

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD & HUNGER - Twenty-six countries have “alarming” or “extremely alarming” hunger levels, according to this year’s Global Hunger Index which focuses on the impact of rising food prices on the world’s poorest people. The growing use of crops for biofuels, extreme weather and climate change, and increased speculation in commodities are the main causes of high and volatile prices, the accompanying report said. Food prices are likely to become more volatile in coming years, increasing the risk that more poor people in import-dependent countries – particularly in Africa - will go hungry, the United Nations said in a separate report on food insecurity.

CHILDREN - In the last decade, more than two million children have died as a result of armed conflicts and over one million have been orphaned or separated from their families. Yet for children affected by wars, these costs are only a few of the high costs children pay, says the United Nations Children Fund

TUBERCULOSIS - Last year, for the first time, fewer people the world over became sick from tuberculosis, and mortality rates dropped to their lowest since 2003, according to a report released by the UN World Health Organization. The decline was attributed to better care and higher standards of living in Latin America and the former Soviet Union, improved anti-TB funding in China, and more efficient collection of data.

AFRICA

MALAWI - More than 200,000 Malawian farmers who depend on government subsidies to grow enough food to feed their families will have to go it alone when the agricultural subsidy programme is pruned.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - In the decade since foreign forces and billions of dollars of aid arrived in Afghanistan, the quality of the war-torn country's health and education services remains poor and in dire need of improvement, aid groups have said.

INDIA - Authorities in the east Indian state of Orissa must probe allegations that the worst floods experienced by the region in three decades were man-made and caused by mismanagement of water levels in a major dam, activists and experts said.

PAKISTAN's monsoon floods have devastated millions of lives, but one month on, the international response remains sluggish, raising fears of a worsening humanitarian situation.

WFWO’s Communications Team