



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The export-led growth model pushed on developing countries in recent decades may not help them recover from the effects of the global economic crisis, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development warns in its latest annual report. Joblessness, now estimated to affect 210 million people worldwide, is a critical challenge and a key element to recovery efforts, the report says. UNCTAD advocates higher wages and efforts to increase domestic demand as means to strengthen economies.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS - Deaths from complications during pregnancy and childbirth have fallen by a third in the past two decades but 1,000 women still die needlessly every day, the UNWHO has said. Women in poorer countries are 36 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than those in rich nations, the UNWHO says in a report launched ahead of a summit reviewing progress on the **Millennium Development Goals**. The health agency's latest figures show maternal death rates are still far higher the United Nations' flagship targets. Some 99 percent of the 358,000 maternal deaths reported in 2008 were in developing countries, and more than half were in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the report.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Bad governance and corruption mean several African countries won't meet targets on cutting child mortality under the **Millennium Development Goals**, aid group says in a new report. The aid agency says more than 2.8 million children's lives could have been saved in Africa over the last ten years if countries had focused on the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population.

ZIMBABWE - A recent government directive forbidding unqualified teachers - estimated to comprise as much as 60 percent of the staff complement at rural schools - is causing severe disruptions to education.

■ASIA

NEPAL - As global warming shrinks glaciers along the world's highest peaks, glacial lakes in Nepal are increasingly at risk of bursting the natural dams containing them - endangering the lives of tens of thousands in communities below, experts say.

PAKISTAN - The risk of outbreaks of disease has eased in parts of flood-hit Pakistan as water recedes from many areas, the United Nations Children's Fund said, but the hard-hit south remains a worry.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - An initiative that provides poor families with regular cash payments in return for social commitments like sending their children to school or for health check-ups has played an important role in reducing poverty in Latin America and helping the region to advance towards the **Millennium Development Goals**.

WFWO's Communications Team