

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD SECURITY - The 925 million people who went hungry in 2010 are just one facet of an ever-worsening food security crisis. Both food producers and consumers face the consequences of price volatility and unsustainable agricultural practices - challenges that leave leaders on local and global levels alike seeking sustainable models for agriculture.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The world's richest countries have effectively thrown in the towel on signing a new climate treaty in 2012, according to negotiators, who say an agreement could possibly be reached in 2016 but only if it only came into force in 2020. The delay is expected to dominate discussion at the next round of UN climate talks scheduled to begin next week in Durban, South Africa.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Authorities in Cote d'Ivoire are set to institute reforms for the cocoa industry before the end of 2011 that farmers hope will result in increased income and stability. The reform process will also open up access to \$3 billion in debt relief from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

ETHIOPIANS are on the move. Not only are more rural people relocating to towns and cities, but the number of Ethiopians leaving the country has also ballooned in the last few years.

LESOTHO - Flagging economic fortunes and a persistent AIDS pandemic have devastated Lesotho, leaving little hope it will ever be able to pull itself out of its bleak poverty trap. Three out of five of the tiny southern African kingdom's children are living in dismal poverty. Every fourth child is orphaned.

NIGERIA - Polio is spreading throughout Nigeria at a time when the success of polio eradication in Africa rests on Nigeria stopping the virus, according to the UN World Health Organization.

SOMALIA - A high unemployment rate in the self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland, especially among school-leavers and university graduates, has fuelled an increase in migration, with hundreds of young people embarking every month on a perilous journey to Europe through the Sahara Desert, officials said.

SUDAN - Drought and other severe weather patterns associated with climate change are intensifying in Sudan, exacerbating food insecurity in a region where populations are struggling to cope with armed conflict. Repeated cycles of drought in recent years and a 30% to 40% decline in rainfall over the past few decades have turned millions of hectares of semi-desert land into desert.

ASIA & PACIFIC

EAST TIMOR - More than 40% of East Timorese continue to live in extreme poverty despite the country's double-digit economic growth, says the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

WFWO's Communications Team