

# NEWS BULLETIN

25 January 2011



## GLOBAL

FOOD prices are even higher now in many countries, sparking another cycle of hunger riots in the Middle East and South Asia last weekend. While bad weather gets the blame for rising prices, the instant price hikes of recent times are largely due to market speculation in a corrupt global food system. The 2008 food crisis awoke much of the world's investment community to the profitable reality that hungry people will do almost anything, even sell their own children, in order to eat. And with the global financial crisis, food and farmland became the "new gold" for some of the biggest investors, experts agree.

Countries from around the globe have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York for the start of a forum on strategies to help the world's forests promote social development, improve livelihoods and contribute towards global poverty eradication.

## AFRICA

ANGOLA - The Angolan government is preparing to renew efforts to eradicate polio with support from global partners.

NIGERIA - It is no news that many HIV positive women in Nigeria and other developing countries, are still at loss over what to make of breast feeding their babies even in their status. The UN World Health Organisation certainly understands this predicament and has not stopped researching into how best to assist such women undergo the natural task of breastfeeding without jeopardising the lives of the newborn with HIV infection.

SOMALIA - The self-declared republic of Somaliland has introduced free education at primary and intermediate levels and doubled teachers' salaries but these decisions will be hard to sustain and could affect the quality of public education, say experts.

SOUTH AFRICA - Teenagers say they know all they need to know about HIV/AIDS, yet they often fail to make the right decisions to protect themselves.

ZAMBIA - High poverty levels and the skewed distribution of resources in Zambia's poorest province is stirring secession talk - with an ethnic dimension.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

Asia Region - In 2010, five of the most devastating disasters, measured in loss of lives, goods and infrastructure, occurred in Asia. Investing in disaster planning could go a long way to keeping the number of casualties down, experts show.

SOUTHEAST ASIA - Chronic disease could kill up to 4.2 million people annually in Southeast Asia by the year 2030, according to new research published in the medical journal.

THAILAND / MYANMAR - About 10,000 people are displaced and in hiding along the Thai-Burmese border, having fled artillery fire in eastern Myanmar where fighting between the Burmese military and armed groups is expected to continue for several months, aid groups say.

## MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Every year tens of thousands of Somalis risk their lives crossing the Gulf of Aden to reach Yemen in their search for safety and a better life. Many die atrocious deaths - beaten, thrown overboard, eaten by sharks, drowned or asphyxiated in the hold of crowded smuggler boats.

WFWO's Communications Team