

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - Climate change cut global wheat and corn output by more than 3 percent over the past three decades compared to growth projections without a rise in temperatures, a study found. The impacts translated into up to 20 percent higher average commodity prices, before accounting for other factors, according to the paper published in the journal Science. The Asian Development Bank said surging food prices could push millions of people in Asia into extreme poverty and threaten the durability of the region's world-leading economic recovery.

WOMEN & GIRLS - The Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health got a boost at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, with 16 countries pledging support for initiatives including access to contraception, use of birth attendants, immunizations and curbing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "Political and financial support for action on women's and children's health is reaching new and encouraging heights."

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - 500,000 Ivorians, the majority women and children, have fled their homes due to post-election violence triggered by last November's disputed Presidential elections. One million people were displaced during the months of political deadlock that paralyzed the whole country.

SOMALIA - The self-declared republic of Somaliland has made key improvements in sectors such as health, education and infrastructure in the past two decades, its leaders say, despite its lack of international recognition.

UGANDA's constitutional court will hear a case brought by Ugandan environmental campaigners and farmers against the use of DDT to combat malaria on the grounds the government did not follow international guidelines or prepare local populations. While insecticides are considered an effective tool in the battle against malaria, broad spraying programs have disrupted the organic farming industry and development efforts.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - The rate of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon spiked in March and April in what environmental campaigners say is a response to an impending law that would ease land-use rules. The law, which would effectively give farmers who have illegally cleared land amnesty from prosecution, has attracted criticism for placing economic interest above environmental and development issues.

WFWO's Communications Team