

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**DEVELOPMENT** - It now seems likely that happiness and well-being will join poverty reduction, and universal primary education, on the list of new sustainable development goals when government and business leaders meet next June for the Rio+20 summit in Brazil. Since the first-ever UN conference on happiness last month, momentum has been growing to redefine the notion of growth.

## AFRICA

**ELECTRICITY** - New solutions are being tried across Africa to generate electricity for the estimated 580 million people living without it. Wind turbines made from scrap metal in Kenya, and the low-cost distribution of rechargeable batteries in Tanzania, are among such projects.

**CHAD / NIGER** - With drought conditions chronic in the Sahel, many farmers give up trying to grow crops and head to towns and cities to find work.

**ETHIOPIA** - A new report by a California-based consulting firm, offered as a potential model for national mHealth strategies in the developing world, says that Ethiopia must do more to incorporate mobile technologies if it is to meet the Millennium Development Goals of reducing child mortality by two-thirds, and deaths of new mothers by three-quarters, by 2015. Only 8% of the nearly 85 million Ethiopians have cellphones.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**BANGLADESH** - Over the past two years some 25,000 women across Bangladesh have become micro-entrepreneurs, fishing, making compost, trading firewood, through a development project financed by the European Union and the UN Development Program aimed at reducing poverty, illiteracy and infant mortality while raising life expectancy and slowing population growth.

**NEPAL** - Life, already hard in Nepal's remote western region, is getting worse thanks to HIV infection brought back by men who go to neighbouring India for seasonal work.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**GREEN ECONOMY** - Latin America and the Caribbean have the potential to uncouple regional economic growth from fossil fuel consumption and develop a "green economy" based on cleaner energy sources, while at the same time reducing social inequalities.

**HAITI** - A year and a half after cholera first struck Haiti, a tiny portion of the population on Thursday began getting vaccinated against the waterborne disease that has infected more than 530,000 Haitians and killed more than 7,040.

WFWO's Communications Team