

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## **GLOBAL**

**FOOD** - A recent study by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimated global food loss and wastage at 1.3 billion tonnes a year, which it calls a “major squandering of resources”. The amount of food wasted is shared almost equally between industrialized and developing countries. But while developing country losses are largely the result of pests, diseases, poor storage and inadequate transport for agricultural produce, in richer countries, perfectly edible food is rejected by retailers or thrown away as household waste.

## **AFRICA**

African economies will continue to enjoy high rates of growth this year, but that growth will only translate into job creation and poverty reduction if the State takes a larger role, according to a report released today by the United Nations. The report notes that Africa is still far from attaining most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the series of social and economic targets – such as halving extreme poverty, reducing maternal mortality and ending environmental degradation – that world leaders have agreed to try to achieve by 2015.

**SCHOOL** - Investment in education by sub-Saharan African countries is paying dividends, with more children than ever before now attending school, according to a new report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. But despite increasing their overall spending on education by 6 percent each year since 2000, many of the region’s nations are still far from the UN-set goal of quality education for every child, the report says.

**CONGO** - Indigenous forest dwellers of the Republic of Congo face extinction unless laws designed to protect them and their ways of life are implemented, a United Nations official working in the country has warned.

**HORN OF AFRICA** - The number of people requiring humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa could increase sharply in coming months due to below-average rainfall and high food and fuel prices, say aid workers.

**KENYA** - Hundreds of Kenyan AIDS activists held a protest on 18 May in the capital, Nairobi to demand that the government meet its commitment to increase annual health and HIV funding.

**NIGER/LIBYA** - Migrants who have fled the conflict in Libya to return to Niger say they are having to beg, steal, or sell off remaining animals or plots of land to survive, so as not to burden their already families, most of whom are struggling with food insecurity.

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

**AFGHANISTAN** - A growing number of young Afghan women are picking up pen and paper to join the Kabul press corps despite disapproving families, death threats and a society that limits their ability to work.

**CINA** - A UN study finds that the estimated 740,000 in China suffering from HIV and AIDS are regularly denied medical treatment at mainstream hospitals. Discrimination by health care workers, which is fueled largely by fear and ignorance, could mean that many among the afflicted shun medical care, according to the findings by International Labor Organization.

WFWO’s Communications Team