

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**FOOD & HUNGER** - Twenty countries have "alarming" or "extremely alarming" levels of hunger with Burundi the worst affected, followed by Eritrea and Haiti, according to this year's Global Hunger Index which examines the problem of producing more food with fewer resources. Meanwhile, the United Nations' top expert on food has called on governments to set up strategic food reserves in regions prone to shortages so that where local purchases are not possible, humanitarian agencies have access to stocks below the market rate.

**HEALTH** - The UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halting and reversing the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic by 2015 has been achieved, and the world is on track to meet the target of reducing global TB prevalence by 50 percent by 2015. But the progress has been irregular, with Africa and Europe lagging behind the rest of the world, according to the new Global Tuberculosis report by the UN World Health Organization.

## AFRICA

**ENVIRONMENT** - There is growing need to promote inorganic fertilizer use among smallholders to improve food production and food security, especially among the world's poorest populations, but its use must be sustainable, experts say.

**DRC** - An Ebola outbreak that has killed several people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) appears to be slowing down, but health workers say there is a need for continued vigilance in order to contain the virus.

**MADAGASCAR** - Eighty-three percent of Madagascar's palm species - which are a vital source of both food and building materials - are threatened by extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature's latest Red List of Threatened Species, published on 17 October.

**MALI** - Hundreds of displaced northerners in southern Mali are risking life under Sharia law to return home, lured by the prospect of jobs, free water and electricity, and in some parts, relatively cheaper food.

**SIERRA LEONE**'s worst cholera outbreak in 15 years has eased in the past two months and new infections each week have recently dipped to below 1,000.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**PHILIPPINES** - The Philippine government has launched a mobile phone application which can provide real-time information on rainfall and flooding to the general public.

**SRI LANKA** - Officials in northern Sri Lanka's Vavuniya District say 60 percent of the rice harvest could be lost if the dry weather continues.

## MIDDLE EAST

**FOOD** - The Syrian crisis has disrupted food imports and exports in the region, raising food prices in Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, but governments have so far been able to contain the impact on consumers by finding new trade routes and absorbing some of the increased cost, according to food vendors, truck drivers and analysts.

WFWO's Communications Team