

NEWS BULLETIN

7 FEBRUARY 2012



GLOBAL

YOUTH - A lack of job opportunities, inadequate education, vulnerable working conditions and insufficient government investment are some of the main concerns of young people around the world, according to a United Nations report on youth published. The latest World Youth Report, released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), for the first time included inputs from young people – with many participating in an online discussion on youth employment.

WOMEN play essential roles in the global economy, agriculture and development. But while the rhetoric regarding the importance of women's inclusion in development projects has peaked in recent years, actual gender-inclusion in investment projects often fails to walk the talk.

AFRICA

MALI / MAURITANIA - Some 12,000 Malians have fled fighting in the towns of Ménaka and Anderamboucane in northern Mali and reached already food-insecure villages around Tillabéri in western Niger, according to the ICRC.

ASIA & PACIFIC

HIV - Although the Asia-Pacific region has witnessed widespread gains in combating the spread of HIV, experts at a United Nations meeting were told that the epidemic is still outpacing the region's efforts against new infections.

AFGHANISTAN - An estimated 3,021 Afghan civilians were killed in 2011, up 8% over 2010 levels, some 77% of which can be attributed to insurgent attacks, and 14% to international and Afghan troops, according to a UN report. Children were freezing to death at refugee camps because of unusually low temperatures, compounded by heavy snowfall.

PAKISTAN - Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world still affected by the polio virus. In an unusual effort to eliminate the disease, health workers are stopping vehicles at a busy toll booth outside Islamabad to administer free polio vaccination drops to children under the age of five. The government hopes to eradicate the virus by the end of the year, but many people do not believe that they will reach this target.

WFWO's Communications Team