

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - The world needs to increase agricultural production 70% by midcentury and adopt more environmentally friendly methods to meet the needs of more people moving to urban areas, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says. More than 70% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050, as compared with 50% today.

HIV/AIDS - The UN General Assembly has pledged to dedicate an additional \$6 billion a year through 2015 for the antiretroviral drug treatment of up to 15 million people suffering from HIV/AIDS. The pledge, part of a declaration adopted by consensus Friday after seven weeks of negotiations to set new targets to combat the AIDS epidemic, aspires to close the gap in funding for global prevention and treatment, as well as discrimination against those afflicted.

AFRICA

MOBILE HEALTH - More than 70% of the world's cellular telephone subscribers live in low- and middle-income countries and mobile technologies can be used to help millions access health care, according to a report from the UN World Health Organization. Across Africa, public and private initiatives using mHealth applications are reaching out to communities and bolster traditional health facilities.

GHANA's policymakers should embrace abundant and clean biogas as a source of energy, to curb its reliance on dwindling wood resources for fuel, say researchers. The country has huge potential for producing biogas, including the technical expertise to construct almost 280,000 biogas plants, but it faces many obstacles in achieving this, according to a study published in the May issue of *Renewable Energy*.

SUDAN - The closure for nearly two months of a road between Northern and Southern Sudan has led to serious food shortages in Southern Sudan's Unity State, with government officials and aid workers expressing concern over the food security of thousands of displaced people, returnees and others.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA - Hundreds of people in the northwestern tip of Indonesia are still living in poor quality "temporary" accommodation more than six years after the devastating December 2004 tsunami.

WFWO's Communications Team