

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - UN climate chief Christiana Figueres is trying to spur what she calls a "push and pull process" between business and government to help shape policies that promote green technology, specifically solar and wind power to better compete against planet-warming fossil fuels. The world body is increasingly looking toward corporations to help keep temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

AFRICA

KENYA - Students in Kenya are creating applications to use ubiquitous mobile technology, some 26 million of the nation's 41 million people have cellphones, to track infectious diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The app is just one of at least 45 m-health projects, more than in any other country, according to the mHealth Alliance, in cash-strapped Kenya.

SOUTH AFRICA - More than seven months overdue, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant will finally be released to key South African AIDS organizations that have been struggling to survive. Some were on the verge of shutting down.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - In New Delhi, at several of the 7,000 vaccination booths that span the Indian capital, children get two drops of an oral polio vaccine, after which one of their pinkie fingers is painted with indelible purple ink, a procedure that is being repeated across the vast country, which aims to reach more than 170 million children under five on regular National Immunization Days. The next few years will decide whether the program, which has staved off new cases of the virus for a year, ends in success or failure.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - The Iraq Ministry of Agriculture is encouraging farmers to abandon traditional irrigation methods for more modern systems as long-standing talks fail to yield an agreement on more equitable water access rights with neighboring Turkey, Syria and Iran. Fluctuating water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers have harmed marshlands and greatly affected agriculture.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICO - A project in Mexico City that would capture the methane gas from the Bordo Poniente landfill to fuel a power plant, providing electricity to up to 35,000 households, could serve as a model for other large cities in the developing world. Such projects would not only generate revenue through the sale of electricity, but be eligible to receive carbon credits by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.

WFWO's Communications Team