

# NEWS BULLETIN

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## GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The head of the United Nations agency tasked with combating rural poverty today cautioned developed countries against cutting assistance to smallholder farmers in poorer nations, saying most food producers across the world were small-scale growers.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - The speed and rate of degeneration of the world's oceans is far more severe than previously predicted and is comparable to five mass extinctions on geological record, according to a new report. The report cites the cumulative effects of climate change, seawater acidification, presence of pollutants and overfishing as driving the change, and warns the early stages of significant global extinction may already be under way.

**HEALTH** - Deaths from noncommunicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart and lung ailments are increasing rapidly throughout the world, costing the global economy trillions of dollars, according to a new UN report. In 2008 some 63% of all deaths, or 36 million people, were from noncommunicable diseases - the source of 80% of all deaths in the developing world.

**HIV/AIDS** - Governments should move to remove legislation that criminalizes sexual activity between men as a means to lift barriers gay men face to accessing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and improve efforts to decrease transmission rates, the UN World Health Organization says. Men who have sex with men face significant challenges to accessing services particularly in the approximately 76 countries where gay relationships are illegal.

## AFRICA

**CHAD** - As polio strikes more and more people in Chad - 68 cases so far this year - tens of thousands of children are unprotected largely due to flaws in how vaccination campaigns are run.

**CONGO** - At least 32 people have died and 800 others have been infected following an outbreak of measles in the southern Pointe Noire and Kouilou regions of the Republic of Congo, say health officials.

**KENYA** - As Kenya puts more HIV-positive children on life-prolonging antiretroviral drugs, experts are warning that unless more effort is put into ensuring the medicines are taken regularly, widespread treatment failure could result.

**MADAGASCAR** - A build-up of locust populations in south-western Madagascar could turn into a plague and seriously endanger the livelihoods of 13 million people unless a new campaign is launched to contain the crop-devouring insects, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization warned today.

WFWO's Communications Team