

NEWS BULLETIN

25 MAY 2012



GLOBAL

FOOD & HUNGER - Buffeted by the euro zone crisis and distracted by political problems at home, the leaders of the world's industrial powers are turning to the private sector to help fight hunger and malnutrition for up to a billion people worldwide beset by shortages, droughts and rising food prices.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT - Reluctance to raise ambitions to cut greenhouse gas emissions due to economic constraints is threatening progress towards limiting global warming, delegates at United Nations' climate talks in Germany have warned.

AFRICA

MALI - Two UN agencies, have launched a regional emergency operation to assist more than half a million people uprooted by conflict in Mali.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of providing access to safe drinking water for its 160 million people by 2015 is a tough call for Bangladesh, which is caught between arsenic contaminated groundwater and diarrhoea-causing microbes in its ponds and rivers.

INDONESIA - The moratorium on clearance of forests and peat lands in Indonesia has proved difficult to enforce during its first year, particularly because of existing permits to cut trees.

PAKISTAN - Widespread poverty and ignorance, negative attitudes to the education of girls, and the lack of proper documents for children of Afghan migrants are some of the obstacles to school enrolment in a poor suburb of Peshawar in Pakistan, say local officials.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Poverty and lawlessness in Yemen, where nearly 500,000 people have been displaced by fighting, are pacing a food crisis that aid agencies warn could reach "catastrophic proportions" if donors do not do more to meet an appeal by the United Nations for humanitarian assistance.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - As predicted, the beginning of the rainy season in Haiti brought exponential increases in the numbers of people sickened and killed by cholera.

WFWO's Communications Team