

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE - Arctic sea ice melt is occurring at an accelerated rate not seen for thousands of years, scientists warn. German researchers cite human-induced global warming for the rate, arguing weather influences and natural variables from year to year would not cause such dramatic decreases.

WOMEN - A report by the UN children's agency encourages greater school enrollment for girls, as well as vocational training for girls who drop out of school, in order to reduce the staggering 53.9% rate of child marriage across the Indian state of West Bengal.

AFRICA

MADAGASCAR - Production of Madagascar's staple, rice, is expected to be down 10 percent on last year and slip by 400,000 tons, according to preliminary findings by the UNFAO and the UNWFP.

RWANDA - HIV-positive Rwandans in discordant relationships will start taking antiretroviral treatment as soon as they test positive as part of a plan to boost national HIV prevention and treatment efforts.

SOMALIA - African leaders are rallying behind Somali authorities to promote security as vital to managing the drought-related famine that plagues the country while recording artists Bono and K'naan call for more aid and investment in Somalia.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Despite billions of dollars in aid and government funding over the past decade, Afghanistan still has about four million school-age children out of school, officials say.

CHINA - Chinese families relocated so that authorities can build canals between the country's north and south to ease Beijing's water woes are complaining resettlement plans have left them in shoddy housing and failed to compensate them for farmland they gave up. Efforts to construct the South-North water diversion have uprooted more than 345,000 people.

PAKISTAN - The United Nations has pledged to swiftly begin providing food, water and housing in the Sindh province of southern Pakistan in response to monsoon flooding that has already claimed the lives of 200 people, and damaged nearly 1 million homes.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Children make up 60 percent of the 100,000-plus internally displaced persons (IDPs) in southern Yemen, the UN Children's Fund representative in Yemen said.

WFWO's Communications Team