

NEWS BULLETIN

23 APRIL 2012



AFRICA

WATER - Scientists have analyzed below-ground water resources across the African continent, and they have discovered aquifers that could provide for many of the estimated 300 million living without safe drinking water.

MALAWI - Before his sudden death earlier this month Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika engineered an agriculture-led turnaround, against the advice of the foreign aid community at the time, that could serve as a model in Africa for overcoming chronic hunger, food insecurity, and famines, writes the director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Sachs details the program, which revolved around targeting small landholders with subsidies to purchase enough fertilizer and seed to improve soil health and ramp up production.

ASIA & PACIFIC

WOMEN & GIRLS - The underutilization of the 2 billion women across Asia is tantamount to annual losses in productivity of \$89 billion, according to a survey by the global nonprofit organization. Sex-selective abortions and infanticide, particularly in China and India, highlight a bias in favor of sons that means girls in some countries receive worse education, health care and nutrition.

BANGLADESH - The Bangladesh Government must do more to address the outstanding water needs of the capital, Dhaka, as experts warn that unless efforts are stepped up, things will worsen. The city requires 2.2 billion litres a day, but can only produce 1.9 to 2 billion, the city's Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) reported.

SRI LANKA - Strong community awareness and preparedness are being cited for last week's successful evacuation of more than one million Sri Lankans after a tsunami alert was triggered by an 8.6 magnitude earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra in Indonesia.

WFWO's Communications Team