



# News Bulletin

## ■ GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Britain, as part of a larger campaign to improve trade and diplomatic ties in Latin America, will support Brazil in its efforts to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. "It is entirely fitting that a region that provided nearly half of the founding members of the United Nations is represented fully.

DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH - The three-day mHealth Summit concludes today in Washington, D.C. "The idea that global wireless networks and mobile advances in mobile technology applications provide the world with inexpensive means to improve public health services. The WFWO believes that to achieve the health-related UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 the global health community needs to work with other partners to develop new approaches to health problems. "Mobile health is the one [approach] we think has the most immediate and far-reaching promise of making a difference," President said. "We believe that through wireless networks we can connect patients, families and practitioners with a speed and breadth never before possible. We have the ability to get the right information into the hands of the people who need it, when and where they need it - messages, reminders, checklists, access to information, calls for emergency help in a difficult birth, are all improved with the use of cell and mobile technology. "WFWO President said mHealth capabilities can overcome deficiencies in infrastructure, medical personnel and physical facilities to provide care for rural or impoverished populations to contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals".

CHILDREN RIGHTS - Ethiopia is expected to host, from 7 to 8 December, the Fourth International Policy Conference on the African Child which will examine the key dimensions of successful budgeting for children in the context of both international experience and African realities, organizers disclosed in a statement issued in Nairobi. The conference will focus on the central role effective budgeting has to play in the realization of child rights. The 2011 African Report on Child Well-being will be launched during the conference.

## ■ AFRICA

KENYA - The poor in Kenya pay more for water than the rich, but even then millions do not have enough, mainly because provision is skewed, an advocacy group has said. "The absence of a formula-based approach to budget allocation at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has led to large inequities for water access in Kenya, with the poor paying more compared with the rich, and millions of citizens going without adequate access every day.

SENEGAL - Eliminating the sale of unregulated or counterfeit medicines will take better laws and law enforcement, but as long as poor people have children getting sick sales will thrive, experts and residents say. Street vendors across the country sell products of questionable quality smuggled in from other countries - in many cases outright fakes - or hawk medicines sold to them by pharmacists seeking illegal profits. In both cases consumers are at risk.

SOUTH AFRICA - Water Improvement : The Tshiavha Primary School's water supply is pulled out of the fog that rises over this mountainous part of Limpopo Province. The school's fog net traps 2,500 litres of water per day, more than enough for the school's pupils to drink. The net consists of three six-metre-high wooden poles, set up nine metres apart. Steel cables stretch horizontally between the poles, over which a double layer of 30 percent shade cloth is draped. A gutter runs along the bottom of the shade cloth to channel the water into a storage tank. Before the fog net was installed, villagers were forced to rely on inadequate water sources including pools fed by springs, often shared with livestock.

SOUTH AFRICA - Preventative TB therapy halves risk of death among ARV patients) - Preventative tuberculosis (TB) therapy can reduce death among patients on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment by about half, according to new research from South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA - South Africa's east coast city of Durban is looking at the feasibility of turning the urine it collects from 95,000 dry toilets into fertiliser. Urine is rich in nutrients such as nitrates, phosphorus and potassium - vital ingredients of fertilizer, a precious commodity which has been rising sharply in price. Durban is something of a trail-blazer in terms of planning for climate change. Aware of likely water shortages in the years ahead, it began installing dry toilets in 2005. Neil Macleod, head of water and sanitation in Durban Municipality, explained that the urine is currently piped away from the toilets and allowed to soak into the ground, but could be harvested.

SOUTH AFRICA - As the deadline to deport undocumented Zimbabwean migrants on or after 1 January 2011 looms, human rights activists warn South Africa could face a potential human rights disaster, though a senior South African official says the government is not aiming for a "massive deportation operation".

SOMALIA - Pirates operating off the coast of Somalia are earning hundreds of millions from their activities and easily outpacing international naval efforts halt hijackings, Lynn Pascoe, United Nations secretary-general for political affairs, warned the Security Council on Tuesday. Pirates have successfully kidnapped more than 100 new crew members in the past month and currently have 20 ships in their possession.

WESTERN SAHARA - Clashes in Western Sahara between Moroccan forces and an indigenous guerrilla group continued for a second day Tuesday in the worst fighting since Morocco occupied Western Sahara more than three decades ago. The clashes, which came as Moroccan authorities and representatives of the Polisario Front were scheduled to meet at the United Nations to work toward a negotiated solution, effectively derailed the talks - though both sides agreed to continue meeting efforts and confidence-building measures.

#### ■ ASIA & PACIFIC

BANGLADESH - Ask any one of the 18,000 Rohingya youth at two government-run refugee camps in Bangladesh what they want most, the answer is unequivocally the same: education. "Our future is blind without education," said a lifelong resident of Kutupalong camp, one of two official camps set up to house 28,000 documented Rohingya refugees, 300km southeast of the capital Dhaka. "Without a proper education I'm nothing," the 17-year-old said. Apart from primary education classes, members and linguistic minority who fled Myanmar en masse starting in 1991, have little hope of going any further.

CHINA - Continued economic growth in China over the next 25 years will result in spikes in pollution and the costs of oil, yet also will foster development of renewable energy sources, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday. China, already the world's largest energy consumer, is expected to see a 75% rise in its energy demands by 2035.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - Cholera has spread to the coastal town of Daru in Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s Western Province - close to Australia - claiming 16 lives and hospitalizing hundreds, according to the National Department of Health, the government confirmed a cholera outbreak in Daru; 300 people have been treated in hospital since the first case was reported there at end-October. The Health Department's acting secretary, Paul Dopsie, said treated cases were "under control" in Daru and surrounding villages. Additional medical supplies and staff are en route to Daru. The outbreak has hit a town with no reliable water supply where most of the 20,000 residents use bucket toilets. While the spread of cholera abated earlier this year, authorities fear it has picked up again due to unhygienic conditions in coastal villages and are appealing to affected communities to clean their homes, safely discharge rubbish, boil drinking water and improve hand hygiene.

#### ■ LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Health authorities have confirmed nearly 100 cases of cholera in the slums of Port-au-Prince, raising fears that Haiti may be on the verge of a massive health disaster. About 600 people in Haiti's rural central areas have already died during the three-week-old outbreak. Authorities fear flooding from a recent hurricane, lingering damage from the Jan. 12 earthquake and overcrowded conditions in survivor camps will help the rapid spread of the disease.

HAITI - All across Haiti, United Nations, bilateral and non- governmental agencies are running scores of "cash-for-work" programmes. But are they "working"? The humanitarian agencies that run the \$5-a-day job programmes claim they helped "relaunch" the economy and now are supporting "reconstruction and disaster risk reduction, increasing the sustainability of agricultural rehabilitation and stimulating the local economy to increase the amount of agricultural land in the countryside so that people can earn more from their land.

WFWO's Communications Team