

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - In an era of mass consumption in the West, the developing world is entering its second major hunger crisis in three years, with new figures from the World Bank showing food price hikes have forced 44 million people into economic hardship since last June.

UNITED NATIONS - Nearly three-quarters of activists and grassroots organisers working globally to safeguard women's rights are convinced that ending violence against women must be the top priority of the newly formed U.N. Women, according to a report launched Wednesday at the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York City.

HEALTH - More than two billion people, mostly in low-income countries, lack adequate access to life-saving surgical procedures, which is a potential obstacle to achieving health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), say specialists.

AFRICA

Africa Region - Most West and Central African countries are not likely to meet Millennium Development Goals sanitation targets, according to UN. Child mortality rates are among the highest in the world, with diarrhoea estimated to cause up to 20 percent of these deaths.

MADAGASCAR - The five-day rampage of Cyclone Bingiza across Madagascar killed at least 14 people and destroyed nearly 6,000 homes, the office of the UN resident coordinator said in a situation report on 21 February.

NIGERIA - Minister of Environment, John Odey has called on states across the federation to key into the United Nations programme of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) in order to enable Nigeria reduce the impact of carbon emissions on the environment.

ZIMBABWE's remarkable HIV decline in 10 years can mainly be ascribed to behaviour change, an analysis has revealed. Researchers have been baffled by the HIV prevalence among Zimbabwean adults which has fallen from 29% in 1997 to 16% in 2007, especially in the context of severe social, political and economic disruption.

WFWO's Communications Team