

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

MDGs - The marked drop in global child-mortality rates reported last week by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation is nevertheless not deep enough to meet the Millennium Development Goal seeking a two-thirds reduction in child deaths by 2015. "The news that the rate of child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa is declining twice as fast as it was a decade ago shows that we can make progress even in the poorest places, but we cannot for a moment forget the chilling fact of around 21,000 children dying every day from preventable causes," said the executive director of UN Children's Fund.

WOMEN & GIRL - Countries where females have solid opportunities perform better in regards to productivity and furthering development goals, the World Bank says in a report. While women now account for more than 40% of the global workforce, significant gaps in gender equity remain unaddressed, according to the report.

AFRICA

KENYA - Health officials are on high alert after three cases of the Wild Polio Virus Type 1 were recently recorded in western Kenya.

UGANDA - The Ugandan district of Apac, where the average person is bitten four times a day by mosquitoes infected with malaria, and the disease affects 70% of children, the number of reported cases of malaria has fallen since June from some 5,000 to 1,250 cases a week, largely because of insecticide sprays and bed nets.

SOUTH AFRICA - More than 10 million South Africans are at risk of illness and sexual assault because of poor access to toilets, campaigners said last week at a summit on sanitation and waste disposal in Cape Town, where some 500,000 people lack access to basic sanitation, and as many as 500 people are expected to share one chemical toilet. Even though the government has reduced by half the number of households without sanitation since apartheid, many South Africans still risk muggers and rapists because public toilets are too far from their homes not working properly, or just plain filthy.

ASIA

PAKISTAN is increasing efforts to install glacier monitoring systems in the Himalayas in a bid to better track glacier melt and understand flood risks. Twenty million people were driven from their homes during heavy monsoon flooding in 2010, and more than 5 million have been severely affected by flooding already this monsoon season.

WFWO's Communications Team