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In this Issue

14 January 2013

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA's health sector could greatly undermine the progress the country has made in the fight against HIV, authorities and experts say.

MALAWI - International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director urged Malawians to stick with tough economic reforms during a recent three-day visit to the country, but measures recommended by the Fund and implemented by President Joyce Banda have been deeply unpopular with many citizens who can no longer afford basic goods and services.

SUDAN - The United Nations warns of a worsening humanitarian crisis in Sudan's conflict-torn southern region, amid reports that people there are starving to death and others are surviving on roots and leaves.

SWAZILAND - Faced with increasingly unpredictable rains and soaring agricultural input costs, many of Swaziland's smallholder farmers are no longer able to make a living relying on traditional methods to grow maize, the staple crop.

ZIMBABWE - Chronic shortages of generic and antiretroviral drugs, stock-outs, high medication costs, and long distances to clinics are some of the hurdles people face in their quest to access essential medicines in Zimbabwe.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CAMBODIA - The trafficking of male Cambodians for labour exploitation purposes remains rife, says a report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

SRI LANKA - Recent extreme weather in Sri Lanka is likely to intensify the vulnerability of the poorest living in the country's hardest hit northern and eastern regions, experts warn.

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL / OPT - Palestinian communities in Area C, a zone that covers 60 percent of the West Bank, are among the poorest and most vulnerable in the occupied Palestinian territory, but development organizations that try to improve living conditions there say they are hampered by Israeli restrictions and bureaucracy.

SYRIA - About 1 million Syrians are going hungry due to the difficulty of getting supplies into conflict zones and the fact that the few government-approved aid agencies are stretched to the limit, the United Nations says.

WFWO's Communications Team