

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The economic powerhouses of Brazil, India and China appear to be trying to make good on pledges arising from UN climate talks in 2009, formally submitting to the UN climate body commitments to lower carbon-dioxide emissions per dollar of economic output.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - A new study has put the brakes on a rush by some countries and companies to establish plantations of jatropha, an oil-bearing shrub and cousin of the castor bean bush, as a source of biofuel.

**WATER** - Half the world's population now lives in cities, and this figure is expected to balloon to more than 70 percent by 2050, but in Africa, where the rate of urbanization is highest, the provision of clean drinking water has been shrinking steadily since 1990.

## AFRICA

**DRC** - An estimated 51 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) - or three quarters of the population - have no access to safe drinking water, even though the country holds over half of Africa's water reserves, the United Nations Environment Programme said in a new study released.

**KENYA** - HIV could lose its "special status" in Kenya's health system if a new pilot programme integrating HIV care and public healthcare proves successful.

**SWAZILAND** - Swaziland's government, feeling the pinch of a growing financial crisis, has suspended this quarter's pensions for the elderly and redirected the money to pay the school fees of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

**UGANDA** - Internally displaced people in northern Uganda face a difficult choice - whether to return to their ancestral villages or stay in camps hoping for better access to healthcare, as antiretroviral (ARV) drugs are in short supply.

WFWO's Communications Team