



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

ECONOMY - The Group of 20 should show its concern about those that the global economic crisis "is leaving behind" by putting the plight of least developed countries on the agenda at its meeting later this month.

HUNGER - Chronic hunger has worsened in recent years, and Asia – home to two-thirds of those suffering – must invest strongly in agriculture to avert this crisis, says the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. More than one billion people in the world, including 642 million in Asia, live in chronic hunger, up from 840 million in the mid-1990s.

BIODIVERSITY - The bluefin tuna, an "apex predator" fish of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, is condemned to extinction within two years by the inaction of the industrialised North and international regulatory bodies, predict marine biologists and environmentalists.

■AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - Progress on a "Zero Tolerance" national campaign in Côte d'Ivoire to eliminate female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C) by the end of 2010, has been slowed down by deteriorating health and education infrastructure, aid groups said.

KENYA - Many Kenyans see HIV as a punishment for immoral behaviour, which tends to perpetuate stigma against people infected with the virus, according to a report by anti-poverty agency.

NAMIBIA - A landmark court case, alleging that HIV-positive women were forcibly sterilised in Namibian state hospitals begins in Windhoek's High Court on Jun. 1. Human rights groups claim the practice has continued long after the authorities were notified.

SOMALIA - More than 17,000 people have fled their homes as a result of escalating fighting between Islamist militants and government security forces in Somalia's capital Mogadishu in May, according to the United Nations. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Friday that 14,300 had been displaced in the past two weeks alone. The majority of the displaced people are sheltering elsewhere in the city, according to the UNHCR. Mogadishu already contains more than 350,000 internally displaced people, the agency said. Reports from UNHCR's partners indicate that an increasing number of displaced families are living in the capital in extreme conditions as they cannot afford transport to nearby makeshift camps. An estimated 200,000 Somalis have been displaced by conflict since the beginning of 2010, according to the UNHCR.

TANZANIA - More people are turning to family planning in Tanzania's semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar as the government seeks to improve access to reproductive healthcare. Funding, however, remains a challenge.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - As hundreds of delegates from across Afghanistan arrive in Kabul for a three-day meeting to discuss the prospects for peace, experts are warning of major flaws and risks in the government's draft peace plan.

MYANMAR has successfully eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT), the UN Children's Fund reports.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA's indigenous people have lost their right to challenge developers and the state over deals involving their land and resources. Numbering some six million people, Papua New Guineans - comprising hundreds of ethnic groups - own 97 percent of the country's land.

WFWO's Communications Team