

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

FAMILY PLANNING ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT - Improving family planning to avoid unwanted pregnancies in developing countries, as well as assuring girls' access to education, and women's participation in the economy, are essential components of a sound development policy, according to Western experts and African activists.

ANGOLA's long-ruling MPLA has promised to fight widespread poverty by introducing a minimum income and subsidies for the elderly if it wins an election next month in Africa's second biggest oil producer.

NIGERIA - Poverty, inequality and injustice are threatening to trigger a broad sectarian conflict in Nigeria, an international Christian-Muslim task force says. Clashes between Nigerian Christians and Muslims have already killed hundreds of people this year alone.

SENEGAL stopped renewing agreements allowing European fishing vessels in its waters in 2006, but now an expanding artisanal fleet and local industrial boats enjoying exclusivity under lax regulations are being blamed for malpractice and degrading the country's main economic and food resource.

SOMALIA - The number of Somali refugees fleeing fighting and hunger has passed the 1 million mark, but the exodus from the Horn of Africa country is slowing, the UN refugee agency says.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Plans to expand demand-side financing (DSF) through vouchers could further improve the maternal health of thousands of women in Bangladesh, experts and government officials say.

NEPAL - Nearly half of all Nepalese live in poverty, but conditions are worst in the far west where only school meals from the UNWFP are keeping some children fed and in school. The food, grown in the country's south, is delivered over the course of several days, first by truck through the mountains, and then by mule.

PAKISTAN is bracing for the annual July-September monsoon, with aid workers saying existing relief stocks are insufficient to guarantee an effective response in the event of a flood emergency.

WFWO's Communications Team