

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Women and youth have the capacity to spur economic growth and reduce poverty in the world's least development country if given access to education, employment and health, including family planning services, the United Nations Population Fund says in a report.

FOOD SECURITY - Developing countries need help with crop surveillance and the development of strains resistant to wheat rust, say agricultural research leaders. Today's food security situation is being worsened by strains of wheat rust disease that are emerging more frequently and spreading much faster and to new areas — changes fuelled by climate change and conducive environments in increasingly fragile ecosystems.

AFRICA

GUINEA BISSAU - Paris Club creditors noted the Republic of Guinea-Bissau's determination to continue to implement a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy and an ambitious economic program providing the basis for sustainable economic growth. In order to contribute to restore the debt sustainability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, they decided to cancel USD 256 million in nominal terms, which represents the Paris Club's share of the effort in the framework of the enhanced HIPC Initiative. Creditors also committed on a bilateral basis to cancel an additional USD 27 million. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau committed to use the resources freed by this debt treatment for priority areas (health, education and basic infrastructure) identified in the country's poverty reduction strategy.

MALAWI's gross domestic product has grown by more than six percent in each year since 2005. The country's most recent Welfare Monitoring Survey finds unemployment stands at just one percent. At a glance, Malawi makes being a landlocked, least developed country almost desirable.

SOMALIA - The month-late start of Somalia's long rains may bring respite to the country's farmers and pastoralists, but for hundreds of thousands of displaced people crowded into an insurgent-controlled area almost entirely bereft of humanitarian assistance, the deluge delivers only more problems.

SOUTH AFRICA - Instead of providing much needed opportunities, South Africa's ailing education system is keeping children from poor households at the back of the job queue and locking families into poverty for another generation.

ASIA & PACIFIC

JAPAN - Residents in Japan's coastal communities contend with daily flooding as a result of the earthquake and tsunami that lowered elevations and damaged seawalls in March. Scientists say the earthquake shifted and lowered the entire country, and that the changes are permanent.

PHILIPPINES - At the peak of the summer season, tropical storm Aere caught many unprepared. Almost 400,000 people were affected and 24 people lost their lives, the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported.

WFWO's Communications Team