

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The world's least-developed countries have recorded relatively high growth in recent years, but are increasingly under stress from record highs in food and fuel costs, as well as the impact of climate change. A UN conference in Istanbul urged investment in 48 such countries to help propel and sustain global economic recovery.

ENVIRONMENT - Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power can produce enough supply to power the world and help fight global warming, according to a report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Building capacity and use of renewables would cost only 1% of global GDP and help keep greenhouse-gas concentrations below levels where scientists predict climate change would become irreversible.

FOOD - Maize and wheat production have been 3.8 and 5.5 per cent lower, respectively, than they would have been without the temperature rises associated with climate change since the 1980s, according to the statistical analysis. Rice and soya yields have dropped in some parts of the world and risen in others, so overall the warming has not changed their net global production.

WATER - Ensuring that people have access to safe and affordable water supplies will be a major challenge for many developing countries as populations grow and agriculture and industry expand over the coming decades. One of the greatest threats to water security is simply scarcity, where demand outstrips supply. This can result from geography, overexploitation or inadequate infrastructure, and climate change will put further pressure on the availability of freshwater in many parts of the world.

AFRICA

POVERTY - Africa's emerging middle class can help promote poverty reduction efforts across the continent by increasing demand for products, investment in local markets and workforce, and applying pressure on governments to promote accountability. About one-third of Africans are now middle class, although that figure covers a wide swath of income groups, including some living on as little as \$2 per day, according to the African Development Bank.

LYBIA / TUNISIA - At least 40,000 people have fled the fighting in the area since April. Last week, according to UN Refugee Agency, more than 8,000, mostly ethnic Berbers, arrived at Dehiba, a border crossing into Tunisia. Most of the arrivals, mainly women and children, came with nothing.

UGANDA is short on data on HIV among the country's sex workers, but a new study shows that in the capital, Kampala, HIV prevalence among female sex workers could be more than four times the city's average prevalence. A study recommended HIV prevention interventions, including regular STI screening; voluntary HIV testing and counselling; condom promotion and counselling for reducing alcohol use.

WFWO's Communications Team