

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The World Meteorological Organization has launched a tool to exchange information on weather-related events in a bid to promote disaster risk reduction and improved resource management. The WMO Information System will gather data on weather, climate change and water that will be shared broadly with interested stakeholders.

**SOLAR ENERGY** has become nearly as cheap as conventional sources far faster than expected across the developed world, causing costs for photovoltaic components to drop in places ranging from India and the Middle East, to Africa and North America. The plunge in prices has been devastating for some equipment-makers, especially in Germany and the U.S.

## AFRICA

**HEALTH** - Millions of Africans are living with intellectual and mental disabilities unable to access proper health care for their conditions on a continent where the ratio of psychiatrists is one to a half-million people.

**SAHEL** - The plight of children with acute malnutrition in the Sahel is as "heartbreaking" as in the Horn of Africa, the European Union's top aid official has warned following a trip to the region where millions face a hunger crisis.

**SUDAN** - Humanitarian agencies are racing to deliver food, shelter and medical supplies to South Sudan's troubled Jonglei state before the March rains make roads impassable and amid fears of fresh fighting.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**PHILIPPINES** - Filipino officials have publicly released detailed geo-hazard mapping that covers every square mile of the country in a bid to help communities better prepare to manage the risks of natural disasters. The maps color-code areas to indicate the risk level from floods, landslides and other disaster-related effects.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**BRAZIL** - The government of the state of Rio de Janeiro is unveiling a battery of creative tactics to engage the population in the battle against dengue fever, which is threatening to reach unprecedented epidemic proportions as a new virus strain hits Brazil.

WFWO's Communications Team