



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The UN has outlined a drive to make up for uneven fundraising and progress toward its Millennium Development Goals, which include reducing extreme poverty by half and ensuring primary education for children by 2015. The report - which acknowledges that the G8 nations have lagged behind in funding efforts - calls on leaders to identify consistent, reliable funds to put toward the Millennium Development Goals, especially in Africa, where development support has been most inconsistent.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** is helping diseases such as dengue fever, malaria and human plague spread into northern areas, according to a report by the European Academies Science Advisory Council. The report finds that rising temperature are causing a boom in the populations in insects that carry these diseases.

## ■AFRICA

**Africa Region** - Researchers have found that as many as 750,000 new cases of tuberculosis (TB) in sub-Saharan Africa every year may be attributed to mining. It was already known that working conditions in mines are conducive to the spread of TB and HIV, but the authors of a new study published in this month's edition of a Journal of Public Health used statistical techniques to measure the contribution of mining to TB for the first time. They analyzed data from 44 sub-Saharan African countries and found that TB incidence is higher in places with greater mining production. TB infection rates can be up to 10 times higher among mine workers than in the general population, the researchers said. The World Health Organisation estimates that the incidence rate of TB in sub-Saharan Africa is of over 350 cases per 100,000 people.

**CHAD** - The Chad government has lifted a ban on the export of fish from Lake Chad, acknowledging the damage done to the local fishing industry.

**MADAGASCAR** - Getting hold of food and reproductive health services are probably the two most difficult things for women in rural southern Madagascar, so it makes sense for UN agencies to combine food aid with maternal and child healthcare

**NIGER** - A bad harvest season has punished the rural and urban poor across Niger, but food insecurity and livelihoods have been compounded by a critical lack of water in the worst-hit southern province of Zinder.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - Too many tuberculosis patients are not receiving counselling about the link between TB and HIV, according to new research.

**SUDAN** - Continuing conflict has displaced thousands of people in Jonglei State, Southern Sudan, while poor crop production and the lean season have led to extreme levels of food insecurity, especially in Akobo County.

## ■ASIA

**PHILIPPINES** - Insufficient public funding for family planning services means poor women have to buy contraceptives from pharmacies rather than getting them free from clinics.

**SRI LANKA** - Thousands of internally displaced people returning home from camps in northern Sri Lanka are concerned about access to potable water and slow progress in clearing landmines.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**MEXICO** - The Mexican government and capital city authorities are making the most of the national football team's participation in the FIFA World Cup beginning Friday in South Africa, by using the sport's power to distract public attention away from the economic crisis and the violent battle against drug trafficking.

WFWO's Communications Team