

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

KENYA - More than 100,000 Kenyans have been affected by flooding and are in need of food, medical and shelter assistance. Kenyan authorities and aid agencies also warn that damage from the flooding has severely affected Kenya's food-security situation moving into 2012.

SWAZILAND - Archaic agriculture practices and erratic rainfall in the recent planting period is expected to lead to an increase in food insecurity for most of Swaziland's 1.1 million people in 2012, says a government agriculture official.

SOMALIA - An independent United Nations human rights expert today called for greater efforts to improve the plight of women in Somalia, thousands of whom remain extremely vulnerable to discrimination and violence.

SUDAN - Disruptions in cross-border trade, crop failures and ongoing conflict have left 2.7 million South Sudanese in need of food aid moving into 2012, the UNWFP says. South Sudan gained independence in July and has been struggling to set up effective institutions and infrastructure to provide stable governance.

AFRICA Region - The drought that has devastated East Africa could be repeated in West Africa, as erratic rains and extended dry periods likely will inhibit food production, leading to higher prices and shortages affecting 11 million people in five countries, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA - Mothers afflicted with HIV, as well as their daughters, are suffering disproportionately in Indonesia as a result of education and employment discrimination, compounded by financial burdens when infected partners are unable to work, according to a report of the UN Development Program.

PHILIPPINES - A tropical storm which hit the southern Philippine island of Mindanao on 17 and 18 December, leaving over 650 dead and hundreds missing, caught the authorities largely off guard.

WFWO's Communications Team