



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - A new draft declaration on the **UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** which the UN will formally adopt later in the month - finds that the program's aims are still achievable despite recent setbacks, including the global financial crisis. Though the global depression continues to represent an obstacle to realizing the MDGs, UN officials say that through effective implementation and renewed commitment they can be achieved even in the poorest countries. The Millennium Development Goals, agreed to by the UN in 2000, aim to slash poverty, reduce hunger and improve gender equality worldwide, among other targets.

■AFRICA

GHANA - Governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders must be commended for their efforts in ensuring that the enrolment of girls in schools nationwide is almost the same as boys. However, their efforts might be in vain if girls feel insecure in school. If the safety of girls is not equitable to that of males, then academic learning is compromised and the psychological empowerment that education can confer is greatly reduced.

KENYA - Six million people - including children who ought to be in classrooms - are not in school, the 2009 census results show. Of these, 3.9 million are children of school-going age. The 2.1 million others are adults who have never stepped into a school.

TANZANIA - The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has challenged judges and Commissioners of the Human Rights Commission to apply principles contained in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the Maputo Protocol, when deciding on women abuse cases in a move to facilitate the protection of women's rights.

UGANDA - The US government has boosted its assistance to Uganda's AIDS programme with an emergency supply of antiretroviral drugs worth more than US\$5.5 million - enough to put an estimated 72,000 HIV-infected people on the treatment over the next two years.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - Cattle and livestock sales in Bangladesh have plummeted following a major outbreak of human anthrax. Nearly 500 people have caught the disease, which is not lethal if treated promptly.

CAMBODIA - Forced evictions and land grabbing are nothing new in Cambodia, according to the **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**, but it is new for communities to fight back.

NEPAL - A big question marks looms over the future of many Nepali children in various child homes in the country in the wake of the suspension by 11 countries of their child adoption programmes for this Himalayan nation.

PAKISTAN - People have been turned away from relief camps set up for flood victims in Pakistan mostly due to a lack of space, but in some instances decisions on who gets aid appear to have been affected by religious or ethnic discrimination.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICAN authorities believe they have discovered the bodies of a prosecutor and a security official who disappeared two weeks ago while investigating the July massacre of 72 South and Central American migrants. Survivors have testified that Mexico's drug cartels were responsible for the mass killing.

WFWO's Communications Team