

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## AFRICA

DRC - Political parties in the Democratic Republic of Congo are struggling to recruit women into their ranks to run for parliament, despite a legal requirement to do so and a belief that greater numbers of female parliamentarians are critical to advancing women's rights.

SOMALIA's food woes are far from over and food shortages will last well into 2012, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees warns. Mr. Guterres said the international aid response has been insufficient to address drought and famine across the Horn of Africa and efforts need to increase.

UGANDA - The families of two Ugandan women who died during childbirth have launched a landmark case against the government on the grounds that failure to provide basic health care constitutes a human rights violation. Sixteen women die every day during childbirth in Uganda, most from causes that could be prevented with the presence of proper supplies, personnel and facilities.

## ASIA

BANGLADESH - Human rights activists are abuzz over the implications of the possible removal of the word "indigenous" from official documents relating to some of the poorest and most marginalized ethnic groups in Bangladesh.

INDIA has embarked upon the creation of the world's largest biometric database, in which some 1.2 billion people will be assigned 12-digit numbers that, in conjunction with a thumbprint, can be used for identification purposes - allowing people, far from their home villages, to obtain welfare benefits, open a bank account or get a cellphone. The new Aadhaar system, intended to pull an estimated 400 million Indians out of poverty, can verify one's identity within eight seconds using inexpensive hand-held devices linked to a mobile phone network.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Aid workers say more than 6,000 people on a remote cluster of islands off the northeast coast of Papua New Guinea (PNG) have been left food insecure following an extended dry spell.

WFWO's Communications Team