

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

GENDER EQUALITY - Empowering women and advancing their rights is not only the right thing to do but it can lead to progress on a range of issues, including the fight against poverty, hunger and violence, the head of the United Nations agency tasked with promoting women's rights said today.

WOMEN & GIRL - Ten million girls under the age of 18 are married every year, and governments must do more to address this global concern, a group says in a report. While countries in South America, Africa and Asia may have the highest numbers of early and forced marriages, more than 2 million young girls in Europe are also child brides.

AFRICA

CLIMATE CHANGE - Africa is the key to providing food security as the world battles rising food prices and increasing poverty, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan says. Around 70% of Africans are involved in the agriculture sector, and a food revolution centered on enhancing the production of African farmers would turn Africa into a food-surplus region.

CAMEROON - Devolving power to local authorities is helping Cameroon step up its fight against a two-year cholera outbreak, say government and aid agency staff.

SOMALIA - More than two years after Somali officials announced plans to regulate fishing in the country's troubled waters, illegal trawlers continue to operate while local fisherman suffer attacks and depleted catches.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - The number of reported polio cases in India has dropped to only one in 2011, raising hopes that billions of dollars of investments in vaccination campaigns in recent years may have helped bring the country to the verge of eradicating the disease. Around 170 million children a year receive the polio vaccine, and recent testing of water samples from high-risk areas such as the slums of Mumbai have found no presence of the virus.

WFWO's Communications Team