

# NEWS BULLETIN

1 July 2011



## **GLOBAL**

UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his concern over the growing number of attacks on schools and hospitals and threats to children in armed conflicts around the world, stating that the United Nations is considering targeted measures against those who commit such crimes.

HUMAN RIGHTS - The top United Nations human rights official said that the so-called Arab Spring across North Africa and the Middle East this year has shown that human rights are for "all of us, all of the time, everywhere."

## **AFRICA**

YOUTH - The United Nations urged African countries to empower the continent's youth through schooling and jobs, stressing that the foundation for peace and development lay in giving young people opportunities to build better lives for themselves.

CONGO - An epidemic of Chikungunya, a mosquito-borne viral disease, which began in early June in Congo's capital Brazzaville, has spread to the neighbouring Pool region, according to the UN World Health Organization. Between 1 and 23 June, there were 7,014 cases in Brazzaville and 460 in Pool, but no deaths, according to UNWHO.

SENEGAL - Poorly-regulated, privately-run training schools in Senegal are churning out midwives who do not have a solid grasp of birthing or ante- and post-natal care, causing women and babies to die needlessly, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

SOMALIA - As the drought in Somalia intensifies, with an estimated 2.85 million needing aid, more and more relief agencies are looking at the option of cash transfers, saying the system helps beneficiaries by giving them freedom of choice.

SOUTH AFRICA has been identified as a major human-trafficking destination for victims from within the country, the region and beyond, yet there is no legislation that specifically criminalises human trafficking and protects victims.

## **ASIA & PACIFIC**

KYRGYZSTAN - Nearly one in every four deaths of young children in Kyrgyzstan is caused by under-nutrition, and the physical and mental development of many other boys and girls is being delayed in the Central Asian country, according to a United Nations report launched today.

PAKISTAN - Pakistani officials reportedly have received warnings from European and World Bank leaders that the country's citizens may soon face travel restrictions if Pakistan fails to meet polio-eradication goals by 2012. Pakistan is one of only four countries where polio remains endemic, and it has reported the largest number of cases so far in 2011.

## **LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN**

BRAZIL - The environmental movement continues to gain credibility and support as scientific findings confirm its warnings and natural disasters become increasingly frequent. Yet this growing awareness has yet to reach political decision makers in countries like Brazil, much to the frustration of environmentalists.

WFWO's Communications Team