



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged donors to provide at least 750 million US dollars to fund the treatment of a debilitating childbirth injury that still plagues poor women and girls in developing countries. Although it has been eliminated in the developed world, the UN estimates that obstetric fistula (a hole in the birth canal) still affects between 50,000 to 100,000 women worldwide every year due to neglect and lack of proper healthcare. The condition is caused by obstruction during labour and leaves women suffering from constant incontinence and other health problems, causing shame and social segregation. Obstetric fistula can be prevented with quality maternal and reproductive healthcare and can be treated with reconstructive surgery.

CLIMATE CHANGE - As the world's population grows over the coming decades, demographics altered by factors such as urbanization and aging communities will affect greenhouse-gas emissions and the pace of climate change, scientists report. The movement of people from rural to urban locales could lead to 25% increase in emissions for developing countries, the scientists forecast. Aging populations will deliver significant emissions cuts by 2050, but not enough to solve the world's climate problems.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - If African countries had had the capacity to do climate change projections, their data could have been fed into the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) assessments for the continent, said the former vice-chair of the IPCC at one of the discussions ahead of the Seventh African Development Forum.

NIGERIA - As the number of children known to have been poisoned by lead continues to mount, a UN team has recommended the government help communities clean up the informal gold-mining sector, rather than quash it altogether.

SWAZILAND - About a quarter of Swaziland's one million people require food assistance - substantially less than the more than 60 percent relying on donor support in 2008 but an uncomfortable reminder of the country's donor dependency.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - Civil society is preparing to challenge a recent government decision in Bangladesh to exclude "prostitution" as a profession on new voter cards on the grounds it effectively blocks sex workers' access to HIV prevention and life-saving health care.

CHINA - Despite successful campaigns to promote gender equality, China continues to struggle with high rates of domestic violence, which experts say impacts not only families but society as a whole.

PAKISTAN - Flood victims across Pakistan have been returning home to villages where houses have been reduced to piles of mud and brick, farmland ravaged and streets reduced to swamps.

WFWO's Communications Team