



Today's news

...in brief

Prepared by the Science & Public Affairs Unit

Source: **The New Vision**

Date: Monday, May 03, 2010

Country: Uganda

Mukono district starts male medical circumcision.....Pg36

Mukono district, on Friday, became the second district in Uganda, after Kayunga, to launch mass male circumcision. So far, 950 men have been circumcised out of the target of 2,000. The exercise is aimed at reducing the spread of HIV and effectively eradicating the disease by emphasizing the use of circumcision in addition to other preventive strategies. Adult male circumcision was endorsed by the World Health Organization as an effective HIV/AIDS prevention strategy. Three trials in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa have demonstrated that male medical circumcision reduces the rate of HIV infection in heterosexual relationships by 60%.

Source: **Capital FM**

Date: Friday, April 30, 2010

Country: Kenya

Kenya equipped to detect malaria epidemics.....

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Kenya-equipped-to-detect-malaria-epidemics-8277.html>

A group of scientists in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have devised a new way of predicting malaria epidemics three months before they occur. Lead Scientist Dr. Andrew Githeko said that the new technology uses computations of climate data to look for conditions that could hasten the breeding of mosquitoes.

"The model is able to identify the threat very early and gives you two to three months' warning before the actual event happens," Dr. Githeko said. It had been tested for the last two years in Western Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, and had proven to have a very high predictive power and consistency.

"During epidemics, we used to have malaria cases increase at between 100 and 500%. We estimate that if we intervene in time, we can actually prevent the cases from going up to 500%," he said. Dr. Githeko said the model had been selected by the United Nations Climate Change framework's adaptation policy as an example of practical adaptation to climate change, and was documented in the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report.

It is estimated that about 3.7 million Kenyans are at risk of malaria infection annually and the government recommends use of insecticide treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria infection.

Source: **United Nations News Center**

Date: Monday, May 03, 2010

Country: Global news service

Non-Communicable Diseases responsible for 60% deaths worldwide.....

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34359>

Non-Communicable Diseases such as cardiovascular and chronic respiratory illnesses, diabetes and cancer are imposing a much greater burden on the poorest countries than on richer economies and must be tackled as a development issue, United Nations health experts have warned.

The Director of the Population Division in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Hania Zlotnik, noted the irony that the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases in developing countries was the result of success in combating communicable diseases. The consequent ageing of the population means that "people do not die early in life, they die much later in life and it is more likely that then they will die of a non-communicable disease," she said.

Four chronic diseases - cardiovascular, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory illness - are responsible for 60% of the world's deaths and 80% of these deaths are happening in the poorest populations of the world. "There should not be global development initiatives that continue to ignore non-communicable diseases as if they do not exist in countries of sub-Saharan Africa and populations who are poor," Zlotnik said, stressing that governments have to recognize the social determinants and behavioral issues, such as smoking, unhealthy diets, alcohol and lack of physical activity as people urbanize.

Non-Communicable Diseases currently account for 35 million deaths annually worldwide out of 58.7 million, the majority of them in low and middle-income countries (28.1 million). In developing countries alone, an estimated 8 million such deaths per year are premature, that is below 60 years of age.