



■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday said that the security crisis in Haiti stemming from a disputed presidential election is hindering efforts to stop the cholera epidemic that has killed more than 1,600 people and sickened 50,000. Health officials fear that the disease could strike 400,000 people within the next few months.

CLIMATE CHANGE - Climate-change talks began Monday in Cancun, Mexico, amid hopes that small steps could be taken toward larger, more binding global agreements on curbing greenhouse gases. Although policymakers appear to have given up on a deal over curbing carbon dioxide emissions, they are trying to reach agreement on cutting industrial chemicals, methane and soot.

HIV/AIDS - Although 370,000 children are born with HIV each year, achieving an AIDS-free generation is possible if the world steps up efforts to provide universal access to prevention, treatment and social protection, according to a new United Nations report.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - More than a quarter of a million health workers are conducting a massive polio vaccination program in 15 African countries. The continent has seen a resurgence in polio cases in 2010.

BURUNDI - Political parties in Burundi, which is striving to move on from years of civil war, have called on the government to engage in dialogue and cease what they regard as a policy of oppression and harassment.

KENYA - Every year thousands of Kenyans go without essential medicines because of poor supply chain management, corruption and insufficient funding of the health service, say civil society members.

SIERRA LEONE - Fear over an outbreak of mysterious blisters that has affected dozens of people in Sierra Leone has been increased by local media reports and traditional beliefs in witchcraft. Doctors have pinpointed the source of the affliction to a class of beetles that emit stinging acid as a defense mechanism.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

INDIA - A 2-cent tobacco product peddled to children in India is contributing to the country's world-leading rates of oral cancer. Sales of gutka, the granular tobacco blend promoted by so-called "gutka barons," are projected to double by 2014.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - The number of poor people in Latin America will fall this year to 180 million – the pre-crisis levels seen in 2008 – thanks to robust economic recovery in most of the countries of the region, says a United Nations.

WFWO's Communications Team