

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - A UN report warns that, while emerging economies in Asia and Latin America continue to pace the recovery of the global economy, gains remain fragile. The recovery could be hampered, moreover, by cuts in spending currently under consideration in the U.S. and other Western countries, the UN says.

HEALTH - Polio has shown over the past decade that it is a disease that won't die easily. Research by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - which has established a system designed to reduce refusals to be vaccinated - finds that, in order to eradicate the last 1% of known cases of the disease, the developing world must: better integrate social and political factors into assessments; find out what is driving resistance to vaccination; and design and monitor strategies to better enable people to feel ownership of their immunization programs.

CLIMATE - Extreme weather patterns associated with climate change are likely to adversely impact global food production over the next decade, the World Meteorological Organization warns. China, the US and Mediterranean regions will face some of the biggest challenges with food production drops.

SUSTAINABILITY - The World Bank is working to update the mechanisms it uses to measure the effects of the financing it provides, particularly in environmental and social terms, now that it is gearing up to administer the new Green Climate Fund.

AFRICA

SOMALIA - Telecommunications companies based in Somalia's largest open-air market have been hit by stray shells in the latest round of fighting, leading to internet failure in the past four days.

ASIA & PACIFIC

LAOS - Trafficked girls have few prospects upon their return home and often the family pushes them back into leaving, warn aid workers.

EUROPE

Europe is facing a hungry future unless it changes agricultural policies and makes farmers the main participants in agriculture research, a new report has found. And there is little hope of meeting Europe's recently announced goal of reducing the loss of biodiversity in ten years without making those changes.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - The death toll has risen sharply in the last few days of fighting in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a and hundreds of people have reportedly fled their homes, raising the possibility of a humanitarian crisis, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

DOMINICA REPUBLIC - A project to help reforest after the devastation of Hurricane David 32 years ago has grown into a plan to lift small coffee farmers out of poverty, all by the introduction of a gourmet ice cream.

WFWO's Communications Team