



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

HIV/AIDS - Worldwide, fewer people are being infected with the HIV, and fewer are dying from AIDS, a new [UNAIDS report](#) says. The number of HIV-positive individuals dipped in 2009 from the previous year, and 56 countries report flat or declining rates of new HIV infection. Even as UNAIDS announced this success, it cautioned that there are 10 million people around the world who are infected with HIV and cannot access treatment, and that a quarter of AIDS deaths are caused by tuberculosis, which can be cured.

CLIMATE CHANGE - A high-ranking UN official believes there is a good chance that meaningful agreements can be reached among the 200 countries participating next week in climate talks in Cancun, Mexico. Accord already is near over issues such as forest protection, technology sharing and aid for developing countries. Reid Detchon, an energy expert with the UN Foundation, expects incremental change from the Cancun meeting. "I would not look for any major agreement. I would look toward small agreements for progress being made," he said.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - The World Health Organization is launching a program to vaccinate 450 million people against bacterial meningitis in Africa by 2015. This particular strain of meningitis causes annual epidemics in 25 African countries, leaving thousands dead or permanently disabled.

SOUTH AFRICA - The HIV prevalence rate among farm workers in South Africa is about 40 percent, the highest ever recorded in southern Africa, according to a new study.

SUDAN - A senior UN official has called on leaders in Northern and semi-autonomous Southern Sudan not to incite tension as Southerners register for a January referendum that is likely to lead to secession.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

AFGHANISTAN - Unlike many Afghans whose living conditions have improved over the past nine years, many Kuchis, a minority nomad community - predominately Pashtuns - say theirs have deteriorated.

LAOS - In a first for the region, parliamentarians in Laos are addressing domestic violence by hosting a conference for regional lawmakers on 25 November in the capital, Vientiane.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Deforestation rates have slowed in Brazil and elsewhere in expectation of a windfall of green gold from billions of dollars of carbon credits being mobilised for climate protection, some experts believe.

HAITI - The number of deaths from Haiti's cholera outbreak has reached more than 1,340 people, prompting calls from some candidates to postpone the country's presidential and legislative elections set for Sunday. Violence has accompanied the outbreak, and some aid agencies worry it has not yet reached its peak.

WFWO's Communications Team