

# NEWS BULLETIN

27 June 2011



## **GLOBAL**

**FOOD** - Agreements reached Thursday among members of the Group of 20 leading economies are intended to increase the global supply and production of basic foods, while reducing volatility in food prices. The initiatives include a database on food stocks to be managed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and a pilot program for regional humanitarian food reserves by the UN World Food Program.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Of the millions of dollars spent on climate change projects in developing countries, little has been allocated in a way that will benefit women. Yet, in Africa, it is women who will be most affected by climate change. According to United Nations data, about 80 percent of the continent's smallholder farmers are women. While they are responsible for the food security of millions of people, agriculture is one of the sectors hardest hit by climate change.

## **AFRICA**

**EDUCATION** - Women have been under-represented in science for centuries, not least in Sub-Saharan Africa. Participation rates do vary across the continent, with countries in Southern Africa more progressive than elsewhere. But equality has not been reached, despite a concerted effort to increase girls' access to education, as in Kenya where basic school education is compulsory.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - Rather than making progress towards the Millennium Development Goal of reducing maternal mortality by 75 percent by 2015, the number of deaths resulting from pregnancy or childbirth has doubled in the past 20 years. For every 100,000 babies born, up to 625 mothers die due to childbirth complications. Mortality in children under five has also risen steadily and remains stubbornly high at 104 deaths per 1,000 live births, according to government figures.

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

**PAKISTAN** - Violence in the tribal areas of northwest Pakistan has kept students away from school, in some areas for at least two years. Now, officials are trying to make up for lost time by holding classes even under tents or trees.

**PHILIPPINES** - As yet another tropical storm has been battering parts of the Philippine island of Luzon over the past few days, leaving thousands displaced, the government has set up a Technical Working Group with the aim of improving preparedness for natural disasters and manmade calamities, including conflict.

## **LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**

**BRAZIL** - According to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, the infection rate in Brazil has remained stable since 2003, and the mortality rate stabilised in 1998. Last year 630,000 in the country were estimated to be infected with HIV.

WFWO's Communications Team