

NEWS BULLETIN

9 June 2011



GLOBAL

FOOD - Even though cereal production is projected by the United Nations to rise 3.5% to a record 2.3 billion metric tons in 2011, the increase is likely not enough to replenish global reserves and reduce the volatility in world food markets. The price of wheat fell upon the release of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization report, yet forecasters expect global food prices to remain high well into next year because so many food stocks must be replenished.

AIDS - Top United Nations officials today issued a call to action to end AIDS, stressing the need for a broad partnership among governments, the private sector and civil society to combat an epidemic that is still wreaking havoc 30 years after the first case was reported.

AFRICA

CONGO / SOUTH AFRICA - By handing over 80,000 hectares of untilled land to a few dozen South African farmers, authorities in the Republic of Congo are confident they will greatly improve domestic agricultural expertise and reduce the country's chronic dependence on food imports.

EAST AFRICA - Even if people living with HIV in East Africa are able to obtain the medicine necessary to treat their affliction, increasingly they can't afford, or even find, the food necessary to supplement their treatments with antiretroviral drugs. The drugs commonly are prescribed to be taken on a full stomach.

MADAGASCAR has reduced its under-five child mortality rate by more than 60 percent over the last decade. Part of that success has been down to increased vaccine coverage, with the World Health Organization and UN Children's Fund estimating that 78 percent of the country's children were immunized in 2009, compared to 57 percent in 2000.

UGANDA - Heavy rainfall means that over 500,000 people living in mountainous areas in Uganda need to be relocated as they live in areas at risk to landslides.

MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - The violence tearing at the seams of daily life in Yemen is turning a pre-existing humanitarian crisis into a catastrophe, according to the UN children's agency. Widespread shortfalls in food and water, as well as fuel, which is necessary to transport food, as well as pump water, mean the "country is absolutely in dire need of humanitarian assistance," said a UN children's agency representative.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Mr. Lula launched the Zero Hunger Programme when he assumed the Brazilian presidency in January 2003, pledging that every Brazilian would be able to eat three meals a day. The results of the development model that was jump-started by Zero Hunger are highly visible: in only five years 24 million people have been lifted from extreme poverty and undernourishment in Brazil fell by 25%.

WFWO's Communications Team