

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**CLIMATE SUMMIT** - World leaders must act quickly to combat climate change, the head of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change, said as negotiators gathered in Durban, South Africa. Efforts to craft a successor agreement to the Kyoto Treaty are deadlocked by significant disagreement between developing and wealthy countries, and both the Canada and US are expected to raise objections against a climate fund designed to help developing countries manage climate change effects.

## AFRICA

**MDGs** - Although there has been considerable progress towards reducing maternal and infant mortality, millions of women and children in Africa are still in need of better health services, food and sanitation. Some 250,000 mothers are estimated to die in Africa every year, leaving behind infants with reduced chances of making it beyond five years of age.

**DEVELOPMENT** - Rwanda is leading a charge by African countries at a major aid conference to end the practice of tied aid, where development aid is tied to purchases from companies in donor countries, by 2013. Civil society groups, which have backed the call to end tied aid, are also pushing for guarantees from governments on the freedom of association and speech.

**BENIN / TOGO** - West African states are pledging to work together to fight the piracy spreading across the Gulf of Guinea, where it is damaging local economies and starting to impact on the region's trade, according to the United Nations.

**KENYA** - Several demolitions of housing near airports in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, have not only displaced hundreds of families but challenged the humanitarian response in urban emergencies.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - Nearly half a million asylum seekers in South Africa may lose their right to earn a living or study while their refugee status is being determined after indications that the government plans to amend legislation governing those rights.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**THAILAND** - As 16 billion cubic metres of flood water bore down on Bangkok in early October, international experts flew in to help the government deal with an unprecedented potential calamity.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**HAITI** - Almost two years after the devastating earthquake that killed over 200,000 people, Haiti is showing remarkable signs of progress, a United Nations official said today, stressing that reconstruction efforts need to be put into context to assess their effectiveness.

WFWO's Communications Team