



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The global economic crisis has slowed the fight against poverty but the developing world is still on track to meet a key UN goal of halving the number of people living on less than \$1 a day by 2015, according to a report released. The UN report cited new World Bank estimates suggesting that the crisis left an additional 50 million people in extreme poverty in 2009 and will leave some 64 million impoverished by the end of 2010, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and eastern and southeastern Asia. Hunger may also have spiked in 2009 - with over 1 billion people undernourished - as a consequence of the global food and financial crises. The effects of the crises are likely to persist with poverty rates slightly higher than they would have been had the world economy grown steadily at its pre-crisis pace, it said.

**HEALTH** - A lower dose of polio vaccine administered just below the skin is cheaper to obtain and as effective as the traditional larger doses, doctors from the World Health Organization report. Public health planners hope to use the findings to craft more cost-friendly polio-immunization programs for developing countries that are struggling to eradicate the crippling disease.

**ENVIRONMENT** - Conservationists are petitioning the US government to declare bluefin tuna an endangered species over fears the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may decimate the fish population. Scientists say billions of fish eggs and larvae have died as a result of the spill, which began in the middle of the annual April spawning season. Previous efforts to secure international protections for the bluefin have faltered over objections of countries that hunt and sell the valuable fish.

## ■AFRICA

**Africa Region** - Economies across Africa have expanded steadily since the 1980s - accelerating the pace after 2000, and even managing to grow during the 2010 global economic crisis - creating a consumer class and business environment that offers industry some of the best opportunities in the developing world, according to a report. Increased political stability, the end of several violent conflicts and economic reforms are among the main contributing factors to the growth.

**CHAD** - The recently finalized multi-agency and governmental vulnerability assessment map (VAM) of Chad, covering more than 4,000 households in 212 villages from April to June 2009, analyzed factors contributing to the current food crisis.

**KENYA** - Seven cholera deaths in Kenya in a week - Poor latrine coverage and unsafe drinking water are helping to fuel a cholera outbreak affecting parts of Nairobi, the Rift Valley and the coastal region, the director of public health and sanitation has said.

**SOMALIA** - Thousands of people displaced by flooding in the south-central Somali region of Beletweyne are yet to return home more than three weeks after the deluge, despite reduced water levels, say officials.

## ■ASIA

**Asia Region** - The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is urging Asian governments - which have been criticized for using "fear-based tactics" and prison-like compulsory centres to fight drug abuse - to improve and expand treatment for its addicts.

**INDIA** - Animals nearing extinction need urgent attention - With threats looming large on the survival of several wildlife species in the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir in northern India, experts warn that these species could go extinct in the coming years unless immediate steps are taken to prevent their extinction.

**KYRGYZSTAN** - Kyrgyz security forces have raided Uzbek neighbourhoods in the strife-torn city of Osh as thousands more refugees stream back to the scene of ethnic carnage in the strategic ex-Soviet state. Human rights workers in Osh, the epicentre of three days of killing this month that sparked an exodus of ethnic Uzbeks, said the raids had been accompanied by looting and more violence in the run-up to a crucial vote on how Kyrgyzstan will be governed.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

**IRAQ** - More refugees from violence-racked Iraq are being resettled but the country's displacement problem is not going away, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**BRAZIL** - Torrents of flood water have devastated towns and villages in northeastern Brazil, killing at least 42 people and leaving more than 600 missing, emergency officials said. Days of heavy rain in the states of Alagoas and Pernambuco flooded towns, burst a river dam, and left more than 40,000 people without shelter, state officials said.

WFWO's Communications Team