

# NEWS BULLETIN

30 OCTOBER 2012



## AFRICA

**FOOD SECURITY** - Swarms of desert locusts are likely to migrate to Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco in the coming weeks from West Africa and the Sahel region, says the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, which urges the four countries to prepare for pest control.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - A new study set in East Africa, one of the most detailed yet to examine the links between conflict and climate change, calls for a more balanced view on the issue - beyond the widely hyped "climate wars" said to be erupting over dwindling natural resources. The study's authors are among a chorus of emerging voices warning against viewing climate change exclusively through the lens of security.

**CHAD** - The number of flood-affected people in Chad has risen to 700,000, up from 445,000 in September, according to humanitarian agencies, which also report the loss or damage of 255,720 hectares of cropland, 94,211 houses and 1,015 schools. Some 70,000 people have been displaced by the flooding, one of several challenges to the country's humanitarian situation.

**SAHEL** - The Sahel food crisis this year put an estimated 18.7 million people at risk of hunger and 1.1 million children at risk of severe malnutrition, prompting the largest humanitarian response the region has ever seen and averting a large-scale disaster. But emergency responses are rarely smooth and there is always room for improvement.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**AFGHANISTAN** - After last year's Afghan winter - the harshest in 15 years - killed dozens of displaced children in urban settlements, government and aid agencies in Afghanistan are preparing themselves for the coming winter.

**BANGLADESH** - The UN Refugee Agency has called on Bangladesh to open its borders to Rohingyas fleeing sectarian violence in Myanmar.

**MYANMAR** - The UN is calling for urgent action in Myanmar's troubled Rakhine State as levels of communal violence worsen.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**RURAL POVERTY** - The development of agriculture through the adoption of technological innovations will help Latin America leave behind its status as the most unequal region in the world, and will especially benefit the Southern Cone, one of the planet's largest food reserves.

WFWO's Communications Team