



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - Representatives to climate-change talks in Bonn have made progress on addressing differences that have hobbled efforts to forge an international treaty. Negotiators reached agreement on a process to govern climate aid and methods to measure and verify greenhouse-gas emission reductions. Supporters hope the effort may serve as a blueprint for more progress at the next summit in August.

HEALTH - Progress in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity is still "tragically slow". Now, the United Nations has unveiled a global initiative based on government, civil society and private sector cooperation that could save the lives of up to one million women during pregnancy and childbirth.

■AFRICA

CHAD - In rural Chad cattle are currency, the down-payment on ceremonies, a savings plan during sickness and emergency food in lean times. So the loss of an estimated one-third of the country's livestock to drought has been a disaster, with desperate pastoralists trying to make it until the next rains as best they can.

SOUTH AFRICA - The organization working to reduce the number of deaths caused by AIDS, is working with a South African youth soccer league in an effort to eliminate the misinformation and stigma surrounding the disease, which is more prevalent in South Africa than anywhere else. By testing and educating sports players who serve as role models for younger children, the organization hopes to demonstrate that HIV is preventable, testing is available and living with AIDS is a possibility through medicine.

■ASIA

Asia Region - Millions of Asians will face increased food insecurity, as glacier and snow melt from the Himalayas and the Tibetan plateau increase due to climate changes, a study finds. Residents along the banks of five major rivers rely on meltwater for their survival and the changes may set off water disputes, mass migrations and social unrest, the report finds.

BANGLADESH - Despite slow progress in increasing the number of skilled birth attendants, Bangladesh has made enormous reductions in maternal mortality by improving girls' education.

CHINA - The Mekong River is steadily emerging as a testing ground for public diplomacy, Chinese style. Beijing, it appears, wants to reach out to its southern neighbours who share the river more as a friendly giant than an imposing bully.

NEPAL - Millions of children from marginalized ethnic families in Nepal are drifting out of education because not enough is being done to keep them in school, aid workers warn.

PAKISTAN - Local residents in the devastated southwestern port town of Gwadar, in Balochistan Province, are up in arms over what they say has been a slow and ineffective response by authorities to Cyclone Phet, which struck Pakistan on 5-6 June.

SRI LANKANS should be ready for more urban flash flooding, like those experienced in May, unless proper infrastructure is built to allow the onrushing waters to flow unhindered, experts warn.

■MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Children in Yemen work on fishing vessels off the Aden coast, in bustling markets carrying goods, in factories doing menial jobs, in fields picking qat - the leaves of *Catha edulis*, which are chewed as a euphoric stimulant - and at intersections in the larger cities, begging or selling goods to motorists.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICO - With less than six months before Mexico hosts the next global climate change summit, Mexican environmental organisations hosting the parallel civil society forum are divided on how to carry it out - which some fear could ultimately weaken their role at the negotiating table.

URUGUAY - In the world of labour in Uruguay there is one indicator in which women are ahead: unemployment.

WFWO's Communications Team