



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - When the United Nations hosts a summit meeting of world leaders next September to assess the current state of its **Millennium Development Goals** it is expected to single out one of the major "success stories" of the day: a reduction in global poverty. But have there been any real, significant successes in the absolute number of people worldwide who have escaped poverty? The United Nations is convinced the developing world as a whole remains on track to achieve the poverty reduction target (a 50 percent cut) by 2015. But the numbers may belie that. At the global level, the number of people living under the international poverty line of less than 1.25 dollars a day declined from 1.9 billion to 1.4 billion: a reduction of about 500 million people.

UNITED NATIONS - Both public and private funds may be used to fulfill a \$100 billion a year climate-fund pledge to help developing countries cope with climate change, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says. An advisory panel that includes the Norwegian and Ethiopian prime ministers is examining ways to obtain funding for the agreement made during the Copenhagen summit.

UNITED NATIONS - In a report issued on Tuesday, UNAIDS called for a simplified approach to HIV treatment. The UN body claims a new approach, which it calls "Treatment 2.0", could prevent 10 million AIDS deaths by 2025 and one million new infections each year. Treatment 2.0 includes a once-daily fixed dose combination that could be managed without laboratory monitoring plus more access to medical treatment, more HIV testing, reduced treatment costs and stronger community mobilisation. UNAIDS also released another report saying that HIV prevalence among young people has declined by more than 25 per cent in 15 of the 25 worst affected countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Across the world, but especially in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, young people are taking action to protect themselves from HIV, says a new study by UNAIDS.

D.R. CONGO - Violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has prompted about 70,000 people to flee their homes in recent weeks, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says. Civilian populations and aid organizations have been under attack as Congolese armed forces battle rebels from Uganda and Rwanda.

KENYA/SOMALIA - Tension is high between Somali and Sudanese refugees in Dadaab refugee camp, northern Kenya, after the killing of a Somali boy on the night of 13 July.

SOMALIA - Conditions for thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in and around Mogadishu continue to worsen daily, with hunger, disease and lack of shelter taking their toll on an already vulnerable population, according to local sources.

SWAZILAND's judiciary is concerned by an absence of detention facilities for children, which forces them to share jail cells with adult criminals.

■ASIA

Asia Region - Health, labour and foreign ministry officials from 13 countries in Asia held their first ever meeting to address better access to health care for millions of migrant workers in the region. Joint recommendations encouraging migrant-inclusive policies and multi-country partnerships to facilitate uninterrupted treatment for diseases like HIV and tuberculosis were made.

PHILIPPINES - At least 20 people are dead and dozens more missing following the first typhoon to strike the Philippines this year. Typhoon Conson struck on 13 July, knocking out power for over 40 million people in the main island of Luzon and blowing away shanties in impoverished coastal areas, the country's National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - The city of Fallujah, about 60km west of Baghdad, still has no functioning sewage system: Waste pours onto the streets and seeps into drinking water supplies, local officials said on 13 July.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Six months after Haiti's devastating earthquake, UN aid agencies say they are entering the challenging phase of replacing the tents that are home to the estimated 1.5 million people who remain displaced.

WFWO's Communications Team