

# NEWS BULLETIN

8 April 2011



## GLOBAL

**FOOD** - Food prices fell from record high prices last month, but may rise again in response to reports of grain supply shortages, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization says. Increased food prices contributed to mass protests across the Middle East and Africa, and continue to drive inflation rates around the globe.

**HIV/AIDS** - Discrimination, stigma and gender inequality threaten to undermine progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, 30 years after the deadly virus took its first toll, UN chief has said. Since the beginning of the epidemic - recognised as June 1981 - more than 60 million people have been infected with HIV and nearly 30 million have died of HIV-related illnesses, according to the world body.

**HEALTH** - Widespread misuse of antibiotics has damaged the global fights against tuberculosis, malaria and gonorrhoea, and is contributing to rising rates of drug-resistant cases and medical treatment costs, the UNWHO warns. About 440,000 cases of drug-resistant cases of tuberculosis were reported in 60 countries last year.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Women's roles and needs have been neglected in climate discussions, despite women being particularly vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters and extreme weather events, activists have said on the sidelines of the first UN climate negotiations of the year.

## AFRICA

**DRC** - An outbreak of cholera that has claimed 51 lives in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo city of Kisangani since late February could worsen as heavy rains threaten to undermine an emergency chlorination programme, warned health experts.

**SOMALIA** - The cause of a measles outbreak in Somalia has yet to be determined but doctors say initial suspicions point to "unfounded rumours" that the vaccine could cause HIV/AIDS in children and interfere with their reproductive abilities.

**SUDAN** - About 34.000 southern Sudanese have fled their homes after tribal clashes over land, water and cattle in recent weeks, a U.N. humanitarian official has said, adding to southern troubles before independence in July.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**INDONESIA** - A magnitude 5.4 earthquake hit Indonesia's Sunda Strait, shaking buildings in the capital Jakarta, the country's quake agency has said. The agency said the quake was at a depth of 23 kilometers and about 83 kilometers southeast of Ujungkulon on Java Island.

**NEPAL** - Earthquake-prone Nepal is speeding up efforts to strengthen the ability of its health facilities to withstand a major earthquake, but risk assessments need updating, say officials.

WFWO's Communications Team