



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - The inability of the world community to agree upon measures to substantially curb carbon emissions will result by 2030 in some two-thirds of all countries becoming highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change upon their health, economy and environment, according to leading experts.

HUMAN RIGHTS - Nineteen countries will not be sending representatives to the ceremony honoring imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo with the Nobel Peace Prize. China has been vocal in its denunciation of the award, and has been lobbying diplomatic allies to stay away from the ceremony. Geir Lundestad, the Nobel committee's secretary, said, "Some have obviously been influenced by China, for others this has nothing to do with China." UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay also declined an invitation to attend, because of a human rights event in Geneva which she is hosting. Pillay was sharply critical of China in the wake of Liu's 2009 prison sentence.

■AFRICA

BURKINA FASO has become the first country to introduce a meningitis vaccine designed specifically for the African continent, where up to 450 million people are at risk from the disease.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - Thousands of people who fled a 24 November rebel attack in the northeastern Central African Republic (CAR) town of Birao, Vakaga Province, urgently need humanitarian assistance, says a UN official.

SENEGAL's efforts to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality are hampered by a lack of health centres and poor care in those that do exist.

SWAZILAND's declining revenue and a refusal to shelve prestige projects in the face of growing unemployment is exerting pressure on public health services and food production.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIAN officials are on alert after the discovery of polio virus in New Delhi sewers as part of a surveillance program aimed at preventing outbreaks. India has sent samples to the World Health Organization for further analysis.

NEPAL - "Drastic" land reforms that give more rights to poor families who labour on others' land are needed in Nepal to stave off hunger among the poorest and boost agricultural production, say analysts.

■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - Displaced Iraqi female-headed families who have returned home are still experiencing major livelihood challenges, says the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

WFWO's Communications Team