

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WORLD TEACHERS DAY, is held annually on 5 October to celebrate the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels. The theme is "Teachers for Gender Equality".

AFRICA

EAST AFRICA - Mr. Guterres, from UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said that the crises sweeping across the Horn of Africa have become the worst he has ever seen even though "all of us could see this escalation coming from a long way away." The international community reacted too slowly to the drought that has evolved into a famine threatening the lives of more than 13 million people, Mr. Guterres said.

SOMALIA - The prospect of permanent closure faced by two of Somalia's main telecommunications companies and a major money transfer firm has alarmed officials and analysts concerned about the impact on livelihoods and aid distribution as much of the country grapples with a food emergency that in some areas amounts to famine.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Aid workers say Yemen is on the verge of a humanitarian disaster; but as needs in the country increase, the delivery of aid is becoming ever more complicated.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Critics complain that a genetically modified bean developed in Brazil, resistant to one of the country's most damaging agricultural pests, was approved without enough debate or guarantees that the crop will not affect human health or the environment.

HAITI - Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and food are the priority humanitarian needs in Haiti over the next year, the United Nations relief chief said today, stressing that the estimated 600,000 people still in camps after last year's earthquake continue to depend on aid for survival.

WFWO's Communications Team