

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

RENEWABLE ENERGY - A combination of massive unmet demand, potential abundant renewable-energy supply and a lack of fossil fuel-reliant infrastructure are helping drive growth in renewable-energy investment across Africa, which rose from \$750 million in 2004 to \$3.6 billion last year. The United Nations designated 2012 as the year of Sustainable Energy for All.

AFRICA

FOOD SECURITY - Farmers across sub-Saharan Africa are using termites and ants to help increase crop yields in a bid to combat decreasing returns and increase food security. African farmers have long used termites to improve soil, but new research from Australian scientists found that treating land with termites or ants can increase production by more than one-third.

CAMEROON - A government program in Cameroon is helping rural livestock farmers convert animal manure not only into fertilizer for crops, but bio-gas for lighting, heating and cooking, as well as a source of added income.

D.R. CONGO - Food is rationed in DR Congo, where half are malnourished. The food situation in the country dropped from "alarming" to "extremely alarming" in the 2011 Global Hunger Index.

KENYA - Hospitals and medical clinics across Kenya are increasingly turning to solar power in a bid to counter rising energy prices and the effects of climate change. An increased reliance on solar power cuts operating costs for facilities and protects against surges or cuts associated with the country's main electricity infrastructure.

RWANDA - This will be a busy year for Rwanda's health centres as the country attempts to reach its goal of medically circumcising 50 percent of men by June 2013 as part of HIV prevention efforts.

ASIA

BANGLADESH - This year, around 22 million children below five years across the country would be administered two drops of polio vaccine and one red vitamin-A capsule each under the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI).

INDIA - The fight to eradicate polio in India is going so well that even Moradabad, the center of the concentrations of the disease in the country, is expected to be declared polio-free this year. If there are no more confirmed cases before Jan. 20, the country will have finished an entire year without a new victim.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Two years after a devastating earthquake destroyed Haiti's infrastructure and left 1.5 million living in displacement camps, hundreds of thousands of people remain homeless, the IOM says. More than 500,000 people are living in tents in and around Port-au-Prince, where conditions are deteriorating in the face of diminishing donor focus and funds.

WFWO's Communications Team