



NEWS BULLETIN



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6 February 2013

AFRICA

DRC - Health experts, including those from the UN World Health Organization (UNWHO), are considering introducing immunization campaigns as a way of dealing with cholera in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the disease is endemic.

ETHIOPIA has made progress in lowering maternal mortality rates, but a weak health system means many women are still succumbing to preventable complications before, during and after childbirth.

SOMALIA - With security improved following the retreat of Al-Shabab insurgents from urban areas of south and central Somalia, aid agencies have increased health services and expanded emergency healthcare, reaching previously inaccessible areas.

SWAZILAND - The relief felt by health officials and activists several months ago at the apparent outlawing of child marriages now appears to have been premature, with Swaziland's traditional leadership recently declaring that such unions are acceptable under customary law.

UGANDA - All people who seek treatment in health centres in Uganda will be offered HIV testing and counselling under a new plan to increase access to HIV prevention and treatment.

ASIA & PACIFIC

POPULATION - Stronger civil registration systems are needed in Asia, home to 60 percent of the world's population, to ensure the legal and human rights of all, and facilitate health planning, experts say.

BANGLADESH - Health experts in Bangladesh have reported a fresh outbreak of the Nipah virus, with 10 deaths in the past few weeks. If infected you have a high chance of dying.

CAMBODIA - Health authorities in Cambodia will bolster public awareness campaigns on H5N1 avian influenza after four people became infected in January, resulting in two fatalities.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - A large-scale survey of cervical cancer will be launched later this month in Papua New Guinea (PNG), where more than 1,500 women die of the disease each year.

MIDDLE EAST

OPT - Health officials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) are calling on residents to get vaccinated against the H1N1 virus ("swine flu") after 25 deaths in recent weeks.

WFWO's Communications Team