



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS research suggests Sub-Saharan Africa has seen a sharp decline in the number of new HIV cases. The UNAIDS said that newly-reported HIV incidence declined by over 25 per cent between 2001 and 2009 in 22 countries in the region. The number of people receiving HIV treatment had also improved, increasing 12 times in the past six years to a total of 5.2 million patients. On the other hand, UNAIDS found that HIV rates were increasing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The figures were released ahead of the UN Millennium Development Goals review Summit.

■AFRICA

GHANA - The head of Policy Planning and Monitoring Team at the Presidency, has blamed Ghana's poor ratings in some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) partly on what he says are unfair global structures. A new report on the MDGs reveals Ghana may not be able to reduce child mortality or improve maternal health. The report however shows clear signs of Ghana inching close to achieving its poverty eradication targets.

KENYA - Older Kenyans, often neglected by HIV programmes that assume they are no longer sexually active and therefore not at risk, are slowly becoming more visible in the fight against the pandemic.

MALI - A kidnap threat blocking Western aid workers from travelling to parts of Mali is hampering aid operations and underscoring the importance of local NGOs, humanitarian experts say.

NIGERIA - One of the specificities of Nigeria is that have one of the largest numbers of extremely poor people in the world. Indeed, about 70% of Nigerians live below the poverty line while over 10 million primary school age children are still out of school. In addition, about 100 children will die by the age of 5 out of every 1,000 born in Nigeria while almost 800 pregnant women out of 100, 000 die during child birth in our country.

SENEGAL is likely to reach the UN Millennium Development Goals, which call for reductions in rates of poverty-related indicators, the West African nation's Finance Ministry said. A study showed the country is on course to halve severe poverty in the country and to reduce childhood and malaria- related deaths by at least two-thirds.

SOUTHERN AFRICA countries have some of the world's worst income distribution, but can often afford social transfers, which have proved an efficient means of reducing the number of poor, regional experts said at a two-day meeting in Pretoria, South Africa.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - Ongoing wrangling over vital waterways that pass through China and India - the two most populous countries in the world - could lead to agricultural devastation further downstream in Bangladesh, experts warn.

CHINA - Though China has invested millions in alternative energies and energy efficiency, China's booming automobile market and rapidly expanding infrastructure and development projects are preventing it from achieving energy efficiency. The appetite for automobiles in China will soon eclipse that of the US market before the economic downturn, which makes for more pollution and fewer people using mass transit. China's high-speed rail development requires a great deal of steel and cement, both energy-intensive materials. Chinese officials seek to transform the country from an industrial to an information economy in part to address energy efficiency.

PAKISTAN - Floodwaters have receded in many parts of northwest Pakistan leaving behind small pools and lakes that constitute a heightened risk for the spread of malaria. Thousands of families continue to sleep in tents, outside or in flood-damaged homes that provide little protection from the elements and mosquitoes that health officials worry are breeding in the waters left behind by the floods. Relief effort officials say it may take as long as a year to begin repairing damaged structures.

WFWO's Communications Team