

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - As people across the developing world adopt lifestyles common to wealthier Western countries, they are more likely to be afflicted with cancer, according to a study by the UN World Health Organization. The International Agency for Research on Cancer projects that cancer rates globally will rise 75% as a result of increasingly unhealthy diets and lack of exercise.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Despite less-than-desired progress at recent United Nations climate talks, developing countries, behind the efforts of developing-country groups, have started overcoming resistance to assessments of the cost of failing to combat climate change.

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA - Successful HIV testing campaigns in Ethiopia are showing a ten-fold jump in the number of people testing each year since 2005.

MALAWI's new president, Joyce Banda, has inherited an unenviable to-do list from former president, and AIDS activists are hoping that bolstering the donor-dependent AIDS response will be one of her most urgent priorities.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - Millions of the world's poorest people could have easier access to life-saving drugs if India introduces an air ticket tax to help fund purchases of cheap medicines for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, a senior UN official said.

PAKISTAN - A report by the United Nations children's fund indicates that only 55% of parents in regions of Pakistan at high risk of polio infection are aware that their children can be protected from the disease through immunization.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA's high fertility rate is exerting pressure on land and food production in a country where 80 percent of the population lives in rural communities. But the National Agricultural Research Institute argues that traditions of subsistence agriculture provide a firm foundation to build food security for a growing population.

THAILAND - A drug being tested on 4,000 children in Thailand is widely seen as the best vaccination hope against the mosquito-borne virus that causes dengue fever, also known as breakbone fever, which affects an estimated 100 million people annually.

WFWO's Communications Team