



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is calling for increased efforts on maternal mortality rates and access to medical care for women around the world. A recent UN report shows hundreds of thousands of women continue to die every year from pregnancy or childbirth, and efforts to expand family-planning options have been hampered by poverty and lack of education. "If world leaders put women and children at the top of the global agenda, we can make real progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

DEVELOPMENT - Agricultural production in the developing world could be among the hardest-hit by climate change, but new research shows that food security can be improved by biotechnology and adapting traditional farming techniques, experts say.

ENVIRONMENT - BP has accelerated its plans to change a cap over the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico ahead of an incoming tropical storm and hopes to have relief wells in place in two weeks.

■AFRICA

D.R. CONGO - Millions of people in parts of the western Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are facing a "food and livelihood crisis" brought on by structural causes such as the dependence on the mining sector and a poor road and livelihoods infrastructure, say officials.

MALAWI - Another year with a surplus harvest of maize, the staple food, is good news for Malawi, but dry spells in the south have left around 700,000 people in need of food assistance.

■ASIA

CAMBODIA - The torturer-in-chief of a notorious prison during the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror in Cambodia will finally learn what price he has to pay for the almost mathematical precision with which he carried out his duty to torment and kill nearly 14,000 people, including babies.

INDIA - Now that the armed conflict between Indian security forces and Kashmiri militants has eased considerably, youngsters are coming out to fight a new threat – environmental degradation – that looms over this beautiful valley often termed 'paradise on earth'.

PAKISTAN - An ongoing UN survey of internally displaced persons from various conflicted-affected parts of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), adjacent to the Afghan border, has found that the main reasons they do not want to return are insecurity, damaged assets and a lack of employment opportunities.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - The time has come for Latin American countries to put an economic value on the work that women do as they take care of households, children and the elderly, says ECLAC, the United Nations regional economic agency.

HAITIANS are leaving the country in droves following the Jan. 12 earthquake in hopes of finding stability and economic prosperity in other countries. There are no firm numbers for the amount of people leaving, but those left behind worry that the country will be left without its hardest-working citizens and those most able to help rebuild Haiti.

WFWO's Communications Team