



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - More than a third of all women in the world have been forced into sex, beaten or abused by a partner or family member, a top UN official said. Zou Xiaoqiao, vice-chairwoman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women said that sexual violence was increasing around the world despite major campaigns by the UN and other bodies. Ms. Zou said that not enough of the 186 countries which have signed the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) had implemented it to give effective help to women.

FOOD - A UN initiative will push countries to design nutrition policies based on new studies that show good quality food for mothers and children in the first 1,000 days, including pregnancy, would not only save millions of lives but raise literacy and economic growth rates.

HEALTH - The battle to eradicate polio has hovered close to victory for two decades, raising concerns within the health community that failure remains possible and the struggle could erode confidence in the world's ability to tackle other diseases. Vaccination programs have helped cut the number of polio cases by 99% since 1988 and the disease remains endemic in just four countries, but campaigners fear donor fatigue is taking hold and may spill over into efforts to battle malaria, HIV/AIDS and measles.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Wealthy countries are in a position to raise \$100 billion a year beginning in 2020 to aid developing countries tackle climate change using tools such as carbon pricing and emissions taxes, a United Nations advisory committee chaired by Norwegian Prime Minister says. International climate treaty talks have been plagued by a pervasive sense of distrust between wealthy and developing countries. Wealthy countries agreed to provide the funds at the 2009 Copenhagen summit, but have yet to produce a plan to honor the commitment.

■AFRICA

SOMALIA - The head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) urged the international community to stop deporting Somali refugees back to the war-torn capital Mogadishu.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Over 100,000 people have been forced out of their homes by clashes in different parts of Afghanistan over the past 12 months but by no means all of them have received aid, according to aid agencies and affected people.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - The concept that the state plays a key role in overcoming chronic hunger is not a new one. But the latest figures from Latin America show that more public money and social programmes alone are ineffective solutions. Some 600,000 people in Latin America and the Caribbean escaped from hunger over the last year, but this is a drop in the ocean when 53.1 million people were underfed in the region in 2009, and 52.5 million will still be going hungry by the end of 2010.

WFWO's Communications Team