

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - Governments around the world have not done enough to guarantee equality before the law for women and should rescind legislation that limits the access of women to legal systems, says a report from UN Women. The failure to criminalize marital rape and existence of laws that deny women equal familial rights are among the legal issues raised by the UN body. UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet said the report "underscores the fact that despite widespread guarantees of equality, the reality for many millions of women is that justice remains out of reach."

**FOOD** - A new tool for measuring food price volatility in global agriculture markets could help poor countries or aid agencies like the UN World Food Programme decide where and when to buy staples, says the director of the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute's Markets, Trade and Institutions Division.

**HIV/AIDS** - A new trade deal being negotiated between India and the European Union could cost millions of lives if it leads to a halt in the production of generic HIV/AIDS drugs, United Nations officials warn. HIV/AIDS affected individuals in developing countries rely on cheap anti-retroviral drugs produced in India to manage their conditions. The trade deal contains provisions that could restrict production and drive up prices.

## AFRICA

**EAST AFRICA** - Kenya is expected to import 4 million bags of maize in the six months to December to plug a production deficit. Output from the region usually accounts for about 80 percent of the country's total maize harvest. Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency is concerned about the high incidence of malnutrition among Somali refugees flowing into Ethiopia and Kenya amid a devastating drought in their conflict-racked country. The relentless violence, compounded by drought, has forced more than 135,000 Somalis to flee so far this year.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**AFGHANISTAN** - Only 48 percent of Afghanistan's population have access to safe drinking water and only 37 percent use improved sanitation facilities - with serious health implications, especially for children, according to the UN.

**NORTH KOREA** - The European Commission has said it will give 10 million euro of food aid to North Korea to help tackle famine in the reclusive state which has left over half a million people at risk of dying.

**PHILIPPINES** - Recent flooding in the southern Philippines has affected half a million people and destroyed crops, raising concerns about food shortages in the coming months, the UN has said.

WFWO's Communications Team