



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - World leaders will need to commit to providing \$100 billion in funding over the next five years to poor countries to meet the **Millennium Development Goals**, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said ahead of a next week's UN summit. UN Secretary-General advocated allocated the funds for education, jobs, health and other areas where the biggest impact is possible.

HUNGER - A report found global hunger is costing developing countries \$450 billion per year. The total number of undernourished people remains higher than before the 2008-2009 economic crisis, according to a report released by the UNFAO. While the number of undernourished people has fallen from last year, global hunger remains "unacceptably high," UNFAO said.

■AFRICA

KENYAN human rights activists have filed an appeal for the release of two men imprisoned for defaulting on their tuberculosis (TB) treatment, and are warning that the arrests could discourage other patients from seeking treatment.

NIGERIA - Poor diagnostics and weak surveillance are hampering government efforts to stem cholera in Nigeria says a government health worker.

ZIMBABWE's education ministry has backtracked on a new policy, introduced in August 2010, to grant pregnant schoolgirls and the prospective fathers maternity and paternity leave from school, and has opted for disciplinary measures instead.

■ASIA

Asia Region - Higher incomes in Asian countries have lowered the number of hungry in 2010, says a brief preview of the annual report on the State of Food Insecurity in the World by the UNFAO, but economists warn that volatile wheat prices are affecting other staple grains such as maize and rice, and could lead to setbacks.

■MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA - Among the estimated 1.2 million Iraqi refugees in Syria are several thousand Mandaeans, a small religious minority on the verge of extinction in Iraq, and lacking support in Syria.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZILIAN authorities announced this week that they had rescued 134 farm workers from conditions similar to slavery. According to reports from local media, 95 people were found in a sugar cane plantation in the state of Rio de Janeiro. They had been forced to work long hours exposed to dangerous pesticides and without access to drinking water or sanitary facilities. Another 51 workers were rescued from a strawberry farm in Minas Gerais state, 39 of whom were reportedly working in slave-like conditions. Many of the rescued farm workers were underage. All of them will receive compensation and their employers may be fined, according to the authorities.

WFWO's Communications Team