



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - The United Nations Adaptation Fund agreed on Wednesday to endorse its first four projects for climate change adaptation in developing countries. The Fund's 32 board members considered a total of eight proposals during a two-day meeting in the German city of Bonn. The projects that received the go-ahead propose tackling rising sea levels in the Solomon Islands, adapting the coastal areas of Senegal to climate change, improving watersheds to deal with droughts and floods in Nicaragua reducing the threat from glacier lake outburst floods in Pakistan. The Adaptation Fund was set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2008 as the only mechanism that gives grants directly to developing countries to address climate change issues.

HEALTH - Governments should create HIV/AIDS prevention programs available to workers in their place of employment and encourage efforts to aid infected workers to remain productive as long as their health allows, the UN International Labor Organization said. The ILO's nonbinding recommendation creates the world's first international standard on HIV/AIDS issues in the workplace.

■AFRICA

CHAD - Almost US\$27 million - half from donor funds and the rest from the government - was invested in demining activities in Chad from 2000 to 2008, but the country still cannot identify the number and location of landmines. Efforts to clear at-risk communities have been hobbled by lack of money, mismanagement, delays distributing funds in the field, inappropriate equipment and tough terrain, say officials and international demining NGOs.

KENYAN authorities have installed water radar sensors to monitor levels on the western Nzoia river in an effort to mitigate flood damage, officials said.

SOMALIA - With more and more drought-affected pastoralists in the self-declared republic of Somaliland seeking alternative livelihoods in urban areas, aid organizations and the government are instituting measures to not only check the rural-urban migration but also support those remaining in rural areas.

SOUTH AFRICA - A South African study suggests that nurses are able to manage patients on antiretroviral (ARV) therapy as effectively as doctors, supporting the case for "task-shifting" in HIV treatment.

SUDAN - The European Union has urged Sudanese authorities to ensure humanitarian workers reach thousands of people affected by ongoing fighting in Darfur and to improve security across the volatile western region.

■ASIA

CHINA intends to tap its abundant coal resources in order to fuel its economic development, despite the consequences for the environment. Though China is concentrating growth in sustainable and clean energy sources, China's draft energy policy considers global energy markets, foreign investment and other factors that might incentivize clean development at the expense of using dirty energy like coal.

PAKISTAN - Hundreds of people displaced by flooding caused by an overflowing lake on the River Hunza in northern Pakistan breached police barricades last week to take matters into their own hands and attempt to widen the lake's spillway.

PHILIPPINES - A controversy is raging in the Philippines over a sex education programme aimed at cutting the population growth rate, which is blamed for massive poverty in the Southeast Asian country of about 92 million.

■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - Refugee officials and rights groups have urged a number of European countries not to forcibly repatriate Iraqi asylum seekers, particularly members of minority communities, because of prevailing insecurity in the country.

SYRIA - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has revised downwards the number of Iraqi refugees it has registered in Syria.

WFWO's Communications Team