



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Two million tonnes of waste are dumped daily into rivers and oceans killing more people than violence and conflict, according to the United Nations Environment Programme. The waste includes human sewage, industrial pollution, agricultural pesticides and animal waste. A new UNEP report released on Monday claims that 1.8 million children under five die every year because of a lack of clean water, while diarrhoea, mostly caused by dirty water, kills a further 2.2 million people. Coral reefs and fish are also being devastated by the pollution, the report said. More than two billion tonnes of water are contaminated every day, mostly by developing countries, which dump 90 per cent of their wastewater untreated. The report urges for investment in water recycling and sewage treatment systems, but also for the preservation of wetlands and the use of animal waste as fertilizer.

UNITED NATIONS - When the G20, representing some of world's politically and economically powerful developing and industrial nations, suddenly gained a higher profile with the onset of the global financial crisis two years ago, there was apprehension the group would sooner or later try to upstage the United Nations and its key decision-making role.

HEALTH - Drug-resistant tuberculosis strains are continuing to spread worldwide, despite some notably successful counter-efforts in places such as Peru and Hong Kong, the World Health Organization warns in a new report. The strains killed an estimated 150,000 people in 2008 with many more cases believed to be going undiagnosed.

HUMAN RIGHTS - The number of people applying for asylum in wealthy Western and Asian countries remained stable in 2009, providing evidence to dispel claims by some populists rich countries are seeing a flood of new applications, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says. Asylum claims increased by only 100 applications worldwide, according to UNHCR figures, with Afghan nationals topping the list of applicants.

## ■AFRICA

Africa Region - Teachers in Africa need to be trained to teach pupils from multiple grades simultaneously because although this is a common form of instruction on the continent, many teachers are not educated to do this.

Africa Region - Hunger knows no borders - West Africa can meet its food needs through regional trade, most agricultural experts say, if countries keep their borders open for the free flow of staple grains, especially in times of heightened stress, whether climatic, economic, or brought on by conflict.

Africa Region - Rampant illegal fishing is hitting some of the poorest West African countries the hardest as this practice is globally most rife in the east central Atlantic Ocean area, which covers the territorial waters of some 15 African countries from Morocco and Mauritania in the north to Angola in the south.

D.R. CONGO - A recent upsurge in threats against aid agencies in the Kivu provinces of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has raised concerns that the humanitarian space in the region could shrink again, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says.

KENYA - TB clinics boost HIV testing for couples - The Kenyan government is using national tuberculosis screening programmes to persuade married couples - at high risk of HIV, according to research - to get tested for the virus.

NIGER - Health centres bracing for malnutrition surge - Most government health centres in Niger are ill-equipped to absorb the expected influx of malnourished children, according to the Ministry of Health.

SWAZILAND - Minibus-taxi drivers are regarded as a necessary evil in Swaziland. Although they provide a much needed service, their dangerous driving, rude and often violent behaviour has given them a bad reputation and made it difficult to reach them with HIV/AIDS services.

## ■ASIA

BANGLADESH - The United Nations children's fund called for urgent action from the Bangladeshi government to fight the long-running issue of arsenic contamination in water and food.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

YEMEN - Thousands of families living outside camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Amran Governorate, some 50km north of the capital Sanaa, are finding it increasingly difficult to cope after aid agencies scaled down their regular food rations as a result of funding shortfalls since mid-February.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - The livestock industry has less economic clout than the oil industry, but ranchers say it has better arguments to defend itself from accusations regarding its share of responsibility for global warming. The livestock industry represents 40 percent of agricultural production worldwide and provides a livelihood and food security to one billion people.

WFWO's Communications Team