

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

FOOD - High cereal prices have bloated countries' food import bills in the past decade, partly because of export restrictions imposed by some governments that have squeezed supply. As cereal prices begin to again climb, a new study has called on the World Trade Organization to take action to exempt poor countries from other nations' export restrictions.

HEALTH - In 1990, an estimated 12 million children around the world died under age five; by 2011, that figure had dropped to 6.9 million. The message, from a new report by the UN Children's Fund, is that with greater commitment to child survival from governments and their partners, these figures can go lower still.

CLIMATE CHANGE - By 2020, countries that are signatory to the Kyoto protocol will have accumulated more than 17 billion tonnes of surplus emission reduction permits, a new study shows. This enormous surplus not only drives the carbon price close to zero, but also jeopardises the chances of reaching a new global climate deal. All eyes are now on the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP18) in Doha which will start Nov. 26. World leaders are expected to come up with ways to save the coal market and to uphold the Kyoto protocol's environmental integrity.

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO - From rocks hemming in water on farms to large surface reservoirs for irrigation, farmers in northern Burkina Faso, where recent good rains have turned dry fields into lush croplands, are being encouraged to use low-cost techniques to boost output and ride out recurrent droughts.

KENYA - The month-long violence in Kenya's Tana River District has left a broad wake of destruction and need. Health facilities, inundated by people injured in the conflict, are struggling to cope with insufficient medical supplies, say officials, and tens of thousands remain displaced.

SOMALIA - A suspected cholera outbreak has killed about a dozen people in the southern Somali village, say government and health officials.

UGANDA - The government of Uganda has launched the UN World Health Organization's (UNWHO) "Option B+" to boost the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT).

WEST AFRICA - An active monsoon and above normal temperatures triggered heavy downpours and flash floods during this year's rainy season across West Africa and the Sahel, killing hundreds of people, displacing hundreds of thousands more and devastating farms in some of the countries already hit by a severe drought and acute food shortages.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CHILDREN - Stunting is a key factor holding back progress on children's well-being, and Asia faces a significant challenge with millions of children under five stunted, says the 2012 Child Development Index.

PHILIPPINES - The Philippines government is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in anti-flood infrastructure in the Manila area in a bid to protect against the storms, typhoons and floods which displace thousands and kill hundreds every year, officials say.

WFWO's Communications Team