



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The global economy would need to generate some 23 million jobs - most of which, some 14 million, in developed countries - in order to reach employment levels dating back to 2007, according to a report released Thursday by the UN International Labor Organization. Unless governments address the causes of the recession, a lag in job creation will sow social unrest worldwide, says the report.

UNITED NATIONS - The G20, a group of powerful political and economic decision-makers criticised for its exclusivity, has invited five non-members to its next summit meeting in South Korea in November. The five invitees, who will participate in the upcoming summit in Seoul, are Ethiopia, Malawi, Singapore, Spain and Vietnam. Malawi has been invited in its capacity as chair of the African Union; Ethiopia as chair of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Vietnam as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Singapore as chair of the Global Governance Group (3G); and Spain as "one of the 10 largest economies in the world and a participant in the past four G20 summits".

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Various countries in East Africa are making gradual progress in moving from a solely carbon-based electricity network to a cleaner power grid.

ANGOLA needs to increase efforts to address a three-year-long polio outbreak that has already crossed the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo and is threatening the country's other neighbors, the World Health Organization says. The WHO has planned two countrywide vaccination campaigns for October and is urging authorities to express their support.

NIGERIA - Efforts to treat children poisoned by lead and to clean up contaminated sites in northern Nigeria's are being hampered by the reticence of communities to divulge cases, for fear of a government ban on lucrative illegal gold mining.

UGANDA - Anti-malarial drugs are not reaching Ugandans who need them because corrupt government officials are selling the pills on the black market, and organized crime groups are smuggling the pills into Kenya, an investigation shows. In Uganda, some 300 people die daily from malaria, the improved prevention of which is one of the eight key Millennium Development Goals.

■ASIA

BURMA - Burmese refugees who fled to Thailand to escape ethnic and political persecution may face repatriation following Myanmar's elections in November.

NEPAL - The peace process is incomplete in Nepal nearly four years after the Maoist rebels signed a peace agreement with the government, ending a decade-long armed insurgency, says the UN.

PAKISTAN - Flood recovery efforts for Pakistani families are being hampered by the demands of landowners and traditional class divisions. Hundreds of bonded laborers and poor farmers who lost entire crops and livestock fear returning home where they will be asked to pay debts to landowners who have shown little inclination to provide even temporary relief for debts.

■MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Region - The refugee and displacement problem is one of the most complex humanitarian issues facing the Middle East, aid workers say.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - Around 700 older people were set to take to the streets of Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on Friday to highlight their specific needs as the city is reconstructed following January's devastating earthquake. The activists plan to march to the Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti to demand improved access to housing and food aid. They also want older people to be included in cash-for-work activities run by international agencies so they can afford to send their grandchildren back to school. The demonstration was organised to mark the United Nations International Day of Older People on October 1.

WFWO's Communications Team