

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Few countries have or are developing sufficient regulations to cope with medical waste, United Nations Special Rapporteur Calin Georgescu warns in a report to the UN Human Rights Council. A quarter of the world's medical waste is hazardous, yet in many countries discarded materials go directly into dumps and water systems.

HEALTH - Incidences of breast and cervical cancer are growing around the world, exacting a deadly price in poor countries where access to qualified diagnosis and treatment is limited, according to a study published in the Lancet journal. Breast cancer cases worldwide have more than doubled in the past three decades, researchers found.

CLIMATE - The world's top 20 economies spent the bulk of the \$243 billion invested last year in clean energies, says the UN Development Program, which Wednesday identified more than 50 national public climate funds, 45 carbon markets and more than 6,000 private equity funds geared toward battling climate change. Brazil and China have two of the most successful national climate funds, said the lead author of a UNDP guide to help poor countries set up national climate funds.

AFRICA

CONGO - A health policy shift that saw the introduction in May of free Caesarean section operations in 35 hospitals across the Republic of Congo - to curb the growing rate of maternal and infant mortality - seems to have prompted a proliferation of such operations, according to health officials.

COTE D'IVOIRE - When banks and ports in Côte d'Ivoire reopened some five months ago it was a blast of oxygen for the economy, but many in the commercial capital Abidjan are seeing jobs vanish and food prices soar.

HORN OF AFRICA - Governments in the Horn of Africa will launch a long-term regional project to end drought emergencies, as over 13 million of their citizens are starving due to drought, a regional body has announced.

NIGER risks being destabilised by thousands of migrants, some of them armed, returning from Libya as it faces an impending food crisis, the local head of the United Nations' office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs says.

SWAZILAND - The vast majority of Swaziland's primary and secondary public schools have not opened for the new term, after the government failed to settle the outstanding education fees of US\$10.8 million for orphans and vulnerable children.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Afghanistan is intensifying efforts to eradicate polio by the end of next year, but security remains a major challenge especially in the southern provinces where the virus is localized, says a health expert.

WFWO's Communications Team