

# NEWS BULLETIN

28 January 2011



## GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will no longer take a hands-on role in negotiations over climate change, citing a lack of will among world leaders to reach agreement on global warming in the near future, according to senior UN officials. Instead, he will redirect his energies toward issues such as promoting clean energy and green economies in developing countries.

FOOD - Governments around the world need to work together to reform the global food supply chain to avoid rapid price changes and social unrest, according to a report from the British government. The report includes data from 400 scientists in 34 countries and urges governments to avoid commodities hoarding and protectionist trade measures.

HEALTH - Things are generally more positive on the global HIV front: the number of new infections is down, treatment figures are up and headway is being made in the fight to end discrimination against people living with HIV.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Forests help sustain life on earth by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air, and also provide a home to many communities that depend on them, yet they become one of the biggest sources of harmful carbon dioxide when they are destroyed.

## AFRICA

SUDAN - Fighting between government and rebel groups in North and South Darfur in western Sudan has displaced tens of thousands of people and hindered access by humanitarian workers to some affected areas, sources said.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - Myanmar is one of 57 countries worldwide facing a critical shortage of medical staff, defined as fewer than 23 health workers per 10,000 people, the minimum needed to provide 80 percent coverage for births and measles immunizations, according to the UN World Health Organization.

PAKISTAN - Children in a flood-stricken province of Pakistan are suffering levels of malnutrition akin to those found among famine-stricken regions of Africa, according to the UN. Nationwide, a shortfall in global financial and other aid has meant that hundreds of thousands of flood survivors must try to survive the winter without even emergency shelter.

## MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Thousands of Egyptian protestors have taken to the streets for the third day in a row to demonstrate against rising food prices, unemployment and lack of political freedom.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Brazilian authorities have given approval to begin construction on a controversial \$17 billion Amazon dam project that supporters say will start providing much-needed electricity supply to fuel the Brazilian economy by 2015. Critics worry construction will damage local ecosystems and adversely affect tens of thousands of indigenous peoples living in the Belo Monte region.

PERU - A legislative bill in Peru aims to channel the fines for environmental crimes to repair the damages to rivers, soils and other public goods that directly affect the population.

WFWO's Communications Team