



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**CLIMATE CHANGE** is expected to bring greater extremes in weather conditions, but climate models disagree about which problems - droughts, flooding, temperature increases - are most likely in much of northern, central and western Africa. In east Africa, however, the models largely agree: dry areas will suffer more prolonged droughts and wet areas will see increased moisture and perhaps worsening flooding.

**EDUCATION** - Many more in school but many still out - The number of primary-school-age children who go to school has increased globally, but countries affected by conflict still have large numbers missing out on an education, states a new report.

## ■AFRICA

**KENYA** - HPV infection heightens HIV risk in men - The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine could be a useful tool in HIV prevention, according to a study, which found that Kenyan men infected with HPV were more likely than uninfected men to contract the HI virus.

**SOUTH AFRICA** - A South African government agency has become the first to join the world's leading patent pool for neglected diseases, a move that could bolster home-grown innovations in the fight against diseases including tuberculosis (TB).

**SOMALIA** - Thousands displaced by floods, fear of renewed clashes - Flooding and fear of renewed clashes in Somalia's south-central region of Hiiraan have displaced thousands of families in and around Beletweyne, the regional capital.

## ■ASIA

**AFGHANISTAN** - The country has closed down 20 foreign aid groups and charities for failing to provide reports on their work and finances, according to the government. A government-backed commission decided that alongside 152 Afghan non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the groups should be dissolved with immediate effect, the Ministry of Economy said adding they would be allowed to appeal the commissions decision. Meanwhile, dozens of schoolgirls were taken to hospital after two suspected poisonous gas attacks on schools, officials said, the latest in a spate of similar incidents.

**CHINA** - Yingxiu is a small town in a steep valley and one of the worst-hit places in China's devastating earthquake of May 12, 2008. Now it is at the heart of feverish rebuilding efforts, under pressure from top leaders to complete a three-year reconstruction plan ahead of time. Meanwhile, aid groups and survivors are facing other reconstruction woes nearly a month after a devastating earthquake hit a remote corner of southwest China on April 14, 2010. A tornado and hailstorms killed at least 25 people and injured more than 150 near the southwestern Chinese city of Chongqing late last week.

**INDIA's** annual greenhouse gas emissions increased by 58 per cent between 1994 and 2007, the government has announced. Environment Minister released a report attributing the significant growth to higher industrial activity, energy production and transport. India's total annual greenhouse gas emissions reached 1.90 billion tonnes in 2007, the report said.

**PAKISTAN** - Critiques of the 2005 quake reconstruction - The devastating 7.6 magnitude earthquake that struck northwestern Pakistan in October 2005 led to the establishment of a government body tasked with coordinating the emergency response, early recovery and reconstruction of homes and infrastructure in an area spanning 30,000sqkm of mountainous terrain.

**TIMOR-LESTE** - On 3 May, Timor-Leste's Law Against Domestic Violence was passed by parliament eight years after it was first drafted.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

**YEMEN** - People living in the north are desperately trying to rebuild their lives disrupted by months of intense fighting. The last round of fighting exacted a heavy toll in terms of lives lost, injuries, displacement, loss of livelihood, and the destruction of civilian housing, farms and vital public facilities such as health clinics and water wells. At least seven people were killed in a Sanaa shanty town in the worst flooding to hit the Yemeni capital in over a decade, officials said last week. Witnesses said water streamed down from nearby mountains after torrential rain into a low-lying residential area of eastern Sanaa with no drainage system, flooding hundreds of homes.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**HAITI** - Haitian police used tear gas and warning shots to disperse protesters calling for President Rene Preval's resignation on Monday after some demonstrators robbed passersby and tried to crash through barricades around the national palace. Haiti's government has come under strong criticism for its response to the Jan. 12 earthquake. Meanwhile, international aid groups fear a commission being set up to manage the reconstruction process may create a bottleneck that would hamper their work. Separately, Brazil became the first contributor to a reconstruction fund and World Bank President urged other donor nations to make good on their aid pledges to help the Caribbean country's reconstruction.

WFWO's Communications Team