



NEWS BULLETIN



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GLOBAL

DISASTERS - Natural disasters forced 32.4 million people from their homes in 2012, with climate and weather hazards such as floods and storms causing 98 percent of the displacement, a report from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre says.

AFRICA

ANGOLA has set up an emergency plan for the southern province of Cunene, where an estimated 300,000 people are at risk of malnutrition because of a two-year-long drought.

DR CONGO - Democratic Republic of Congo troops raped at least 97 women and 33 girls, some as young as six, in the country's volatile east after they fled from advancing M23 rebels in late November, according to a UN report.

NIGER - Some 800,000 people will require food aid in Niger in the coming months despite a good harvest last year due to problems supplying cereals to markets, which have pushed up prices, and an influx of Malian refugees, the United Nations says.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CHINA - Three more people have died in China from the new strain of H7N9 bird flu virus, raising the death toll to 35, while the total number of infections rose to 130, state media says.

CYCLONE MAHASSEN - Authorities in Myanmar are struggling to evacuate tens of thousands of people, most of them Rohingya Muslims, before a cyclone reaches camps in low-lying regions that have been their home since ethnic and religious unrest last year. The storm has already killed at least seven people in Sri Lanka and displaced nearly 4,000 from their homes. Thousands of Bangladeshis living in coastal areas were being evacuated on Wednesday before the arrival of the cyclone.

MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - At least 94,000 people have been killed during Syria's two-year conflict, but the death toll is likely to be as high as 120,000, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has said.

WFWO's Communications Team