



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**DEVELOPMENT** - The Small Ruminants' Plague has a death rate of almost 100% and is threatening 50 million sheep and goats across Africa, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization warns. While the virus does not directly affect humans, the devastation of livestock poses serious social and economic risks for the continent, UNFAO says.

## ■AFRICA

**MALI** - Daily weather bulletins on public radio and television - with data gathered from farmers themselves - are helping Malian farmers to plan their activities and improve crop yields. The service is proving vital in a country where climate change is causing weather patterns to shift and rainfall to diminish.

**NIGERIA** - More than 200,000 poor waterfront residents in the Nigerian oil hub of Port Harcourt face losing their homes in forced and potentially violent evictions planned by the local government under a scheme to clean up the troubled city, a report says.

**RWANDA** will repatriate more of its refugees and asylum seekers living in Uganda, say officials, insisting that concerns about forced returns are misplaced.

**SOMALIA** - Armed groups in Somalia have continued recruiting children to fight and engage in piracy, and girls have found themselves facing increasing risk of sexual violence, a senior UN official says.

**TANZANIA** - In Tanzania, towns and villages are suffering from prolonged drought followed by rains and flash floods, leaving about half the country at risk of food shortages.

## ■ASIA

**Asia Region** - Ocean scientists have urged governments to invest billions of dollars by 2015 in a new system to monitor the seas and give alerts of everything from tsunamis to acidification linked to climate change. Meanwhile, better land use planning, making information on risk available more widely and investing in simple early warning systems at city level can do much to reduce the risk of disasters in Asia - a risk that will increase with climate change, a World Bank official says.

**North Korea** has requested half a million tonnes of rice in food aid from the South amid signs of improving ties between the rivals and growing momentum for a resumption of nuclear talks.

**PAKISTAN** - As polio cases continue to rise in Pakistan, concern is growing among health experts that the battle against the virus may have run into serious trouble.

**PHILIPPINES** - The risk of landslides in the Philippines, one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, is increasing, experts warn.

WFWO's Communications Team