

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Governments must act quickly to address economic weaknesses such as sovereign debt overload and unstable banking system if the world economy is to grow by anything more than 0.5% in 2012, according to the latest United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects report. The new version of this annual report projects an average economic growth of 2.6% for the year and 3.2% for 2013 as long as major economic crises can be avoided.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Nine months after fighting ended in Côte d'Ivoire, at least 15,000 displaced people are still in camps, many of the half million returnees require food aid, the groundwork for reconciliation in many parts of the west has not yet been laid - and aid workers are worried funding will dry up, threatening the fragile peace.

KENYA - Child marriage remains commonplace in Kenya thanks to chronic poverty, tradition and the desire to protect family honor.

SOMALIA - The relief effort in Somalia has made significant inroads against the consequences of famine, yet many Somalians continue to live in precarious conditions, said the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator. An estimated 4 million Somalis require assistance, food aid, health care, and water and sanitation services, on a regular basis, he said.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Polio cases in Afghanistan nearly tripled in 2011 in a major setback to international public health efforts to eradicate the disease. Dr. Bruce Aylward of the UN World Health Organization said, "This is a national tragedy to end up with a major polio outbreak, especially with all the effort they have put into it. It increases the risk to neighboring countries and is both a local and national, and international, concern."

Indian authorities are scrambling to build 1,000 universities and 50,000 colleges over the next decade to promote higher education and development. The number of young Indians entering the workforce is expected to reach 100 million by 2020, and authorities hope increased higher education opportunities will help propel India's economy in the decades to come.

PHILIPPINE - Filipinos affected by December's Typhoon Washi remain in need of humanitarian aid and permanent shelter, according to the latest United Nations situation report. The deadly storm killed more than 1,200 people and displaced 300,000.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

URUGUAY - The government of the Uruguayan capital plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the solid waste produced by its 1.3 million inhabitants, through a project set to enter into operation in March. The carbon credits generated will be purchased by the World Bank.

WFWO's Communications Team