

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Some of the world's poorest countries have made impressive gains in the fight against poverty, but the least developed countries still lag in efforts to improve living standards, the United Nations said today in a **report** showing significant overall progress towards achieving the global targets against extreme poverty.

FOOD - Cereal prices dropped slightly in the world markets in June, but were still 71 per cent higher than a year ago, with the fall attributable to improved weather conditions in Europe and the lifting of Russia's export ban, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported today.

GREEN ENERGY - Global investment in green energy rose by 32 per cent last year, driven largely by wind farms in China and small-scale solar panels on rooftops in Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme said in a new report on renewable energy trends released today.

AFRICA

HIV/AIDS - National AIDS programmes are feeling the pinch as the international community and governments rethink their prioritization of AIDS over other infectious diseases. The withdrawal of support for the fight against HIV is gaining momentum and it is time to get angry, according to the head of the Southern Africa HIV Clinicians Society.

MALARIA - In less than a decade, Africa has begun to drag itself out from under the weight of malaria, a disease that has plagued the continent for millennia, as a result of international and regional efforts that have made prevention and treatment of the disease a global health priority. Access to diagnostics and treatment is still lagging, however, hampering the chances of meeting the targets of the Global Malaria Action Plan and Millennium Development Goals.

GUINEA - The quality of a baby's first solid food and teaching families about proper nutrition and hygiene are now part of Guinea's agricultural investment strategy. Experts working on the 2011-2015 agriculture plan, to be finalized in the coming weeks, say the first-ever nutrition component stems from an increasing recognition that agriculture must be harnessed to improve nutrition and health.

ZAMBIA - Every year the Zambia government allocates billions of Kwacha for poverty reduction, but much of the money has been stolen or misappropriated.

ASIA & PACIFIC

WATER - Sound governance and knowledge of water management principles are crucial for sustainable water resources, a top United Nations official in the Asia-Pacific region has told the opening session of a regional conference on the issue.

BANGLADESH - More and more urban Bangladeshis, burdened by rising food prices, are seeking assistance under the government's open market system.

WFWO's Communications Team