



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Efforts to protect women and girls from wartime abuses and neglect have grown since the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling on combatants to protect against gender-based violence, but more needs to be done to ensure long-term recovery for victims, the UN Population Fund says in a new report. Governments around the world have increased trainings on prevention and treatment, and increased support for victims of abuse, but sexual violence remains a powerful weapon in conflict zones, according to the report.

■AFRICA

BENIN - More than half of Benin is underwater from floods unleashed from the recent weeks of heavy rains in central and western Africa. Some 1.5 million people have been affected, and 377 have died, as a result of the flooding, according to the United Nations.

NIGER - In Niger, officials say that foreign aid covered 80 percent of the country's needs during this year's food crisis, but the United Nations has warned that the country must rein in its population growth to prevent further crises. A senior U.N. official says that the population in the West African state, one of the world's poorest, could swell from 15 million today to 50 million by 2050 if current growth is not reduced.

MAURITANIA / SENEGAL - After nearly a year the UN Refugee Agency, Senegal and Mauritania have resumed the repatriation of Mauritians to a country they call "home" but for now represents mostly uncertainty.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN's Public Health Ministry in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) is opening 10 temporary eye clinics across the country to enable cataract operations to be performed.

BANGLADESH / INDIA - A new index published claims that Bangladesh and India are the countries most vulnerable to climate change in the world. Bangladesh at the top of the ranking because of its high poverty rates and large low-lying coastal regions prone to floods and cyclones. India was listed as the second country facing the biggest risks from global warming in the next 30 years, largely due to the pressures of its rising population of 1.1 billion people.

MYANMAR - A new report warns that eastern Myanmar is on the brink of a chronic health emergency following decades of conflict, human rights abuses and government neglect.

PAKISTAN's recent catastrophic floods has had many alternately worried and depressed, but the indigenous community that calls the mudflats between the creeks of the Indus delta home has been having a decidedly far different reaction.

■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - A new United Nations study released indicates that 61 per cent of former Iraqi refugees regret deciding to return to their home country. Most former refugees said they regretted returning to Iraq because of a lack of basic public services in Baghdad, economic difficulties and security threats, such as explosions, harassment, military operations and kidnapping.

WFWO's Communications Team