

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

ENVIRONMENT - A new United Nations agreement seeks to diminish the damage caused by electronic waste through the collection and recycling of hazardous materials, as well as by introducing measures to improve the ways in which this equipment is managed. According to the UN International Telecommunication Union, electronic waste is expected to grow exponentially, particularly in developing countries, yet only 13 per cent of electronic waste is recycled, many times without safety procedures in place.

AFRICA

CHAD - Late Chadian government recognition of a food crisis, a slow build-up from aid agencies, and severe pipeline constraints due to closed Libyan and Nigerian borders mean food aid has not yet arrived in Chad, despite many thousands of people having already run out of food.

SOMALIA - The top UN Children's Fund representative in Somalia says that peace doesn't stand a chance without long-term investment in the country's youth. Only about a third of the country's 3.7 million children of primary-school age are enrolled in schools, and many older children have little or no education.

SOUTH AFRICA - In South Africa, some 5,000 children, primarily from black families with modest incomes, are leaving state primary schools each year for private, low-cost, independent schools. The government admits that eight out of 10 state schools, some 1,700 of which are without water, and 15,000 of which are without libraries, are failing.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAKISTAN - The second anti-polio drive this year in Pakistan is finally under way after the government, under pressure by UN World Health Organization and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, agreed to pay vaccinators, who hadn't received salaries for nine months.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

EL SALVADOR - The escalating violence in El Salvador has not spared the country's schools, where students and teachers are victims of extortion, muggings and murder.

WFWO's Communications Team