

NEWS BULLETIN

8 June 2011



GLOBAL

WORLD OCEANS DAY, 8 June - The oceans are essential to food security and the health and survival of all life, power our climate and are a critical part of the biosphere. The official designation of World Oceans Day is an opportunity to raise global awareness of the current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans.

WORLD FOOD - Citing dwindling stocks and only small production increases for the majority of crops, a new United Nations report released today says world food prices are likely to remain high for the rest of this year and into 2012. The biannual **Food Outlook** published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization states that the next few months will be critical in determining how the major crops will fare this year, according to a news release issued by the Rome-based agency.

HEALTH - For the first time ever in many of the world's poorest countries, the rotavirus vaccine, among others, will be made available to children under an agreement between several drug companies, which over the next five years aims to vaccinate 50 million children, potentially saving up to 4 million lives.

MALARIA - Clinical trials of an enhancement to a new malaria vaccine were scheduled to begin this summer in a bid to increase the effectiveness of the drug 80%. The trials would measure the effects of an amended version of the current vaccine, to which scientists have added an engineered common cold virus intended to generate a stronger response by the immune system.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - The post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire delayed by several months a distribution of mosquito nets - a pillar of the country's strategy to combat malaria, a leading killer of children.

DRC - Five years after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) revised its laws against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), these crimes continue to go unpunished because of judicial inaction and a legal culture at odds with the changes. The laws, ignored and misinterpreted, have left escalating numbers of sexual violence survivors unprotected, and perpetrators free to violate again.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian staff are helping with relief efforts in Haiti, where floods sparked by torrential rains earlier this week have killed at least 10 people in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

WFWO's Communications Team