

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE - Ultimately the success of the policies agreed upon at the upcoming Rio+20 summit in Brazil will fall to the world's cities, particularly in Asia and Africa. The international community can help cities achieve their sustainability goals by de-carbonizing transportation systems, removing barriers to local development financing schemes and encouraging the transfer of knowledge among urban centers.

AFRICA

BURUNDI is making progress in improving its human rights record, but impunity remains a challenge, a senior United Nations official said, stressing that the envisaged establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission will be a real test of country's commitment to upholding human rights.

DRC - Many national hospitals in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are not accepting new HIV-positive patients for antiretroviral (ARV) treatment. The only way to get onto a treatment list is to wait until a space opens up due to a death or drop-out, or seek the limited treatment options available outside the government's programmes, but few people can afford the drugs.

SAHEL - Speaking from Niger, a top United Nations official appealed to the international community to provide the resources needed to help millions in crisis in the Sahel region of West Africa, warning that the situation is critical and there is no time to lose.

NIGERIA - Hundreds of Nigerian physicians and polio survivors marched in the city of Abuja on Thursday to draw attention to the rise in reported cases of the debilitating disease.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR / THAILAND - Health workers carrying out malaria control activities - sometimes covertly - in conflict zones along the Thai-Myanmar border hope additional donor funding will help reduce infection rates that have remained almost impervious to health services.

PAKISTAN - Every Pakistani citizen would be covered against risks from natural disasters, including earthquakes, cyclones, droughts, floods, landslides and avalanches, under a new national insurance plan announced Wednesday. The country already has received a \$500 million loan from the World Bank to pay for the plan, which likely would include subsidies for the poor.

WFWO's Communications Team