

# NEWS BULLETIN

25 July 2011



## **GLOBAL**

**CLIMATE** - The head of the UN climate panel was urging world governments not to wait for more scientific evidence of climate change before battling the effects of global warming, while members of the world body's powerful Security Council were considering bolstering peacekeeping missions in areas where climate change is undercutting security. Some are proposing new environmental peacekeeping forces, or so-called green helmets.

**TECHNOLOGIES** - Disaster responders increasingly see social media as a tool to help generate rapid information on needs and damage in affected areas. The public can use social media to post information, and emergency responders are developing ways to filter and communicate information to maximize impact.

## **AFRICA**

**DR CONGO** - Investigators have identified dozens of females assaulted and raped over the New Year period by government troops in the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to a new United Nations report. Rape has been used systematically as a weapon of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo for more than 15 years with an estimated 1,000 women raped every day.

**HORN OF AFRICA** - The United Nations-managed humanitarian fund has allocated more than \$51 million to deliver food aid to thousands of needy people across the Horn of Africa, which has been ravaged by a drought so severe that parts of southern Somalia are now experiencing famine.

**MADAGASCAR** - An independent United Nations expert said today it is time to reconsider the economic sanctions imposed on Madagascar following the 2009 political crisis, warning that they are aggravating an already dire situation in which one in two inhabitants of the country is food insecure.

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

**AFGHANISTAN** - Afghanistan should develop mechanisms to raise awareness about the dangers of human trafficking, support victims and prosecute perpetrators, say rights activists.

**INDONESIA**'s ambitious forest conservation and emission reduction plans depend crucially on how soon it can develop a 'participatory map' in which all stakeholders figure.

**KYRGYZSTAN** - A 19 July earthquake measuring eight on the Richter scale in southern Kyrgyzstan has left hundreds of people without shelter.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

**EGYPT** - Women's rights campaigners are seeking to unite activists to prevent Islamist groups and other conservatives from increasing the marginalization of Egyptian women. Domestic violence and discrimination are common challenges for Egyptian women, with little legal support to protect them, and campaigners hoped the post-Mubarak era would bring an end to exclusion.

WFWO's Communications Team