

NEWS BULLETIN

16 FEBRUARY 2012



GLOBAL

CHILDREN - Skyrocketing food prices have made milk, vegetables and meat out of reach for families in India, Bangladesh, Peru, Pakistan and Nigeria, putting 500 million children at risk of malnutrition that will stunt their physical and mental growth over the next 15 years, according to a survey. The report states that malnutrition is a contributing factor in the deaths of 2.6 million children every year.

CLIMATE - The UN's World Meteorological Organization is attempting to communicate weather data in terms that are more simple, and relevant, to policymakers in hopes of helping governments better prepare for imminent disasters, such as floods.

AFRICA

MALI - Aid workers are facing a trio of challenges in northern Mali: extensive drought-induced food insecurity and pasture shortages; conflict between Tuaregs and the Malian army; and the resulting displacement of thousands more Tuaregs, say aid agencies on the ground.

MADAGASCAR - The United Nations Children's Fund will start distributing medicines and mosquito nets tomorrow to the parts of eastern Madagascar hardest hit by Cyclone Giovanna, which has killed at least 16 people and left a trail of destruction.

ASIA & PACIFIC

HEALTH - The United Nations World Health Organization has called for a "final push" to eliminate leprosy as a public health threat in the Western Pacific region, where more than 5,000 fresh cases of the curable disease are still reported each year. The number of cases worldwide has plunged since 1991, when WHO launched a campaign that set a "leprosy elimination target" of less than one case per 10,000 people, but the disease persists in a handful of Western Pacific countries.

BANGLADESH - A Bangladesh asset-transfer program for the ultra-poor marked its 40th anniversary last weekend, again drawing attention to its efforts, which serve as a model for other countries looking to break the poverty trap. In 2010, the programs of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, which provides livestock and a monthly stipend for two years, reached nearly 600,000 households.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

TRINIDAD - With climate change advancing to the forefront of the most urgent issues facing the islands of the Caribbean, young people – who arguably have the most to gain and lose in future scenarios – are becoming increasingly engaged in charting a path to environmental sustainability.

WFWO's Communications Team