

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

MDGs - Revised estimates of the costs of global achievement of the first six Millennium Development Goals call for an extra \$120 billion to be spent annually on health, education and poverty reduction, a sum that cannot be met by aid in light of the recent shortfalls in assistance from the rich world. Poor countries are being advised to consider other means, such as taxes, to fund development.

AGRICULTURE has been seen both as a cause and victim of global warming at the UN climate change talks over the past few years - something that has thwarted efforts to attract the investment agriculture needs, say scientists.

## AFRICA

CHILDREN - Forced child labour remains rampant in Central Africa, where poverty fuels the trafficking of children from poorer countries to oil-rich states such as Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and the Republic of Congo, according to experts.

HEALTH - The United Nations refugee agency today voiced its concern over reports of two suspected polio cases this week among Somali refugees living in camps in Ethiopia and three cases in the surrounding community.

MOZAMBIQUE - Two tropical storms in quick succession in Mozambique in recent days have left at least 25 dead, tens of thousands affected by flooding, and communications infrastructure damaged.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

GUYANA - Farmers in the South American country of Guyana are combating the effects of climate change by better protecting their crops from flooding, as well as using a new variety of rice specially adapted to wet conditions. Unless the country adapts to a new slate of significant factors, including not only temperature changes and drought, but greater rainfall intensity, rising sea levels and temperatures, and the risk of saltwater intrusion, agriculture could seriously suffer, according to a recent report by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

PUERTO RICO seeks to lower soaring utility rates while simultaneously shifting toward cleaner energy sources, it faces grassroots opposition to two major projects even though at least one is 100-percent renewable.

WFWO's Communications Team