

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WORLD HEALTH DAY, 7 April - Drug resistance is becoming more severe and many infections are no longer easily cured, leading to prolonged and expensive treatment and greater risk of death, warns the UNWHO on World Health Day. Under the theme "Combat Drug Resistance", UNWHO calls for urgent and concerted action by governments, health professionals, industry and civil society and patients to slow down the spread of drug resistance, limit its impact today and preserve medical advances for future generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE - United Nations backed talks on climate issues began Tuesday in Bangkok with heated debate over how to extend the Kyoto Treaty, which expires in 2012. Japan and Russia remain firmly opposed to extended emissions cuts in the existing agreement as the world's two largest polluters - the US and China - are exempt. Developing countries want to see rich countries commit to a second phase and warn failure to reach consensus could affect efforts to reach broader climate change agreements.

HUMAN RIGHTS - The head of the UN Refugee Agency has praised the countries bordering African conflict zones, as well as Italy and Malta, for sheltering refugees and migrants fleeing violence and economic hardship.

AFRICA

Africa Region - Investment to support the development of small farming capabilities in Africa would reduce hunger and promote business, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan says. Africa contributes 3% to the global economy, but observers predict the rising value of the continent's land and crops could catapult its annual GDP from \$1.5 trillion to \$2.6 trillion by 2020.

COTE D'IVOIRE - Ivoirians who have fled to eastern and southeastern Liberia are choosing to settle in villages rather than camps and transit centres, making them harder to help, say NGO workers.

NAMIBIA - Water levels in flood-hit northern Namibia "are significantly higher than they were in 2009, when flooding affected an estimated 350,000 people," the UN Office of the Resident Coordinator said in a situation report released on 5 April 2011.

SWAZILAND - The fight against tuberculosis in Swaziland will be reinforced on two fronts this month. A new tool for the quick and accurate diagnosis of TB will begin its roll out and a monthly stipend for treatment supporters will help ensure patients get through the lengthy and unpleasant course of TB drugs.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Scientists in Brazil have created the first map of clusters of antibiotic resistance in Brazil, linking the phenomenon to abuse of the drug and opening doors to guide public policies for antibiotic prescription and sales.

HAITI - About 25% of people left homeless by the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti face eviction from camps where they live as the rainy season approaches, the International Organization for Migration warns.

WFWO's Communications Team