

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Women farmers in Côte d'Ivoire are achieving greater autonomy and economic independence thanks to new varieties of cassava. Cassava is an important staple food in this West African country according to the UNFAO.

DRC - Children in the Kivu provinces of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are not only getting caught in the crossfire of the area's ongoing violence, but also facing health risks, threats of forced recruitment by local and foreign militias, and interrupted educations, say officials.

GUINEA / SIERRA LEONE - The cholera outbreak in Guinea and Sierra Leone that has killed 392 people and infected more than 25,000 others since February is slowing down, say aid groups who also call for sustained measures to wipe out the disease.

MALI - Sparse rainfall in 2011 triggered food alerts for Mali which went out well before the start of the rebellion in the north in January, and the coup d'état in Bamako in March. This year, the rains have been better but the warnings from the north, in particular, remain stark particularly for food insecurity and malnutrition.

NIGER - The government of Niger and aid agencies are scrambling to clean and repair thousands of schools that were damaged in the flooding from rains in July and August, which displaced over 500,000 people and killed over 80, in an effort to return children to school as soon as possible.

SOUTHERN AFRICA - The massive hydropower dams built on the Zambezi River, the largest river system in Southern Africa, not only supply power to major economies in the region but also help mitigate annual floods. But as electricity demands grow and rising global temperatures affect rainfall patterns, the dams will be unable to meet energy needs or control floods, warns a new study.

SWAZILAND - Cold and wet weather, coupled with overgrazing and poor animal husbandry, has been blamed for the deaths of about 10,000 cattle in Swaziland in the past month - and has increased fears of health risks as people scavenge carcasses for food.

UGANDA - Despite nationwide efforts to increase HIV awareness and common fears of unplanned pregnancy, young, sexually active Ugandans continue to have risky sex without using condoms consistently, spurring new measures to promote the prophylaxis.

ASIA & PACIFIC

NEPAL - Government oversight is preventing local communities from reaping economic benefits from forests they have spent decades re-generating, activists say.

SRI LANKA - In Sri Lanka it is taking as long as six years to prosecute criminals who abuse children, a delay that threatens to further traumatize thousands of children whose cases are stuck in the courts, according to experts.

WFWO's Communications Team