



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Making his second visit to Haiti since the devastating earthquake, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged the aid that Haiti still needs for infrastructure, schools, roads and other development projects and pledged that the world would not fall short in providing that aid. Ban said that 60% of Haiti's newly homeless have received tents and tarpaulins but admitted that more was needed quickly, in advance of the rainy season. Ban noted that the UN has raised only half of the \$1.44 billion needed to help Haiti's earthquake victims this year.

■AFRICA

ETHIOPIA - Ethiopia has made some headway towards improving maternal and child health, but more needs to be done to reduce the high number of preventable deaths, says an official.

MADAGASCAR - Struggling to reach cyclone-hit villages - Tropical storm Hubert battered Madagascar on 10 March, cutting off entire communities in the southeast from emergency aid. A limited amount of relief - mainly food items - has been flown in because of damage to infrastructure, and aid agencies are trying to reach people in need of assistance via the river systems.

MOZAMBIQUE - Floods could aggravate seasonal cholera - Cholera has claimed the lives of over 40 people in Mozambique and ongoing flooding throughout the central and northern parts of the country could "aggravate" the problem, aid agencies say.

SOMALIA - Without food and unable to bury the dead in Mogadishu - Five days of fighting in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, have left residents without food, cut off from their homes and unable to bury their dead, civil society leaders in the city said.

SOUTH AFRICA - Between patients and prevention - New research suggests that the poor knowledge and attitudes of doctors and healthcare workers in South Africa are limiting access to preventative tuberculosis (TB) therapy.

ZIMBABWE - Food security remains precarious - Zimbabwe's food security has improved but is still "precarious" and "vulnerable to sudden shocks", according to the latest update by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - Salt-resistant paddy offers hope to farmers - A new salt-resistant paddy - BRRI Dhan 47 - is offering hope to coastal farmers in southern Bangladesh whose crops are affected by climate change, say experts.

CHINA - With the support of the Chinese government, Chinese environmentalists are seeking to raise the profile of elephants in China, which number fewer than the rare giant panda - a result of increasing habitat encroachment. Though poaching is not a significant problem in China, activists say that their numbers have plummeted to about 300 as a result of farmers and the lack of cultural significance of elephants.

CENTRAL ASIA - Floods, avalanches wreak havoc - Floods have killed 34 people in Aksu District, Almaty Province, southeastern Kazakhstan, according to the government-run Kazinform news agency on 15 March. Hundreds have been displaced and a further 926 evacuated to the provincial capital of Taldykorgan, it said.

SRI LANKA - Activists, lawyers and journalists critical of the Sri Lankan government are facing alarming intimidation and rights abuses, a panel of international lawyers has said.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI's provincial towns are struggling to cope with an influx of 600,000 people who have left Port-au-Prince in the wake of January's massive earthquake. Provincial authorities say they have received little support from the central government to bolster housing, medical care, education and food resources.

WFWO's Communications Team