

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - Global mortality among children younger than five years declined by 26 percent between 2000 and 2010 - meaning that the lives of some two million children were saved - but this is still not enough for many countries to meet the Millennium Development Goal of reducing deaths in this age group by two-thirds by 2015, according to recent research.

CLIMATE - The heads of leading scientific institutions in 15 countries are calling upon governments, especially among the world's biggest economies, to work with scientists to better manage resources and fund research in improved energy and water usage. The scientists also called for improved disaster planning and mitigation, as well as better public health systems.

AFRICA

SAHEL Region - Nontraditional donors, including Persian Gulf states and the private sector, are being encouraged to help combat hunger and malnutrition affecting more than 15 million people in the Sahel region of Africa, says the West Africa regional director for the UNWFP. "We are heading towards difficult times in the next three months in the Sahel if necessary efforts are not done now to help expand our programmes," he said.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA - The world's largest producer of teak, an Indonesian state-owned company on the island of Java, has again been awarded sustainable forest management (SFM) certification, but the company has a long and sometimes contentious relationship with forest communities in the area, and the forest rights of indigenous communities remain a potential cause of conflict.

NEPAL - The Nepalese government has launched an ambitious plan to curb the spread of malaria in high-risk parts of the country, where some 3,000 people were infected last year.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is affecting households that have not been displaced or are refugees, say international organizations. More than 10 million people, or nearly half the population, lack reliable access to food, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

WFWO's Communications Team