



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS takes up MDGs as 2015 deadline looms - Governments around the world are looking to forge agreement on a strategy for the last five years before the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** deadline amid projections that none of the poverty, health or education milestones will be reached.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Natural disasters are tending to kill fewer people but climate change may add to the toll by unleashing more extreme weather and causing after-effects such as disease and malnutrition, experts say.

## ■AFRICA

BOTSWANA - The Botswana government has passed an amendment to its Employment Act that will bring an end to dismissal based on an individual's sexual orientation or HIV status, but rights groups believe the legislation needs to go further.

DR CONGO - Two top U.N. officials have urged the Security Council to consider sanctions against the rebel masterminds of what they say appear to be organised mass rapes in Democratic Republic of Congo.

KENYA - A new report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) says the Kenyan government needs to do more to provide palliative care for children with chronic illnesses, including cancer and HIV/AIDS.

MADAGASCAR - The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has warned of an "imminent and severe threat from the increasing number of swarms of Migratory Locusts" in Madagascar, requiring "immediate response assistance to prevent a humanitarian disaster".

SAHEL Region - Aid strategies for treating children suffering moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) have remained virtually unchanged for 30 years. As part of UN-led efforts to revamp policy, several initiatives in West Africa are examining how best to treat the condition, a major cause of death and disease worldwide.

SOMALIA - Clashes between Somali government forces and Al-Shabab fighters in Mogadishu have reached "alarming levels", with at least 250 people killed and 400 wounded in the past two weeks, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) warned.

SUDAN - Southern Sudan's promise to divest its army of all children by November has to be backed by a comprehensive strategy to give them opportunities in civilian life, say analysts.

## ■ASIA

CHINA has emerged as the world's clean energy products manufacturing hub, pumping out solar panels and wind turbines for foreign markets. The sector, now a million jobs strong, is growing thanks to heavy government subsidies that some challenge as breaking World Trade Organization rules on aid for exporters. China is also investing heavily in research and development for technologies to reduce air pollution and counter global warming.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - A top UN official warns that Syria's drought is affecting food security and has pushed 2-3 million people into "extreme poverty".

WFWO's Communications Team