

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**CHILDREN** - More than a billion children in urban slums are living without vital services, such as electricity, water and education, and that number is only expected to increase as people continue to flock to cities in the developing world, according to UN Children's Fund report published. Many children are unaccounted for by indices such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) because they do not go to school.

**WOMEN** - Agriculture currently provides a livelihood for roughly 1.3 billion smallholder farmers and landless workers, of which nearly half – close to 560 million – are women. A vast majority of these women are living on a precipice, where small changes in their environment could result in chronic hunger and abject poverty. Given the unprecedented scale of climate change, which has already caused massive food insecurity this year, rural women are not only extremely vulnerable, but also woefully overlooked by governments and policy makers who define top-down strategies for hunger and poverty eradication.

## AFRICA

**KENYA** - The Kenyan government's recent failure to adequately treat a patient with extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) has some civil society organizations questioning whether the country's TB programme is equipped to diagnose and treat such patients.

**MALI** - Refugees were teeming from Mali into northern Niger to escape monthlong fighting between the Mali government and Tuareg rebels, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, seeking greater autonomy. The UN refugee agency was seeking \$35.6 million to provide food, water and shelter for an estimate 85,000 people.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**AFGHANISTAN / PAKISTAN** - A new push to find durable solutions for Afghan refugees faces many challenges, including the continued flow of Afghans into Pakistan and questions around Pakistan's willingness to continue hosting them. As the government of Afghanistan and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) look for endorsement of an ambitious new strategy, they are wrestling with decades of displacement in what has become the world's most protracted refugee crisis.

**PAKISTAN** - The abduction and forced marriage of teenage Hindu girls in Pakistan is on the rise, particularly in the country's largest city, Karachi. The girls, of whom some 15 to 20 are abducted each month, typically also are forced by their captors to convert to Islam before marrying.

## MIDDLE EAST

**SYRIA** - UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says the Syrian government has arrested tens of thousands of people in its crackdown on anti-government protests which began nearly a year ago. More than 18,000 are reportedly still in arbitrary detention, she said.

WFWO's Communications Team