

NEWS BULLETIN

8 JUNE 2012



AFRICA

MALARIA - The distribution of bed nets has helped prevent malaria, but researchers say that is not enough. Seasonal malaria chemoprevention, the pre-emptive treatment of children in regions highly susceptible to the disease, is being advocated to help control the disease in Africa despite financial and logistic impediments.

CONGO - Tens of thousands of people who have fled renewed violence in eastern Congo are getting too little aid and face a humanitarian disaster without urgent assistance, the United Nations has warned in a statement.

KENYA - The Kenyan government will begin distributing free syringes and needles to more than 50,000 injecting drug users across the country in the next month. Policy-makers and experts said the decision was reached following concerns over the spread of HIV and other blood-borne illnesses through injection drug use.

MALI - The UN refugee agency says the humanitarian emergency sparked by conflict in Mali has escalated beyond expectations, and has raised its funding needs for operations to help people uprooted by the violence this year to \$153.7 million from the \$35.6 million it requested in February.

SAHEL - Drought-stricken families counting on a better harvest in Africa's Sahel region this year could see their hopes devastated by an invasion of locust, an official of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation warns.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CLIMATE CHANGE - The growing number of natural disasters linked to climate change has pushed global and local insurers to put a cap on their liability, leaving policy holders vulnerable to financial losses in the event they suffer major destruction. Recent catastrophes such as flooding in Thailand and Australia, earthquakes in New Zealand and the tsunami in Japan have caused enormous losses to global insurers and reinsurers.

WFWO's Communications Team