

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - As the world population approaches seven billion, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that ending global poverty and inequality is the key to unleashing the great human potential for prosperity and peaceful coexistence, while protecting the planet and safeguarding the natural resources that sustain humanity.

WOMEN - Maternal health advocates say community-driven efforts to institutionalize the use of hammocks, called ayod, to transport pregnant women to medical facilities can help slash maternal mortality rates in rural Philippines where 70% of births take place at home. The ayod have been used by indigenous people for generations to help transport the elderly and infirm across mountainous areas to reach treatment centers.

AFRICA

HORN OF AFRICA - The drought affecting about 10 million people in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, has been described by the head of the UN refugee agency as the "worst humanitarian disaster" in the world.

KENYA - In Kenya buying medicine from any unregistered pharmacy outlet means that you are running a higher risk of buying either substandard or counterfeit drugs that form 30 percent of all drugs sold in the country.

NAMIBIA - The United Nations independent expert on the right to water and sanitation took note of Namibia's success in expanding access to water and urged the Government to make similar efforts to ensure that proper sanitation is available to more people in the southern African country.

SUDAN - Violence against women is rampant, devastating and tolerated in South Sudan and the new country needs to address these gross human rights violations and train people, especially soldiers, to respect women's rights.

ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE - More and more Asian governments are giving indigenous people greater control over their natural resources and habitat in a bid to stem deforestation, a new report states.

INDIA is unprepared to manage an influx of people into urban areas that is expected to almost double urban populations by 2030, the government warns. Sewage treatment, garbage collection, public transport and adequate sanitation facilities are among the many infrastructure issues authorities are struggling to address.

AFGHANISTAN is struggling to improve health conditions for women, but indicators released recently show the country has the highest maternal mortality risk and the lowest female life expectancy in the world.

PAKISTAN - Nearly one year after devastating floods swamped vast tracts of land across Pakistan, affecting over 20 million people, many survivors are still struggling to rebuild their lives as this year's monsoon season is about to start.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Heavy rains have helped drive a resurgence of cholera across Haiti, where 370,000 people contracted the disease after an outbreak began in October. Health officials reported a surge of new cases in June, and aid workers worry there may be insufficient resources to cope with another massive outbreak.

WFWO's Communications Team