

# NEWS BULLETIN

17 January 2011



## GLOBAL

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMAN** - Growing attention is being paid to rape arising from war in light of better reporting of a shocking numbers of sexual assaults, particularly in conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. The UN estimates the number of rape victims from conflict in the Congo in 2009 ranged from 15,000 to 17,500. All the same, many women are either killed by their assailants or die of their injuries, whereas other survivors of rape do not report the incidents because of social stigma.

## AFRICA

**BURUNDI** - After living abroad as refugees for years – in some cases decades – many of the half-million people who have returned to Burundi since 2002 are having to cope with a severe shortage of one of the tiny country's most precious commodities: land.

**COTE D'IVOIRE** - The political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire is hitting an already broken education system, with gunfire disrupting classes, teachers staying home for political reasons and families increasingly desperate about their children's schooling.

**ETHIOPIA** - The Ethiopian government has unveiled an HIV policy for its transport sector, which has grown significantly in recent years alongside the rapidly expanding road network.

**SOMALIA** - Sometimes the teachers make it to school but the children do not - when the fighting is too intense for them to venture outdoors. Sometimes teachers make it to school only to find it has been moved - to enable displaced children to continue learning. This is the nature of teaching in war-torn Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, considered one of the world's most dangerous cities.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - Millions of South Africans with HIV face a new worry - being robbed of life-prolonging medicine by drug gangs who use it to lace a highly addictive marijuana cocktail known to its smokers as "whoonga". As the government responsible for the world's biggest population of HIV infected people (nearly 6 million) prepares to make antiretroviral (ARV) drugs more widely available, authorities are trying to stamp out the illegal trade, tighten security for ARV supplies and make patients aware of the risks of theft.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**AFGHANISTAN** - A sharp rise in fuel prices caused by a recent Iranian fuel export ban, against a backdrop of rising global fuel prices, has bumped up food and medicine prices across Afghanistan, prompting concerns about the welfare of millions of vulnerable Afghans this winter.

**INDONESIA** - Bali's dramatic increase of HIV prevalence among sex workers has changed the face of the epidemic on this famed tourist destination of 3.9 million local residents, NGOs say.

**SRI LANKA** - The number of Sri Lankan refugees wanting to return home since the end of the conflict in 2009 is increasing significantly, the UN Refugee Agency says.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**BRAZIL** - At least 500 people have died in flooding in southeastern Brazil, while thousands more have been trapped in their homes, or made homeless, by massive mudslides triggered by heavy rains. Rescuers have been struggling to reach remote areas affected by the floods as the death toll was expected to rise in what has become the country's worst national disaster in decades.

WFWO's Communications Team