

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

HORN OF AFRICA - More than 11.6 million people are facing starvation in the Horn of Africa, and as aid agencies struggle to feed them, experts are warning that a lack of food could have wider consequences, including jeopardizing the health of people on HIV treatment.

IVORY COAST - More than half a million people remain displaced by Ivory Coast's post-election conflict and many are too afraid to return home for fear of ethnic reprisals.

SUDAN says it is ready to negotiate an end to fighting in its main oil state of South Kordofan, but has accused armed groups there of trying to prolong the violence by teaming up with rebels in neighbouring Darfur. Tens of thousands of civilians have fled since clashes flared in June between Sudan's army and fighters, many of them from South Kordofan's ethnic Nuba group. The United Nations says Sudan has caused "huge suffering" among civilians by bombing the remote territory, a charge rejected by the army. Human Rights Watch has urged the U.N. Security Council to take immediate steps to ensure international monitoring in South Kordofan, where reports of massive human rights violations by Sudanese forces have emerged.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CHINA - Chinese authorities have acknowledged environmental degradation issues with construction of the country's massive Three Gorges Dam project. Hundreds of thousands of the 1.3 million people relocated to make room for the hydropower dam will likely have to be moved once again, and the government faces a projected \$15 billion in costs to finance repairs.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Many migrants from southern Brazil who clear forests in Brazil's state of Amazonas are making their living as small-scale land speculators and not as farmers or as cattle ranchers, new research has found.

HAITI - A United Nations advisory group on Haiti today reported improvements in the earthquake-torn country but said aid coordination remains a challenge, and a stalemate in the formation of the Government is delaying aid.

MEXICO - Politicians and women's rights advocates are searching for ways to combat a move by Mexican drug cartels into the business of human trafficking. Mexico is a major sex-traffic destination and transit point, and the cartels often target immigrant women for capture.

WFWO's Communications Team