



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The global economy is on the mend from 2009's economic meltdown and on track to post growth of 3% in 2011 and 3.2% in 2012, the United Nations says in a new report. Government stimulus packages remain key to recovery, though the report predicts many countries will begin to phase them out next year.

**BIODIVERSITY** - Women provide up to 90 percent of the rural poor's food and produce up to 80 percent of food in most developing countries, and yet they are almost completely ignored when policy decisions are made about agriculture and biodiversity. That's about to change thanks to a United Nations agreement on biodiversity that will ask countries to ensure women are involved in decisions regarding biodiversity - including agriculture.

## ■AFRICA

**CHAD** - Humanitarian officials will look to the Chad government to protect civilians and secure aid operations after the UN Security Council decided on 25 May to withdraw some 3,000 UN peacekeepers from the country's volatile east.

**GHANA / TOGO** - The Ghanaian government will set up shelters for 1,000 returning refugees who fled to neighbouring Togo to escape violence in Bawku in Upper East region following land disputes that have been mounting since late April.

**KENYA** - People living with HIV must take their place at the forefront of HIV prevention efforts in Kenya if they are to be truly successful, senior government officials said at the launch of a set of national guidelines for rolling out "Prevention with Positives" in the capital, Nairobi.

**SOMALIA** - Authorities in Somalia's self-declared autonomous region of Puntland are offering hundreds of internally displaced persons (IDPs) skills training in a bid to integrate the growing influx of displaced, officials said.

## ■ASIA

**INDIA** - Indian women have enthusiastically embraced the "morning after" pill as the preferred method of contraception, raising fears within the medical community over side effects associated with frequent use and women's continued vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases. Advertising, word-of-mouth and cost have helped drive emergency-contraception use, but many Indian women, the medical community fears, have little practical knowledge about the limitations or risks.

**INDONESIA** - Indonesia will not award new concessions for development in its forest and peat lands for two years in exchange for \$1 billion in investment from Norway for conservation projects, Indonesian authorities announced today. Norway's investments will be used to help create monitoring systems for greenhouse-gas emissions and to develop projects that will reimburse Indonesia over the longer term for conservation efforts.

**PAKISTAN** - A wave of ethnic violence pitching Pashtuns (originally from the northern Khyber-Pakhtoonkh'wa province) against Muhajirs (descendants of people who migrated to Pakistan after Partition in 1947) in Karachi has resulted in at least 34 deaths since 19 May.

**SRI LANKA** - The recent death of a French de-miner in northern Sri Lanka highlights the ongoing threat of landmines in preventing the safe return of tens of thousands of conflict-displaced.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**BOLIVIA** - The Bolivian government negotiated with native groups to head off major marches and roadblocks aimed at demanding protection of indigenous land rights and conservation of the environment in their territories.

**HAITI** - Though a large number of aid workers has arrived in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital destroyed by January's massive earthquake, reconstruction has hardly begun - largely owing to the lack of shelter and transportation. Relief workers often cannot take roads to cafeterias or restaurants, leading entrepreneurs to bring food to them - a boon to Haiti's ravaged economy. Observers fear that the aid workers and their effect on the economy will drive up inflation, if the critical textile and tourism industries are not reinvigorated.

**NICARAGUA** - More than 1.8 million Nicaraguans are at high risk due to the various natural disasters that strike this Central American country, according to Civil Defence authorities. Back in March, prompted by the tragic earthquakes of Jan. 12 in Haiti and Feb. 27 in Chile, leftist President Daniel Ortega issued an urgent order to the armed forces to set up a permanent commission to help the country confront natural disasters.

WFWO's Communications Team