development are critical to the country's future.

KENYA - Small farmers in Kenya are switching away from climate-vulnerable barley in favor of hardier sorghum, both ingredients in high demand by the country's largest brewers of beer. Erratic weather patterns linked to chronic shortages of rainfall have meant that there is not enough moisture to grow barley.

SAHEL - Sahelian governments and local and international aid groups are struggling to cope with both the continual arrivals of people fleeing the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal in northern Mali, and the mounting number of hungry people across the region as the lean season gets underway.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN - In northern Pakistan, one in ten children dies before the age of five from diseases such as polio, measles or hepatitis, despite the availability of vaccines. And while health workers feared visiting this region, which includes the mountainous Swat district controlled by the Taliban until 2009, local people also fear the potentially life-saving vaccines.

WFWO's Communications Team