



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**HUNGER** - One billion people in the world were undernourished in 2009, according to a new report. The 2010 Global Hunger Index shows that child malnutrition is the biggest cause of hunger worldwide, accounting for almost half of those affected. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia were shown to have the highest levels of hunger. The report's authors called on nations to tackle child malnutrition in order to reduce global hunger.

**DEVELOPMENT** - World Bank president Mr. Zoellick has urged rich donor countries recovering from the global financial crisis to pledge new funds to the International Development Association (IDA) fund. Mr. Zoellick warned that a failure to do so would "devastate" global efforts to tackle poverty. The IDA provides soft loans and low-cost development grants to 79 of the world's poorest countries. Mr. Zoellick acknowledged that many donor countries are facing budget spending cuts due to the recession, but added that the IDA was fundamental to achieving the **Millennium Development Goals**. A "robust" fund-raising effort for the fund could immunise 200 million children, extend health services to 30 million additional people, help build 80,000 kilometres of roads and train tracks and recruit more than two million teachers, he said.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Officials say the recent climate talks in China have paved the way for a deal this year despite the seeming intractability of the world's top two polluters, China and the U.S. Negotiators said progress was made in Tianjin on the transfer of funds and technologies from rich to developing countries, essential to what UN climate chief Christiana Figueres says will be "the greatest societal and economic transformation that the world has ever seen."

## ■AFRICA

**DR CONGO** - The authors of the UN "mapping report" detailing more than 600 "serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law" committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between March 1993 and June 2003 see the landmark document as an important step in delivering justice to victims of the atrocities.

**KENYA** - Stigma has allowed a disfiguring microscopic worm to thrive in Kenya's coastal region, among other endemic regions, but if adequate funds were made available, the spread of lymphatic filariasis (LF), also known as elephantiasis, could easily be stopped in the east African country with the help of just a couple of pills a year.

**MOZAMBIQUE** - For HIV patients in Africa, monthly trips to refill antiretroviral (ARV) prescriptions cost time and money that may be in short supply. But a new strategy being pioneered in Mozambique is easing the burden of monthly refills for patients and the health system.

## ■ASIA

**AFGHANISTAN** - Afghan authorities are pushing to increase availability of mental health services across the country in recognition of sobering statistics that show that more than 60% of the population suffers from stress disorders and other mental health conditions, the Health Ministry says. Authorities hope to place trained medical professionals in every health facility to help with diagnosis and treatment.

**SRI LANKA** - More private investment, especially in agriculture, is urgently needed in Sri Lanka's former conflict zone in the north to lift the local population out of dependence, say experts.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

**EGYPT** - The Egyptian government is hoping to cultivate wheat and other cereals on fertile land in African countries to feed its growing population of over 80 million.

**YEMEN** - The Ministry of Public Health and Population on 9 October launched a maternal and neonatal tetanus vaccination campaign, targeting women of childbearing age in 13 of the country's 21 governorates.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**BRAZIL** is piloting a program to microchip trees in the Amazon to bolster efforts on sustainable forestry practices and prevent illegal logging. The microchips will allow the lumber industry and authorities to track a tree's origin, size and who cut it down - helping create a verifiable system of sustainable supply.

WFWO's Communications Team