

NEWS BULLETIN

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AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - The United Nations humanitarian chief warned today that years of investment in Liberia's peace and security could be jeopardized if the international community does not provide sufficient resources to help the country bear the burden of caring for refugees from neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire.

HORN OF AFRICA - The head of the UNWFP said today the agency is facing a huge deficit in the funds required to continue to assist more than five million people in five countries in the Horn of Africa who are experiencing severe food shortages as a result of a prolonged drought.

NAMIBIA has declared a state of emergency in response to widescale flooding in the north that has claimed 62 lives since January 2011.

NIGER - Having experienced a series of droughts and food security crises over the past 40 years, Niger is now looking to move beyond simply countering emergencies, investing instead in development and recovery strategies - and changing gear in its efforts to feed a rapidly expanding, highly vulnerable population.

SIERRA LEONE - On Apr. 5, the United Nations will launch a report on teenage pregnancy in Sierra Leone. Teenage pregnancies account for 40 percent of maternal deaths in the country, and the report comes as public health authorities recalibrate strategy to address a problem that endangers both mothers and children. Seventy percent of teenage girls in Sierra Leone are married, according to a 2008 survey by the UN World Health Organization, in a country where early marriage is supported by traditional practice.

SOMALIA - The heads of three United Nations agencies today expressed deep concern over the living conditions for more than 314,000 Somali refugees during a visit to three camps in Dadaab in eastern Kenya. More refugees are arriving to the camp from neighbouring Somalia daily, crowding more people into one of the largest refugee concentrations in the world.

SOUTHERN AFRICA - As water resources in Southern Africa come under pressure from growing population, climate change and increasing industrial and agricultural use, economic accounting for water is among the tools that could aid better management.

ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Earthquake preparedness is a cause for concern in Asia - witness the earthquakes in Japan and Myanmar in the past few weeks - especially in densely populated and disaster-prone countries like Bangladesh.

MYANMAR - With a new government recently sworn in, a former Myanmar health official is calling on leaders to invest more in healthcare for the country's poorest.

WFWO's Communications Team