

# NEWS BULLETIN

18 October 2011



## GLOBAL

**FOOD** - In the past four years, global prices of staples such as maize and wheat have twice hit record levels, driving hundreds of thousands of the world's most vulnerable people further towards hunger and poverty.

**MALNUTRITION** - Malnutrition is a huge problem worldwide, especially chronic malnutrition, the kind of everyday, year-round hunger that stunts children's growth and means they never reach their full physical or intellectual potential. But rates are declining, and in some countries the numbers are falling fast.

**POPULATION** - The global population will hit 7 billion on Oct. 31 and hit 8 billion by 2025, the United Nations Population Fund says. The increasing population is driving spikes in energy and food prices, and highlights the need for family-planning services for more than 200 million women worldwide.

## AFRICA

**KENYA** - Flash floods in coastal areas of Kenya have claimed several lives, damaged schools and destroyed sewage systems, leading to fears of disease outbreaks, according to officials and local residents.

**SENEGAL** - Villages across Senegal are galvanizing behind a growing grass-roots social movement against female genital cutting. More than 5,000 such villages have promised to abandon the practice.

## ASIA

**CAMBODIA** - Severe flooding across Cambodia poses serious risks to the country's food security, according to NGOs.

**MYANMAR** - In conflict-afflicted eastern Myanmar, until recently obstetric care was often crude, unsterile and dangerous for both mother and child, health experts say.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**FOOD** - The global food crisis, which threatens to aggravate hunger and poverty, makes it necessary for agriculture to diversify, adapt to climate change and raise productivity, say UNFAO and experts.

WFWO's Communications Team