

# NEWS BULLETIN

4 APRIL 2012



## GLOBAL

**ENVIRONMENT** - The waters off West Africa could become like those off the continent's east coast of Somalia if major fishing trawlers from the European Union, China, Russia and Iceland continue to out-muscle the 1.5 million local fishermen of Senegal, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and elsewhere. The fishing grounds are being fully or over-exploited to the detriment of locals who cannot compete, or feed their growing populations, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

**ENERGY** - Developing countries must turn to cleaner, renewable sources of energy because oil prices are projected to remain high, and costs of energy imports already outstrip foreign development aid, according to the International Energy Agency. Today, developing countries are paying between \$120 to \$130 a barrel, said IEA's chief economist, suggesting that clean development mechanisms are necessary to help lift poorer countries out of poverty.

## AFRICA

**CONGO** - A cholera outbreak is adding to the woes of thousands of people displaced by a huge munitions blast in the Congolese capital Brazzaville about a month ago, say officials.

**MALI** - Tuareg rebels in Mali have seized the cities of Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao, consolidating military control of the country's north in a bid to create a homeland in the Sahara. The nomadic Tuareg took advantage the crisis after the coup that undid 21 years of democracy, and for which the West African group Ecowas has threatened to an economic blockade.

**NIGERIA** plans to introduce 10 million fuel-efficient cookstoves to the country by 2020 to reduce deaths from smoke, and the need for women and children to gather or buy wood.

**UGANDA** - Leaders of the hearing impaired community in Uganda say the government's HIV programmes have failed them because their special needs are not taken into consideration.

WFWO's Communications Team