



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - Climate negotiators failed to reach a breakthrough on efforts to agree on greenhouse-gas emissions cuts in a meeting at the United Nations this weekend, and few expressed optimism of reaching a deal before the December Mexico summit.

■AFRICA

KENYA - Circumcising infant boys could become part of Kenya's voluntary male circumcision programme for HIV prevention, at present restricted to over-15s, if an ongoing pilot project in the western province of Nyanza recommends it.

MALAWI - The concentrated efforts of a Malawian chief to raise awareness and challenge societal traditions have helped slash the maternal mortality rates in the 89 villages under his control. Chief Kwataine's maternal-health campaign has directly disputed the local tradition of a woman's first child being born at home and banned traditional birth attendants to compel families to seek out hospital treatment. The chief hopes successes in his area will convince the government, which is struggling to find a comprehensive strategy to address maternal-mortality rates, to help fund other communities' efforts.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - Almost a decade of donor funded health projects has resulted in a marginal reduction in maternal and child mortality, according to new estimates set out in a UN report on maternal health.

INDIAN authorities ordered schools in Kashmir to reopen on Tuesday but a curfew and fresh strikes have reportedly prevented most children in the region from attending classes.

NEPAL - Across Nepal, which has declared 2010 the year to end gender-based violence, women continue to fall victim.

PAKISTAN - Innovative mobile phone technologies and applications are poised to help save lives and bring relief to millions of people in Pakistan affected by floods since late July.

■MIDDLE EAST

UAE - Residents have begun to move into Masdar, the world's first experimental "zero-carbon city" in the United Arab Emirates. Architects studied ancient Middle Eastern cities to understand how communities survived in the heat and then combined findings such as wind funnels with low-consumption modern technologies.

WFWO's Communications Team