

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

CLIMATE - The gap between greenhouse gas emissions cuts and what is needed to limit global temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius is set to widen, the United Nations Environment Programme warns in a report. Global carbon emissions hit record levels last year, and countries have not committed to emissions reductions sufficient to reverse the current trajectory.

WOMEN - A country's economic growth can significantly affect women and girls through greater spending on public health and infrastructure. Countries such as China, India and Indonesia have failed to make major impacts on women's and girls' health despite rapid economic growth, while rising food prices, undernutrition and poor sanitation continue to disproportionately affect females.

AFRICA

KENYA - The switch by many farmers in Kenya's Rift Valley province from staple cereals to more profitable coffee is likely to increase the country's dependence on grain imports and possibly affect food security, agricultural experts have warned.

NIGERIAN authorities and the international aid community have partnered to distribute free insecticide-treated bed nets in a bid to reach universal coverage. Malaria kills 300,000 children under the age of five in Nigeria annually.

ZAMBIA - A project to create a spelling system for the language spoken by an estimated 20,000 people in the remote Shanjo province of western Zambia is expected to boost primary education there, as children are said to learn best in their native tongue. Five teams of village translators, mostly farmers, are creating a written language for ciShanjo.

ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - A report by the UN mission in Afghanistan documents a reluctance by prosecutors to enforce a 2009 law intended to protect women, citing only 155 indictments filed based on the law despite an estimated 2,299 reported acts of violence against women.

VIETNAM is facing a trend of laborers being trafficked into China as companies look to employ cheaper foreign labor after changes to labor laws, the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking says. In 2008, Chinese authorities passed legislation that requires Chinese nationals to receive certain levels of pay and benefits.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA - Forged in the 2001-2002 social and economic crisis, cooperatives in Argentina are becoming a fast track to women's participation in what were traditionally regarded as male spheres.

MEXICO - Sexual violence against women in Mexico is on the rise, alongside the escalation of violence between police and soldiers and the drug cartels, women's rights activists warn.

WFWO's Communications Team