

# NEWS BULLETIN

22 July 2011



## GLOBAL

**HEALTH** - Efforts to eradicate polio by 2012 are unlikely to succeed as vaccination efforts continue to be plagued by funding gaps, ineffective administration and political considerations, according to an assessment from the Independent Monitoring Board of the Global Polio Eradication initiative. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo have all been battling an increased number of polio cases in 2011.

**HIV/AIDS** - The United Nations agency at the forefront of the global AIDS response has strongly welcomed new data that provides further evidence that male circumcision is effective in preventing HIV in men. The study, which was carried out in South Africa, showed a 55 per cent reduction in HIV prevalence and a 76 per cent reduction in HIV incidence in circumcised men, according to a news release issued by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS.

## AFRICA

**NIGER** - The Government of Niger needs international support to curb alarming levels of child malnutrition, as well as deal with its underlying causes, says the United Nations Children's Fund. The agency said in a news release issued on Wednesday that more than 15 children in 100 suffer from acute malnutrition, as shown by the National Nutrition Survey that was released this month.

**SOMALIA** - The United Nations has called an emergency meeting on July 25 to discuss mobilizing aid for drought-stricken east Africa, where famine has been declared in parts of Somalia. A wide swathe of east Africa, including Kenya and Ethiopia, has been hit by years of severe drought and the United Nations says two regions of southern Somalia are suffering the worst famine for 20 years, with 3.7 million people facing starvation. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization announced an emergency meeting at its Rome headquarters on Monday to be attended by ministers and senior representatives from its 191 member countries, other UN bodies, NGOs and regional development banks.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA** - The death toll in southern Africa during the 2010-2011 rainy season (December-May) was "markedly higher" than in recent years, with 477 people killed, compared to seven during the same period in 2009-2010, and 212 in 2008-2009, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

## MIDDLE EAST

**OPT** - The housing crisis in the Gaza Strip is not going to be resolved any time soon; Only a small number of the 40,000 units needed to meet natural population growth and the destruction of homes in Israeli military operations are being built, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

WFWO's Communications Team