

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS International Telecommunication Union has declared broadband access as a basic human right. UN officials see access as not only central to promote free expression, but also to development efforts in education and health care.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Changing weather patterns will make some of the world's rivers drier then wetter than traditionally associated with seasonal variations, or vice versa, and countries should have adaptation strategies in place to meet the water-supply challenges that will ensue, according to a report. Researchers say the best defense is for countries to institute water-management programs to prevent and adapt to water-supply stress.

AFRICA

KENYA - Heavy rains and an outbreak of cholera in Kenya's Dadaab complex is exacerbating the situation in the overcrowded refugee camp, where aid efforts were already hampered by insecurity, the United Nations reported.

RWANDA must build on its efforts to transition to a green economy, according a United Nations report released today on the country's post-conflict environmental situation, which also urges the Government to implement measures that will boost the economy while protecting natural resources.

SOMALIA - Doctors in Mogadishu are warning that famine victims in internally displaced camps have become vulnerable to contagious diseases like cholera and measles, as conditions here are ripe for an outbreak. This comes as internally displaced persons complain that relief aid to some camps has dwindled or stopped.

ASIA

CLIMATE CHANGE - Asian countries, home to about 60 percent of the world's population, will be hit hardest by changing weather patterns and a degrading environment, research indicates. A whopping 90 percent of all disaster displacement within countries in 2010 was caused by climate-related disasters, the IDMC reported. That year, 38.3 million women, men and children were forced to move, mainly by floods and storms.

BANGLADESH - The government of Bangladesh is looking near and far - from Ukraine to South Sudan - to bolster food security at home, according to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

LAOS - In 2010, for the first time in more than 20 years, 140 midwives graduated in Laos but specialists say their skills may go untapped because the country's women are not used to visiting health workers.

PAKISTAN - The Pakistani parliament has passed a law aimed at strengthening the position of women in society and punishing those who infringe upon women's rights. Women will now have the right to inheritance, and anyone forcing a female to marry in order to settle a debt or marry the Koran will face stiff penalties.

WFWO's Communications Team