

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD AND HUNGER - Governments should invest more in agriculture and give poorer farmers better access to finance to help the world's 1 billion malnourished people weather a "perfect storm" facing the global food system, an international movement has said. Factors exacerbating hunger and malnutrition include land grabs in Africa, floods and other climate impacts, land degradation caused by drought and speculation in commodities futures.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The effects of climate change on local ecosystems, ranging from pollination to water levels to migrations of animals, are forcing indigenous peoples to change the way they live or die off. Cultural diversity, like biophysical diversity, is another casualty of global warming, according to Kauai Declaration, a two-page document signed by 41 of the world's pre-eminent ethnobotanists.

AFRICA

HORN OF AFRICA - The World Bank has announced that it is more than tripling funding to \$1.88 billion for the worsening drought in the Horn of Africa which is affecting more than 13 million people.

KENYA needs to resettle thousands of displaced families who are living in dire conditions almost four years after being forced from their homes during post-election violence, a senior UN official said.

ASIA

FOOD AND HUNGER - Scenes of starving children in the Horn of Africa could well be played out in parts of South Asia unless governments invest more in agriculture and give poor farmers access to finances, an international movement warned on Thursday.

Indian authorities are defending a government assessment that set the poverty line level at \$0.50 a day. Indians below the official level receive subsidized food and fuel allotments, and critics charge the government's designation excludes a large percentage of people who need aid.

PAKISTAN - Heavy rains and floods have destroyed or damaged 73 percent of crops and 67 percent of the food stocks in southern Pakistan's Sindh province, the United Nations' food agency said, urging donors to step up support. It said Pakistan needed \$18.9 million to deal with the most urgent needs of millions of rural families in the affected Sindh and Balochistan provinces.

PHILIPPINES authorities are warning of possible water-borne disease outbreaks following Typhoon Nesat, which forced thousands from their homes and resulted in at least 18 deaths.

THAILAND/CAMBODIA - The death toll from flooding in Thailand since mid-July has risen to 158, while 61 people have died in neighbouring Cambodia in the past two weeks, authorities in the two countries said. More than 2 million acres of farmland in Thailand are now under water, an area 11 times the size of Singapore.

WFWO's Communications Team