

# NEWS BULLETIN

20 June 2011



## **GLOBAL**

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY** - The UN World Refugee Day observed on June 20 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world.

**FOOD** - Global agricultural production is projected to grow at 1.7 percent annually until 2020, compared to 2.6 percent during the previous decade. Slower growth is expected for most crops, especially oilseeds and coarse grains, which face higher production costs and slowing productivity. UNFAO estimates that to meet projected demand over the next 40 years, farmers in developing countries need to double production.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Diplomats say UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, are making little headway toward ensuring the protection of forests as part of a global treaty intended to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. Envoys approved the text of the so-called REDD-plus mechanism, which is designed to provide extra benefits along with emissions savings from forests, but a Kenyan negotiator said talks were not progressing quickly enough.

**HEALTH** - Global health researchers are making the case that measles not only can, but should be eliminated from the world. An increase in measles cases worldwide, the US has registered the highest levels of infection since 1996, is attributed to "weakness within immunization systems, cross-border transmission of measles virus, and insufficient political will and financial resources," in an article published by the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

## **AFRICA**

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Climate change and global warming are likely to have dramatically negative effects on African agriculture and food supply by reducing river runoffs and water recharge, especially in semi-arid zones such as Southern Africa, two new reports say.

**COTE D'IVOIRE** - Some two months after the resolution of Côte d'Ivoire's post-election crisis, more than 300,000 people remain displaced across the country.

**SIERRA LEONE** - The rainy season has begun in Sierra Leone, and the country's health ministry is mobilizing workers to raise awareness of malaria prevention in a bid to reach the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Last year, mortality rates from the disease there fell from 32% to 16% after 3.2 million insecticide-treated bednets were distributed for free.

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

**CHINA** has mobilized troops to help with flood relief and raised its disaster alert to the highest level after days of downpours forced the evacuation of more than half a million people in central and southern provinces. The official China Daily said more than 555,000 people had been evacuated in seven provinces and a municipality after rains in recently drought-stricken areas caused floods and mudslides in the Yangtze River basin.

**NEPAL** - Efforts to free thousands of enslaved girls in Nepal and get them into school need more funding and less government bureaucracy, activists say.

**PHILIPPINES** - Rain and flooding over the past month have severely affected thousands of farmers who have recently returned to their homes in conflict-affected Mindanao.

WFWO's Communications Team