

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Global recycling rates of metals are low despite the fact the metals are inherently recyclable, and many metals are essential to clean technologies, according to a report of the UN Environment Programme. Less than a third of some 60 metals cited in the report have a recycling rate in excess of 50%.

HIV/AIDS - Donations from rich countries to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS in developing countries fell for the first time last year despite new evidence that suggests anti-retroviral drugs could be used to finally control the global epidemic that afflicts some 33 million people. Organizers of a UN meeting on HIV/AIDS slated for next month were unsure whether to set specific treatment targets in light of the economic slowdown worldwide, and the corresponding drop-off in funding.

AFRICA

CHAD - Villagers uprooted by violence in eastern Chad several years ago have begun returning to their homes with the help of the United Nations refugee agency now that security has improved in the region.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CHINA - Despite notable successes in the battle against HIV and AIDS in China, discrimination against infected people remains rife here and critics continue to question the Chinese government over allocation of treatment funds.

INDONESIA - A long-awaited moratorium by the Indonesian government on new forest concessions, aimed at curbing deforestation, has been welcomed by palm oil farmers but activists believe it does not go far enough.

SRI LANKA - Women could prove key to the success of Sri Lanka's rural water and sanitation projects, experts and villagers say.

WFWO's Communications Team