

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HEALTH - Boosting childhood immunization rates over the next decade in 72 of the world's most impoverished countries would save some 6.4 million lives, and result in long-term gains in productivity valued at between \$151 billion and \$231 billion, according to two studies by Bloomberg School of Public Health.

MALARIA - Investments in mosquito nets and medicines have resulted in a 20% percent drop in deaths attributed to malaria worldwide over the past decade, and three countries, Morocco, Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates, have been declared malaria-free.

AFRICA

KENYA - Pastoralists in the drought-hit northern and eastern part of Kenya are often caught up in conflict over resources as well as movements of livestock in search of water and pasture.

NIGERIA's Emergency Management Agency has accused state governments of overlooking early warning messages in the wake of flooding across the country that has killed an estimated 140 people and displaced tens of thousands.

ASIA

INDIA - Groundwater levels continue to fall in rural areas of Rajasthan, a region in northwestern India that already faces recurring droughts, prompting farmers to use and devise new technologies to water their crops, and highlighting a general trend of water shortages across the country. Environmentalists are pushing for tougher laws to prevent over-exploitation by water-intensive industries and to limit further drilling of bore wells.

THAILAND - Authorities in Thailand are preparing for more monsoon flooding, with 23 of the kingdom's 76 provinces already affected.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

GUATEMALA - Shrimp farming, one of the most destructive industries for coastal ecosystems, may soon be endowed with a set of standards that would supposedly vouch for environmentally responsible production, through the efforts of the World Wildlife Fund.

PERU - A new Peruvian law would not only protect the land ownership rights of indigenous populations, observers say, but set a precedent for native peoples in other countries in Latin America, and elsewhere, whose governments court development and foreign investment. The law is seen not only as helping to avoid protracted legal battles, but reducing the potential for social conflict.

WFWO's Communications Team