

NEWS BULLETIN

19 APRIL 2012



GLOBAL

RIO+20 - Countries must integrate human rights into the upcoming sustainable development conference taking place in Rio de Janeiro, as well as its outcome, a top United Nations official stressed today, warning that not doing so will undercut efforts to advance socio-economic development and protect the environment.

WATER - The lives of 2.5 million people could be saved every year if governments committed to universal access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Water is increasingly becoming a scarce resource and shortages could drive conflict, hit food and energy production and threaten growth in renewable energy technology, experts warned at a water security conference this week.

AFRICA

DEVELOPMENT - More than three years after the start of the global economic crisis, which has had a considerable impact on African trade, investments and gross domestic product, investment prospects on the continent are increasing.

NIGERIA - The Nigerian government is showing few signs that it will heed a United Nations report recommending a massive cleanup of the Niger delta, twice the size of the Mississippi delta, after decades of pollution from oil production. Despite indications by Royal Dutch Shell that it would help fund the cleanup, Nigeria reportedly is balking at paying 55% of the projected billion-dollar price tag.

SOMALIA is perhaps the worst place in the world to be a woman. Not only are they terrorized by Islamist militants, women are refused health care and commonly subjected to domestic violence and female genital mutilation, says the author and co-founder of the first sexual-violence center in the capital, Mogadishu.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - High levels of sexual violence and a cultural belief in witchcraft are putting an increasing number of women at risk of HIV in Papua New Guinea (PNG), health experts say.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - The Haitian government, along with international partners including the World Health Organization, has launched a vaccination campaign against cholera targeting 100,000 people in vulnerable areas of the impoverished Caribbean country.

MEXICO - Biodiversity and small and medium farms are threatened in Mexico by the looming approval of a reform of the law on plant varieties that will extend patent rights over seeds, activists and experts warn.

WFWO's Communications Team