

# NEWS BULLETIN

5 JULY 2012



## GLOBAL

**FOOD** - Only 13 diseases or infections transmitted from animals to humans like tuberculosis (TB) and Rift Valley fever, are responsible for around 2.4 billion cases of human illness and 2.2 million deaths per year, mostly in low- and middle-income countries. The UN World Health Organization (UNWHO) has noted that at least 61 percent of all human diseases, and 75 percent of emerging infectious diseases, are zoonotic or caused by a bacterium, virus, fungus or other communicable disease agent picked up from an animal source.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Even if countries cut drastically their emissions of greenhouse gases, the rise in sea levels would only be slowed for hundreds of years, according to research published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Scientists say that heat in lower layers of oceans would continue to cause sea rise regardless of what happens with air and surface layer temperatures.

## AFRICA

**UGANDA** - Uganda's Health Ministry has begun rolling out its first treatment programme for multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and expects to treat some 250 confirmed cases of the disease.

**SWAZILAND** - The recent announcement by a local chief that he is living with HIV has brought the conservative world of traditional Swazi leadership into the thrust of 21st century AIDS mitigation efforts.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**BANGLADESH** - Birth registration data is being made available online in Bangladesh in an effort to combat child marriages. Still, while a six-year project to furnish birth certificates to all citizens has been finding success, root causes of early marriages continue to contribute to rates of child marriage that affect some 66% of rural women.

**CAMBODIA** - The UN World Health Organization (UNWHO) says it is helping Cambodia investigate the cause of an unknown disease that has killed at least 60 children under seven years old, most of whom died within 24 hours of being admitted to hospital.

**INDONESIA** - Despite progress in reducing maternal deaths in Indonesia, international organizations, health professionals and community workers say pregnancy still puts the health of women at greater risk.

**PHILIPPINES** - The government of the Philippines is aiming to save its "failed" national family planning programme and drastically cut maternal deaths by spending 500 million pesos (almost US\$12 million) on contraceptives in 2012.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**HEALTH** - Three people have died of cholera and another 50 have been diagnosed with the illness in an outbreak caused by contaminated well water, according to the Cuban government. It blamed recent heavy rains and high temperatures for the water problems, which forced the closure of some wells and the chlorination of the water system in the hardest hit areas.

WFWO's Communications Team