

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - Dozens of countries have signed on to the Manila Declaration after meetings in the Philippines, agreeing to work together to protect coastal communities around the world from the effects of climate change. A United Nations Environment Program report published this month outlines ways in which countries can promote economic gain and stability through sustainable investment and development in the marine sector.

HEALTH - Thirteen of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies have agreed to donate drugs, as well as share research, to eradicate 10 neglected tropical diseases, among them Guinea worm, that affect some 1.4 billion people worldwide. "These ancient diseases are now being brought to their knees with stunning speed," said the director-general of the UN World Health Organization.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Hundreds of children in Côte d'Ivoire were separated from their parents when people fled their villages during post-election violence in 2011, but nine months after the conflict formally ended only a quarter of those children have been reunified with their families, says the UN Children's Fund.

MOZAMBIQUE - About 40 people have died and more than 100,000 are affected by twin storms that struck Mozambique 18-26 January, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

ZIMBABWE - Over the past few weeks some 900 residents of the Zimbabwean capital Harare have been diagnosed with typhoid, and about 60 have been admitted to hospital, say health authorities.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PHILIPPINES - The Philippine government has made geo-hazard maps, which outline areas prone to natural disasters, publicly available in a bid to reduce vulnerability at community level.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI has made significant progress in earthquake recovery efforts and the international community must remain engaged to help promote long-term development, says the United Nations Development Programme regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean. Haiti has worked to clear debris, enhance security and spur increased economic activity in the two years since the deadly earthquake struck but development is a long-term process.

WFWO's Communications Team