

NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - The worldwide rush for land during a period of growing population, and declining food security, heralds "a new era in the struggle for, and control over, land in many areas of the global south," concludes the International Land Coalition in the largest study to date of international land deals, which amounted to 200 million hectares from 2000 to 2010. The rural poor are often the losers in these deals, some 40% of which use land for biofuels production, because of poor governance, corruption, weak land rights and a lack of transparency in decision-making.

AFRICA

SUDAN - Hundreds of thousands of children are benefiting from a United Nations-backed polio vaccination campaign in a northern state of South Sudan, the world's newest country.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR / LAOS - Poverty and insufficient food are prompting farmers in Myanmar and Laos to cultivate more opium, the poppy paste that is used to make heroin, according to a report published Thursday by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. Production rose from 2010 levels by 14% in Myanmar, marking the fifth consecutive year of increases, and by 38% in Laos.

PAKISTAN - Efforts to promote family planning in Pakistan and the health benefits it can bring are struggling against the reality that many women are simply not in a position to make such decisions. Pakistan has the region's highest fertility rate with an average of four children per woman.

THAILAND - More than five months after heavy monsoon rains began inundating large parts of Thailand, an estimated two million people are still affected, with many communities isolated and dependent on aid.

WFWO's Communications Team