



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

HUMAN RIGHTS Watch is sounding an alarm over the fate of Roma deported from Western European countries back to Kosovo where the rights watchdog says they face soaring unemployment, discrimination and inhumane living conditions. The attention of Kosovo authorities is focused on political survival, the group warns, and officials are unlikely to see the Roma plight as a priority.

HEALTH - Malaria elimination is most feasible in Latin America and least feasible in Central and West Africa, according to a study mapping 99 malaria-endemic countries. A reasonable estimate for global eradication of malaria is 2050–2060.

BIODIVERSITY - Delegates at a UN conference on biodiversity in Japan are optimistic of reaching a deal on preservation of the world's natural habitats and the equitable sharing of their genetic resources. Central to any deal is a protocol addressing payment to developing countries for use, largely by rich countries, of their natural genetic materials.

■AFRICA

KENYA - A new, easy-to-use pack for pregnant, HIV-positive women could significantly reduce rates of mother-to-child HIV transmission (MTCT) in Kenya.

SOMALIA - Health officials in Sanaag, a region to the northeast of Somalia's self-declared republic of Somaliland, say food insecurity has seriously affected 22 villages in a mountainous area, where more than 200 children have been found to be malnourished.

■ASIA

INDIA - Microlending has suffered a setback recently in India, where thousands of borrowers are refusing to repay loans at the urging of government leaders who are criticizing lenders for imposing especially high interest rates - ranging from 25% to 100% annually - and harassing borrowers. Some in government are blaming microlenders for the suicides of dozens of borrowers.

INDONESIA - Aid agencies are still struggling to reach survivors one week after a tsunami struck Indonesia's southern Mentawai islands.

MYANMAR - Aid workers are worried about possible water contamination after Cyclone Giri swamped the western coast of Myanmar on 22 October, affecting an estimated 200,000 people.

PAKISTAN - More than 100,000 Pakistanis face spending the winter living in camps as their villages remain under stagnant water after monsoon rains triggered massive flooding in July, UNHCR says. Many of those who have returned home face living in structures without electricity or roofs, and remain in need of additional assistance.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

VENEZUELA - In the Southern Caribbean, along the Venezuelan coast, fishing is on the decline, surface waters are warming, rivers discharge tonnes of waste into the sea - the waves seem to be licking the wounds left by these phenomena and devastating fishing practices like bottom trawling.

WFWO's Communications Team