

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - As the world's supply of staple grains grows tight, scientists are learning about the discovery in South Africa of yet another deadly variant of Ug99 stem rust, a virulent fungal disease that can devastate wheat crops within weeks.

HEALTH - A new international study published in *The Lancet* finds that extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) is more widespread than previously thought, and growing, leading researchers to reiterate calls for better infection control and new drugs.

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO - A boom in Burkina Faso's gold mining over the past three years has made the country one of Africa's leading producers, but it is also luring children - some as young as six - out of school.

GUINEA / SIERRA LEONE - Heavy rainfall is accelerating the spread of cholera in Sierra Leone and Guinea, where existing health risks such as poor hygiene practices, unsafe water sources and improper waste management are believed to have triggered the disease which has killed 327 people and infected more than 17,400 in both countries since February.

TANZANIA - After years of resisting voluntary repatriation efforts, tens of thousands of Burundians in Tanzania now face a deadline to leave by the end of 2012, following a decision to put a formal end to their refugee status.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Despite government efforts to control pesticide misuse, farmers in Bangladesh continue to expose themselves and their communities to high health risks, experts say.

INDONESIA - While Indonesia in relative terms is cutting the number of malnourished children under the age of five, wasting and stunting - especially in certain pockets of the country - remain a major concern, say health experts.

PAKISTAN - The first heavy rains of the 2012 monsoon, which have claimed at least 26 lives in northern Pakistan over the past four days, with torrents sweeping away houses and inundating villages, is raising questions about the effectiveness of preparedness measures.

SRI LANKA - More than three years after the end of Sri Lanka's 1983-2009 civil war, most Sri Lankan refugees in India say they would rather not return, citing economic hardship and concern over human rights abuses.

MIDDLE EAST

OPT - Polluted water in the Gaza Strip is seriously affecting people's health and the situation looks set to get worse, the UN warns in a new report.

WFWO's Communications Team