

# NEWS BULLETIN

31 May 2011



## GLOBAL

**FOOD SECURITY** - Since April the humanitarian community has been gearing up to deploy a new mechanism aimed at combining expertise on food aid and agricultural assistance to boost food security and make food insecure communities hit by a disaster more resilient.

**HEALTH** - Pharmaceutical industries in emerging markets are shifting their focus away from poor to developed countries, which will affect access to cheap generic medicines. Poor states should tackle this development by capitalising on the international trade exemptions they still enjoy regarding medicines as "intellectual property".

## AFRICA

**GHANA** - An independent United Nations human rights expert today commended the Government of Ghana on its commitment to realizing the right to health while underscoring key challenges regarding maternal mortality, mental health and adequate funding.

**MADAGASCAR** - Hospital patients in Madagascar are used to paying for everything from surgeon's gloves and gauze to drips and syringes, but a protracted political and economic crisis has further weakened the public health sector and put cancer treatment out of reach for all but the lucky few.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - A radical rethink of current energy policy can cut South Africa's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent in 2050 compared to 1990 levels. More than that - after an initial spike in investment - South Africans four decades down the line would pay 23 billion dollars per year less for their electricity compared to business as usual. Reducing South Africa's present reliance on coal and oil at the same time as focusing on energy efficiency could see the country use less energy in 2050 than it does now, even as population and the economy grow.

## MIDDLE EAST

**OPT** - The opening of Rafah on 28 May, the only official border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, has created a lifeline for Palestinians living in Gaza, but some, mostly refugees, will still be restricted to their localities because they lack identification papers.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**HAITI** - Health partners in Haiti are responding promptly to increasing cases of cholera in the Ouest department to ensure that the new infections do not spread to the capital, Port-au-Prince, a spokesperson for the United Nations World Health Organization said.

WFWO's Communications Team