

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT - Governments have been too quick to pass austerity measures without first introducing financial reforms, said the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The remarks by the former director general of the World Trade Organization came as the UN agency faces pressure by wealthy countries to confine its mandate to trade and investment, excluding global financial markets.

CLIMATE - The reduction of food waste and the improvement of soil fertility are among 15 agricultural innovations spotlighted by the Worldwatch Institute for their roles in addressing climate change, diminishing natural resources and other issues

AFRICA

CHAD - About 1 million children will suffer in 2012 from severe acute malnutrition in Africa's Sahel region, according to United Nations estimates; 127,000 of them are younger than 5 and in Chad.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MALARIA - The battle against malaria has not been won in regions including Southeast Asia, and more funding is needed, the UN World Health Organization said ahead of World Malaria Day. "The high burden of malaria is associated with economic and development activities. This is why malaria control should be the collective responsibility of various sectors," said the region's UNWHO director.

CLIMATE CHANGE will exacerbate water stress in Pacific Islands, particularly small islands that rely on seasonal rain for their freshwater needs, according to a United Nations Environment Programme report.

INDONESIA - Heavy pollution of river water by household and industrial waste in the Indonesian province of West Java is threatening the health of at least five million people living on the riverbanks, say government officials and water experts.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ / SYRIA - Syria is home to the largest Iraqi refugee population in the world - an estimated one million people, of whom 102,000 are registered with the UN Refugee Agency.

WFWO's Communications Team