

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WOMEN - Providing poor women and girls with access to modern sources of energy isn't enough, in and of itself, to alleviate poverty and improve health, according to a study by the UN Development Program. "Energy services are often not affordable by the rural and urban poor, and on their own have little impact. The poor need support to generate income so that energy becomes affordable, which in turn will improve household living standards," said the head of the UN agency's climate and energy team for the Asia-Pacific region.

AFRICA

HORN OF AFRICA - Thousands of people in the Horn of Africa died needlessly last year because of the slow response to early warning signs. The authors criticised donors for refusing to provide significant sums of aid until malnutrition rates hit around 40 percent – far beyond the emergency threshold of 15 percent – and the crisis hit the media.

SUDAN - The main threats to women in South Sudan derive from chronic deficits in health, economic opportunities, access to food and gender equality, rather than weapons, despite the prevalence of militias and armed conflict, according to a Survey.

TANZANIA - Extreme weather conditions in Tanzania, such as drought, are prompting farmers to adopt different approaches to shore up production of corn, the country's major staple crop. Some are returning to traditional local varieties, while others are planting new, drought-resistant hybrids.

ASIA & PACIFIC

SRI LANKA - Tea in Sri Lanka is one of the country's biggest cash crops, but families working on tea estates are among the nation's poorest in terms of earnings as well as nutrition, say experts who back regional approaches to tackle nutrition disparity.

PAKISTAN - A sense of despondency, perhaps even desperation, has been encountered in official Pakistan health circles as 192 cases of polio were reported in 2011, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, despite the launch of a National Emergency Action Plan for Polio Eradication at the start of the year.

THAILAND is racing to implement water management schemes costing \$9.4 billion to prevent a repeat of last year's flood disaster.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Haitians has marked the second anniversary of the earthquake that ravaged their impoverished Caribbean nation, mourning the dead as their president held out hope for a better future. Hundreds of thousands of quake survivors remain homeless as the Western Hemisphere's poorest country struggles to rebuild.

WFWO's Communications Team