



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The UN has launched a website targeting poor countries most affected by rabies in its effort to bring the disease under control. Although the treatment for rabies infections has improved dramatically and its incidence rates have fallen in Western countries, rabies still represents a threat to children - who typically contract the disease from stray dog bites.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - During the three-day summit of African Union heads of state, roughly 37,000 children and 2,000 women died across Africa, mostly from preventable causes, says a civil society coalition for child and maternal health. The coalition welcomed African leaders' pledge to make more resources available.

KENYA - HIV-positive people on treatment will be switched from regimens containing the antiretroviral Stavudine to less toxic combinations in line with UN World Health Organization guidelines, according to a senior official.

SOUTH AFRICA - The race to meet the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** by 2015 is more than halfway run, but new reports say South Africa is unlikely to reduce its burden of deaths in children under five in time to cross the finish line.

ZIMBABWE - A United Nations official said on Tuesday that Zimbabwe's farming sector has increased food production from 1.2 million to 1.3 million tonnes since the 2008 food crisis.

■ASIA

CHINA - Chinese officials say the oil slick from a pipeline explosion in the Yellow Sea near the city of Dalian has been successfully cleaned up, but beaches along the Dalian coast remain covered in oil and a fishing ban remains in place. Environmentalists and local officials are calling for immediate coastline cleanup efforts to prevent the oil from washing back into the sea and warn environmental damage from the spill will continue to affect the area for decades.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Tens of thousands of people in Egypt - have taken to the streets in recent months to protest against water shortages, a fact which goes some way to explaining the government's reluctance to relinquish its current share of River Nile water.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

PERU - Fifty-three percent of Peru is covered with native rainforest, but the agencies in charge of protecting and monitoring this vast area are toothless and have neither the staff nor the resources to cope with the job, according to a report from the Defensoría del Pueblo (Ombudsperson's Office). Each year some 150,000 hectares of Peru's Amazon jungle, out of a total of 68 million hectares, are lost to deforestation, which is responsible for more than 42 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

WFWO's Communications Team