

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**HEALTH** - Surgery saves the lives of millions of people around the world, but only a tiny percent of them live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where a shortage of skills, supplies and infrastructure can turn easily treatable accidents and illnesses into lifelong disabilities and even death. The world's poorest receive only four percent of all major surgical operations worldwide, while 75 percent benefit the richest third of the world, according to a health study.

**ENVIRONMENT** - The collapse of wild populations of honeybees in North America and Europe is being repeated elsewhere in the world, prompting the UN Environment Program to urge significant changes to how humans manage the planet. While the collapse of honeybee colonies is not fully understood, experts believe it is linked to a drop-off in flowering plants as well as the increased use of insecticides, greater air pollution and the migration of parasites.

## AFRICA

**NORTH AFRICA** - The longer the political crisis in Libya goes on, the greater the risk to food security in North Africa because of the region's dependency on cereal imports, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. "In Libya, the situation may lead to a sudden disruption of imports and the collapse of the internal distribution system," said a UN official.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**AP Region** - Emergency officials in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia - two countries in the line of a deadly tsunami that has killed nearly 2,000 in Japan, left thousands more missing and wiped out entire coastal towns - remain vigilant, despite thus far being spared any spillover impact.

**AFGHANISTAN** - Some 75% of all civilian deaths linked to fighting in Afghanistan are being caused by attacks by Taliban and other insurgents, according to a report by the United Nations and an Afghan human rights commission. A sharp rise in assassinations, as well as suicide and roadside bombings, is largely seen as responsible for the 15% increase in civilian deaths to 2,777 during 2010, the highest tally since the war began nine years ago.

**PHILIPPINES** - The Philippines has ordered all local government units to check the integrity of structures in the wake of initial devastation wrought by a powerful quake in Japan, which triggered a deadly tsunami.

WFWO's Communications Team