



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Fearing that gorillas could become extinct in parts of Central Africa by the mid-2020s, the UN is planning to airlift baby gorillas from the Democratic Republic of Congo to a sanctuary, which will eventually release them in the wild. Militias operating in DR Congo have seized large tracts of gorilla habitat for logging and mining purposes - industries that generate between \$14 million and \$50 million annually to fund their war efforts. Increasingly, poachers hunt gorillas for meat to feed to refugees, miners and farm workers.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Six months after failing to reach a binding agreement on climate change, negotiators are meeting in Bonn to try to get the process back on track. But deep disagreement over measuring developing countries' emissions and finding funds for adaptation to climate change remain unresolved.

■AFRICA

D.R. CONGO - Authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have suspended the country's national police chief and arrested several police officers as part of investigations into the murder of a prominent human-rights activist Wednesday.

NIGER - A lack of transport, pastoralist lifestyles and pressure on women to prepare fields for harvest mean severely malnourished children are being taken out of therapeutic feeding programmes before their treatment is complete, say aid agencies.

NIGERIA - At least 163 people, including 111 children, have died of lead poisoning linked to illegal gold mining in northern Nigeria over the past five months, according to a government official.

SOUTH AFRICA - Several South African AIDS organisations have criticised football's governing body FIFA last week for reportedly blocking the distribution of condoms and health related information at World Cup stadiums and fan events. FIFA issued a statement on Saturday claiming that it had launched its own HIV campaign to encourage host city authorities to install service areas where basic medicines, sunscreen, HIV information leaflets and condoms would be freely available during the sports event. However, an alliance of 10 leading South African HIV and AIDS organizations are protesting against the football body for not allowing any civic groups to operate inside FIFA designated areas, where sponsors are allowed to advertise and sell alcohol. The activists claim FIFA has a "moral obligation" to partner with local AIDS organisations as South Africa has the world's highest number of HIV carriers.

■ASIA

MYANMAR / THAILAND - Umpiem is one of about a dozen refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border for displaced persons who have fled poverty as well as ethnic, religious and political persecution.

TAJIKISTAN - The number of polio cases in Tajikistan is sharply lower after an anti-polio immunization drive over the past few weeks, says the country's senior sanitary inspector.

■MIDDLE EAST

OPT - The UN Mine Action Team (UNMAT) in Gaza has completed the destruction of white phosphorus ordnance left over from the Israeli "Cast Lead" military operation in the Gaza Strip between December 2008 and January 2009.

YEMEN - Hundreds of internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in the Yemeni capital Sanaa fear returning home because of recent violence in the northern Amran governorate's Harf Sufyan district that left several people killed and many injured.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

COSTA RICAN authorities have ordered a clinic using adult stem cells in treatments for multiple sclerosis, diabetes, spinal injuries and other conditions to cease operations until evidence shows the treatments are effective and safe. Tens of thousands of medical tourists travel to Costa Rica every year to obtain cheaper medical treatments and procedures.

VENEZUELA - Health officials are scrambling to contain the spread of malaria in Venezuela's southern region. Venezuela has seen more than 21,600 cases so far this year, more than double the number of cases in 2009. Officials say the increase is a result of a government effort to clear gold and diamond miners out of illegal jungle camps and into towns, where the disease spreads more readily.

WFWO's Communications Team