

NEWS BULLETIN

16 November 2011



GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - Efforts to implement the Kyoto Treaty's Clean Development Mechanism are being hobbled by a lack of transparency and governance, British researchers say in a report. The CDM is a vehicle to help developing countries slash carbon emissions through governments and private companies in wealthy countries investing in projects that reduce emissions.

AFRICA

CLIMATE CHANGE - While Africa has successfully avoided conflict over shared water courses, it will need greater diplomacy to keep the peace as new research warns that climate change will have an effect on food productivity.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - Displaced civilians in northern Central African Republic (CAR) are facing acute hardship, including a high incidence of child or teenage marriage and widespread use of children as labour, the United Nations refugee agency reported.

COTE D'IVOIRE - Participating creditors welcomed that these measures are expected to reduce the debt service (including the arrears) due by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to Paris Club creditors between 1st July 2011 and 30 June 2014 by more than 78% which corresponds to 1 822 million USD, of which 397 million USD cancelled. The Government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has committed to devote the resources that otherwise would have gone to Paris Club creditors to priority areas identified in the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

KENYA - A Kenyan pharmaceutical company has been given the green light by the UNWHO to start producing antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, which could result in significant savings for the government's growing treatment programme.

MALAWI is experiencing a drug shortage as the country's international donors remain reluctant to release aid meant for the health sector. Throughout the country, patients seeking medical treatment at government-run medical facilities are unable to access medication such as anti-retrovirals (ARVs), anti-malarial drugs and even painkillers. Health facilities are also experiencing a shortage of medical equipment such as gloves, and malaria and HIV/AIDS testing kits.

SWAZILAND - First there were national shortages of HIV medication, then of HIV tests, now Swaziland lacks the lab tests essential for initiating and managing HIV patients on treatment. To make matters worse, the country chose not to apply for the international funding that could have safeguarded antiretroviral (ARV) stocks.

ASIA

PAKISTAN's 90,000 "Lady Health Workers" may hold the key to the country's battle against pneumonia, the world's largest killer of children under five, according to a study published in a medical journal. The study found that children are more likely to recover if treated at home rather than a health facility.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MICROINSURANCE - Poor families are well aware of the devastating effects of unforeseen expenses on their lives. Microinsurance, a recent microfinance tool, has the potential to limit their vulnerability and combat poverty, experts say. The death of a family member, a health problem or an accident can give rise to sudden costs that the poor find hard to face, as they tend not to have available savings and are thus forced to sell off their belongings, their home or the goods they depend on for their living to meet their obligations.

WFWO's Communications Team