



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The world is on track to lower the number of people living in abject poverty to 15%, down from 42%, by 2015 despite the pressures of a global recession, the United Nations says in a report. Some observers warn the recent economic woes have slowed the pace of progress, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to ensure the world's poor do not pay the price for budget cuts and meet the goal.

UNITED NATIONS - Increasing access for women and girls to information, services and supplies for family planning is one way help cut maternal mortality rates around the world. In many countries, discussions of reproduction and contraception remain taboo and females - especially young girls married before age 18 - often have little control over their own reproductive systems. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will convene a special side event at this week's summit on the Millennium Development Goals to examine ways to get closer to the 2015 goal of a 75% reduction in maternal and child mortality rates.

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations will be seeking \$169 billion in funding from world leaders this week to support a new program aimed at improving access to health care for women and children across the developing world.

■AFRICA

KENYA - It's been clear for some time that AIDS is hitting women harder than men. But it could be getting worse: in Kenya government figures show young women aged 15-24 are six times more likely to be HIV-positive than their male counterparts. Other figures suggest that at least 60 percent of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa are women.

NIGERIA - The United Nations is to send an emergency team to Nigeria to investigate a lead contamination that has already killed over 200 children this year. More than 18,000 people are believed to have been affected in at least seven villages in the north western Zamfara state, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

■ASIA

Asia Region - Improvements in aquaculture could be an important tool in combating Asia's increasing food insecurity, specialists say. UNFAO estimates more than half the world's undernourished people, 642 million, live in the Asia and Pacific.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BOLIVIA - The "people's" climate agenda that the Bolivian government and civil society produced at an April conference in Cochabamba has made its way to the official United Nations negotiating table. But its inclusion in a binding climate treaty is unlikely, say activists. The agreement approved by the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba, was a response - founded on the idea of climate justice - to the derailed official talks for a new, obligatory global climate pact.

WFWO's Communications Team