

# NEWS BULLETIN

21 November 2011



## GLOBAL

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - A United Nations-backed report confirms the link between climate change and current trends in extreme weather such as floods and heat waves, and warns that existing measures, even in developed countries, are not enough to cope with the severity of these events. The report, whose summary was approved by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reveals that high and low daily temperatures have risen on a global scale due to the rise of greenhouse gases, causing an increase in floods, heat waves, droughts, and other extremes associated with damage caused by high sea levels and heavy precipitation.

## AFRICA

**BURKINA FASO** - Authorities in Burkina Faso are urging anyone with access to reservoirs to produce food during the dry season, and distributing high-yield seeds and stipends to farmers in a bid to promote food security. Development experts are urging the government to also invest in small-scale irrigation systems to help counter drought.

**DR CONGO** - The United Nations humanitarian arm warned that \$5.5 million is urgently needed from donors to combat an outbreak of cholera that has infected more than 17,000 people in the DRC.

**MALI** - Foreign agri-investors, some two dozen in all, have been leasing greater and greater swaths of arable land in Mali, and now possess an area large enough to sustain more than half a million small farmers, according to a report published Thursday. "Corporations, fund managers and nations anxious to secure their own future food security have sought and secured large landholdings for offshore farms or speculation," says the report, which adds that such investment, which increased 60% between 2009 and 2010, offers few solutions to poverty and hunger in the country.

**NIGER** - The majority of villages in impoverished Niger are now considered to be in a food and nutritional crisis, the United Nations humanitarian wing warned, with the country facing especially tough times as the annual harvest season ends.

**SOMALIA** - The United Nations reported that three areas in Somalia which were declared to be in a state of famine earlier this year have emerged from the dire food crisis as a result of scaled-up relief delivery, but warned that the situation remains critical for millions of people in the Horn of Africa country.

**ZIMBABWE** - A shortage of clean water and adequate sanitation in one of the most populous townships in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, have caused an outbreak of typhoid. Experts warn it could herald the resurgence of cholera.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**CHINA** - If China were to mothball its most polluting industries in favor of more sustainable green businesses, incorporating renewable technology, the country would gain 9.5 million jobs over the next five years, according to a report released this week by the China Council of International Co-operation on Environment and Development, a body comprised of 200 domestic and overseas experts, including leading UN officials. These gains would far outstrip the costs of phasing out dirty sectors of the economy, the report said.

**TIMOR LESTE** - The fruits of Timor-Leste's recent double-digit annual economic growth are not being shared equally, with many rural people in the South-East Asian country being left behind, an independent United Nations human rights expert warned today.

WFWO's Communications Team