



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

HEALTH - Growing resistance to broadly used drug treatments for malaria may lead to an increased spread of the disease, warns Nicholas White, one of the scientists who helped develop artemisinin therapies. White cited the proliferation of counterfeit artemisinin-based drugs that contain insufficient amounts of the drug to counter the disease but enough for malaria parasites to develop resistance as a major factor.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The United Nations should impose a moratorium on "geo-engineering" projects such as artificial volcanoes and vast cloud-seeding schemes to fight climate change, green groups have said at a major UN meeting in Japan aimed at combatting increasing losses of plant and animal species, fearing they could harm nature and mankind.

■AFRICA

NIGERIA - Cholera has killed more than 1,500 people in Nigeria this year, more than four times the death toll reported by the government in August, the United Nations has said.

■ASIA

CAMBODIA - The Cambodian government is refusing to allow the United Nations to prosecute low-ranking officers of the former Khmer Rouge on grounds that the arrests would endanger domestic peace. Last summer, the chief jailer of the regime, under whose four-year rule some 1.7 million people died, was imprisoned for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

INDONESIAN rescue crews are racing to reach islands affected by a series of natural disasters in recent days that have killed at least 270 people and left hundreds missing. An earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption have hit separate parts of the country.

SRI LANKA - Landmine injuries have been minimal in northern Sri Lanka, thanks in part to mine risk education (MRE) aimed at the tens of thousands of civilians returning home to the former combat zone, experts say.

VIETNAM - The United Nations expressed concern on Tuesday about an increasing gender imbalance in Vietnam. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) warned that for every 100 girls being born in the country, 110.6 boys were born. The biologically standard figure is of 105 males per 100 females, according to UNFPA. The agency said this rapid increase in the number of boys over the past five years is threatening to leave young Vietnamese males without female partners and could cause several social problems in the near future

■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - It takes courage - or desperation - for an Iraqi refugee to return home, given the levels of violence in the country. But unable to support their families abroad, some are taking that decision.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - The unusually high death rate in Haiti's cholera epidemic is slowing as people become aware of the disease and health experts provide treatment, the UN World Health Organisation says.

WFWO's Communications Team