

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**FOOD** - The rise in global food prices, and the corresponding rise in hunger, are being fueled by financial speculators who dominate the commodities markets, according to a report from the World Development Movement, an anti-poverty group. The agricultural futures and options markets - in which speculators now account for more than 60%, up from just 12% some 15 years ago - no longer respond to underlying fundamentals of supply and demand because those with direct commercial interests in food production now hold less than 40%.

**HEALTH** - Countries around the world are struggling to cope with managing and preventing deaths from chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and lung disease, the UN World Health Organization says in a report that compares countries' abilities to cope. UNWHO classified about 9 million deaths per year as "premature" because they occurred in people under 60, most of them in poor countries where access to medical facilities, drugs and qualified personnel is limited.

**CLIMATE** - The percentage of the world's largest 500 companies taking action to address climate change as part of their overall business strategy has increased to 68% in 2011, up from 48% last year, according to a survey from the Carbon Disclosure Project. Companies are taking a variety of steps to reduce their carbon footprint such as installing lower-carbon power sources and reducing corporate travel.

**WOMEN & GIRL** - Boys and girls the world over are treated pretty much the same until they reach early adulthood, when girls become more likely to encounter domestic violence, HIV/AIDS infection and child marriage, according to a UN Children's Fund report. Compounding the threats faced by an estimated 10 million girls who get married before they turn 18, primarily in Africa and South Asia, are poverty and poor health care, the report says.

## AFRICA

**BURUNDIAN** health officials are battling to control a cholera outbreak that has killed 12 people and infected 600 others since August.

**KENYA / SOMALIA** - Most Somali women fleeing to northeastern Kenya's Dadaab in northeastern Kenya have never visited an antenatal clinic, let alone given birth in a hospital.

**SOMALIA** - Authorities in Somalia's self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland have given a month's notice to an estimated 80,000 illegal immigrants - mostly Ethiopian - to leave the region.

## MIDDLE EAST

**YEMEN**'s government must put an end to violent attacks on pro-reform demonstrators and increase efforts towards political reconciliation, says Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Yemen may slip into a civil war if a political solution cannot be found to end months of protests and clashes, the UN Human Rights Council warned in a report.

WFWO's Communications Team