



## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - In countries around the world, small farmers are trapped in a vicious circle - hard-pressed governments don't invest enough money in local agriculture, and local producers find themselves driven off their lands and into urban slums, where they sink even deeper into poverty. This is doing nothing to ease the problem of global malnutrition; worldwide, 925 million people continue to suffer from chronic hunger, according to the latest figures released in September by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** - Negotiators in Cancun, Mexico, are finalizing the text of an agreement designed to curb deforestation called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, or REDD+. The deal gives incentives to developing countries to preserve forests.

**WATER** - Around a billion people already face scarcity of fresh water, and the problem is expected to grow in the future, with pollution, over-population and climate change affecting water supply, experts say.

**HEALTH** - The United Nations World Health Organization today endorsed a new rapid test for tuberculosis, which it says could revolutionize the way the disease is tackled by providing an accurate diagnosis in about 100 minutes, compared to current tests that can take up to three months. TB killed an estimated 1.7 million people globally in 2009.

## ■AFRICA

**Africa Region** - The resurgence of polio cases in Africa during 2010 has prompted warnings from the World Health Organization and a massive multicountry vaccination program. Health officials blame insufficient vaccination programs for an outbreak of cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Congo that has killed almost 200 people and paralyzed more than 2,000.

**BURUNDI** - Amid growing complaints that post-war democratic gains are being reversed in Burundi, officials in the central African state have downplayed reports that a former rebel group has begun remobilizing in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

## ■ASIA & PACIFIC

**INDONESIA** - Tensions between sharecroppers and landowners in Indonesia's western half of Timor island over limited cultivable land have led to outbreaks of violence that threaten to escalate, say local officials.

**SRI LANKA** - After a string of abuse cases against Sri Lankan domestic workers in Saudi Arabia, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is working with the government of Sri Lanka to promote skilled labour migration - as opposed to domestic work - as a way to protect those who choose to leave the country to make a living.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**HAITI** - A UN spokesman is urging further investigation into a French scientist's findings that the deadly cholera epidemic in Haiti originated from contaminated water at a camp for Nepalese peacekeepers. The disease already has killed more than 2,000 people, and could affect 650,000 over the next six months.

WFWO's Communications Team