



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The 47-member of the Human Rights Council (HRC) affirmed last week that the right to water and sanitation was a basic human right, the consensus resolution was described as a "historic first" for the UN's premier human rights body based in Geneva. The consensus resolution was a logical follow-up to a key General Assembly resolution adopted last July which also - for the first time - recognised water and sanitation as basic human rights. But in reality water and sanitation have remained two of the most neglected sub-texts of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which came under scrutiny at the MDG summit here last month.

**ENVIRONMENT** - Failure to reach agreement at climate talks in China is being blamed on intransigence by the world's two biggest polluters, China and the United States. Disagreements between the two countries - which, combined, account for some 40% of the world's carbon emissions - have cast into doubt chances that a binding agreement will be struck by 2012, when the Kyoto protocol faces renewal.

**HEALTH** - Despite the availability of a vaccine, 1.3 million people worldwide died from tuberculosis (TB) in 2008, according to the World Health Organisation. Most of them lived in Africa and Southeast Asia.

**POPULATION** - Migrant workers around the world continue to feel the aftereffects of the global recession more acutely than native-born residents, according to a study by the Migration Institute. Migrants workers are more likely to be out of work, the study says, driven in part by large number of migrants who work in vulnerable industries. Around the world, both legal and illegal immigration and migration have dropped as a result of the economic crisis.

## ■AFRICA

**MALAWI** - A ban on traditional birth assistants (TBAs), which has been in place since 2007, was effectively lifted by Malawi's President on return from a recent UN Summit on Millennium Development Goals in New York.

**ZIMBABWE** - On October 8, the Zimbabwe government revealed the 'Zimbabwe Health Sector Investment Case (2010 – 2012): Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals' which outlines plans designed to: provide access to health services to the poorest citizens; ensure safe motherhood; and save lives.

## ■ASIA

**Asia Region** - Wildfires may not get the attention of earthquakes and cyclones but their destructive potential is considerable and warrants further attention, experts warn.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**LAC Region** - Although their human rights are increasingly recognised, blacks in Mexico and Central America are the poorest and most marginalised people in Latin America, according to experts.

**HAITI** - A report says more than one million people are still living in 1,300 mostly unmanaged camps nine months after Haiti's devastating earthquake. Sexual violence is rampant and gangs often roam freely, it says.

WFWO's Communications Team