

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WOMEN - While women hold the top spots in government in 17 countries, only 16.7% hold ministerial positions, and less than one-fifth of parliamentarians throughout the world are women, according to research by UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

DEVELOPMENT - Multi-pronged efforts are under way at the United Nations to develop guidelines to protect the vulnerable against land grabbing in Africa, Asia and Latin America, where governments often share the benefits of land deals with investors, but leave their citizens in the lurch. Many countries lack clear ownership rights on individual and collective plots of land.

AFRICA

FOOD CRISES in Africa could be avoided, especially in the Sahel, by improving domestic agriculture markets, ranging from transport to yields of crops, and livestock, according to a book published by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and the International Livestock Research Institute. Of particular benefit would be programs aimed at reducing waste and issuing credit.

Central African Republic (CAR), where nearly half the population is in dire need of aid, urgently requires international help as it experiences one of the worst humanitarian funding shortfalls in the world, the United Nations warns.

CAMEROON - The government cracks down on illegal logging in its part of the Congo Basin, hoping to curb worsening extreme weather in the region.

ETHIOPIA - Ethiopians with disabilities say they have been largely excluded from the government's national HIV programmes and are unable to access services.

MADAGASCAR - Less than two weeks after being battered by Cyclone Giovanna, another violent storm has swept over Madagascar killing 72 people and leaving 70,000 homeless, according to the National Disaster Risk Management Agency.

MALI - Aid agencies have been stepping up efforts to bring relief to more than 140,000 people forced to flee their homes due to fighting in northern Mali but there has been concern that thousands more may not be reached because of the insecurity, the United Nations says.

SOUTH SUDAN - Newly independent South Sudan has some of the highest blindness rates in the world. Endemic diseases that have been stamped out in other post-conflict countries are rife, and the only fully functioning eye centre is in the capital, Juba.

UGANDA - The continued arrival of refugees fleeing post-election violence and militia activities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in western Uganda, and the government's efforts to resettle them, have created a land row that has already cost the life of a government official.

ASIA & PACIFIC

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Critical gaps in the treatment of survivors of domestic and sexual violence are placing thousands of women at serious physical and psychological risk in Papua New Guinea (PNG), health experts warn.

WFWO's Communications Team