

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**HUNGER CRISIS** - Today one billion people are living in hunger, not because of scarcity of production or a shortage of food on shelves in the global marketplace, but because they "lack the most basic purchasing power needed to acquire it", the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, said. Currently, 35-40 percent of harvests are lost due to inadequate transportation and storage facilities, while a further 35-40 percent goes to wealthy Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries. According to experts, the inability of 10 percent of the world's population to feed itself is also a reflection of unsustainable patterns of consumption and deeply flawed models of industrialised agricultural production which, if allowed to continue, will divert 50 percent of global cereal harvests towards feeding cattle by the year 2050.

**ENVIRONMENT** - Large parts of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are most susceptible to famine because of drop-offs in food production as a result of climate change, according to a global study. Researchers plotted on maps the countries most at risk by 2050 as a result of changes in factors such as temperature, rainfall, poverty and population.

**HIV/AIDS** - It is three decades since the first HIV case was reported and in that time, an estimated 30 million people have died, another 34 million are living with the virus and an estimated 7,000 new infections occur every day. But it is not all bad news - according to a new report by UNAIDS, a record 1.4 million people started antiretroviral drugs in 2010, and the global rate of new HIV infections declined by nearly 25 percent between 2001 and 2009.

## AFRICA

**LIBERIAN** host families and the Ivoirian refugees staying with them are resorting to eating rice seeds intended for this year's crop as food stocks dwindle in eastern Liberia, according to aid agencies.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**MYANMAR** - Seventy percent of 2010 trafficking cases out of Myanmar involved females tricked into traveling to China for work only to find themselves forced into marriage, according to the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking. Chinese men seek to purchase brides from Myanmar to avoid paying heavy dowries demanded by Chinese women.

**PAKISTAN** - Representatives of UN World Health Organisation and UN Children Funds, have shown concern over growing cases of polio in the country, saying the support of community and access to grass root level was very crucial in eradicating polio.

## MIDDLE EAST

**SAUDI ARABIA** - Saudi authorities are considering setting a minimum marriage age of 17 in the wake of public outcry over the marriage of a 9-year-old girl to a 58-year-old man. Rights activists expect conservative elements within Saudi society, which consider child marriage part of Saudi tradition or allowed under Islam, to attempt to derail government approval of the change.

WFWO's Communications Team