



News Bulletin

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Authorities in 26 African countries announced a joint push to eliminate malaria deaths by 2015. To meet that goal, the program would need to provide bed nets, insecticides and medicine to every person on the continent by the end of 2010.

KENYA - Kenyan researchers have developed a scientific model to predict malaria outbreaks in East Africa up to three months in advance. The system works by combining weather predictions, information about the reproductive mechanisms of mosquitoes and data on geographical formations of particular areas to predict surges in malaria.

MALAWI - Services to prevent the mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV are gaining ground in Malawi but the country continues to battle drug shortages and mothers and infants that disappear to follow-up and treatment.

SOMALIA - Somaliland needs own plan for climate change - The human and environmental disruption wreaked by drought in Somaliland, where more than 60 percent of people raise livestock for a living, means the self-declared, but barely recognized, independent state should draw up its own plan for climate change adaptation, according to a new report.

SOUTH AFRICA will use the patents and expertise freely available from a recently created shared patent pool to develop new drugs to tackle tuberculosis and malaria.

TANZANIA - AIDS activists kicked out of Tanzania during World Economic Forum - The Tanzanian government has deported several AIDS activists and cancelled a demonstration to protest decreasing funding for HIV at the World Economic Forum in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

UGANDA - Efforts to help rural Ugandan women earn livelihoods and contribute to development goals for their communities are limited by traditional values that leave women little room to make decisions without approval from their husbands. More robust engagement with men on the value of female empowerment would help women take on greater role, experts note.

ZIMBABWE - Zimbabwe has been given 5.6 million US dollars from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to fight a growing measles epidemic that has killed at least 384 children so far. The UN said on Wednesday that the CERF contribution will help provide urgently needed immunisation for around five million children in the country.

■ASIA

MYANMAR - Female-headed households struggle in cyclone-affected area - About 14 percent of households in Myanmar's Cyclone Nargis-affected region are headed by women, mostly widows, according to a report published in March entitled Women's Protection Assessments.

VIETNAM - Showers at the end of April offered relief from the drought across swathes of Vietnam's northern Red River Delta and central region, but other parts of the country continue to suffer.

■MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Region - Environmentalists issue stark warning on River Jordan - Two recent reports by a coalition of Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian environmentalists paint a grim picture of the state of the River Jordan, and urge swift action.

WFWO's Communications Team