

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

CLIMATE CHANGE - Ugandan religious leaders from various faiths are educating their communities about the environment and taking steps to preserve it, particularly in the face of deforestation. Uganda has lost more than two-thirds of its forests over the last 20 years as its population quickly expands and as access to electricity and other power sources except wood and charcoal remains low. Kenya plans to launch a cutting-edge green energy centre in December to help companies develop climate-friendly technologies, boosting employment and trade in the sector. The government and its project partners have identified three potential sites on public land in Nairobi for the Climate Innovation Centre. They anticipate the facility will spur a high volume of local and regional business activity in renewable power.

BOTSWANA - Patients and schoolchildren are emerging as the biggest losers from a strike by public service workers in Botswana which is entering its sixth week.

CHAD / LIBYA - As thousands of Chadian returnees continue to cross from Libya into Chad - via Niger - villagers near the arrival points face a "double burden" with remittances drying up and their scarce resources overstretched, said International Organization for Migration.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA has pledged some \$5 billion in development aid to African countries over the next three years in what observers say is a challenge to Chinese investment on the continent. While China pursues access to raw materials, and funds large infrastructure projects built primarily by Chinese labor, India will be helping African countries meet their development goals in a more equal partnership.

NEPAL - Around half a million people in Nepal may face extreme hunger in the coming months, as a lack of funds is forcing the United Nations food agency to cut its operations in South Asia's poorest nation, a UNWFP official warned.

PAKISTAN - After being struck by the most severe flooding in its history, Pakistan has formally approved the first draft of a national policy on climate change. "Pakistan is among the few developing countries which have prepared such a comprehensive national policy on a subject which is on top of the global agenda," said the former director general of the Pakistan Meteorological Department and lead author of the policy.

TURKEY - An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.0 shook northwest Turkey on Thursday evening, causing some damage, and one person died jumping from a building as the quake struck, the local governor said.

MIDDLE EAST

Several Middle East countries which over the years had failed to prioritize disaster preparedness have established national databases and should now be able to estimate their level of risk and improve response, according to the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat. "The region is affected by several hazards: earthquakes, floods, landslides and drought. However, disaster risk reduction has not been a priority for governments until recently," said the regional programme officer at the Cairo office of the UNISDR.

WFWO's Communications Team