



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The world's poor should not be forced to bear the burden of countries' efforts to cut debt and government deficits, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Monday after G20 leaders agreed to halve deficits by 2013. "We cannot balance budgets on the backs of the world's poorest people. We cannot abandon our commitment to the most vulnerable," Mr. Ban warned. Investments in job creation, green technology and health programs, the secretary-general urged, can provide immediate and tangible returns.

UNITED NATIONS - The American film and television industries need to do a better job portraying women and girls as American-generated content is the mode widely available around the world, actress Geena Davis urged at the United Nations as the Economic and Social Council opened a weeklong meeting. Media can be a powerful tool in helping empower women and girls and furthering Millennium Development Goals, Ms. Davis said, but current content continues to display significant gender disparity.

ENVIRONMENT - American authorities are preparing to move 50,000 sea turtle eggs from the Gulf Coast areas of Alabama and Florida in an attempt to protect endangered species from the ongoing oil spill. Sea turtle hatchlings emerge in early July, and scientists believe few would survive this year without the massive intervention. Conservationists and scientists are also raising the alarm for millions of birds that migrate annually from Canada and the Arctic to the US Gulf Coast for the winter.

■AFRICA

NIGER - The beginning of the rainy season in the arid Sahel region of West Africa is bringing hopes of renewed grazing land and harvests, but also apprehension in Niger as weakened animals are succumbing to the first rains, according to the government, aid workers and herders.

SUDAN - Ongoing clashes between various armed groups in western Sudan have intensified since May, displacing 725 households from Jebel Mara to Hassa Hissa camp in Zalingei, West Darfur, aid workers said.

UGANDA - The Ugandan government will begin a nationwide male circumcision programme in July as part of its HIV prevention strategy, a senior government official has said.

ZAMBIA - Despite the adoption almost a decade ago of a national gender policy that aims to ensure fair participation of men and women in the development process, most of the Zambian government's policies still remain gender blind, say civil society and women's rights associations.

■ASIA

CHINA - Chinese authorities plan to move 345,000 people over the next two years to make way for a massive project to divert water from the Yangtze and other rivers in south and central China to provide water for the country's north.

■MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Region - Statistics on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the Middle East are hard to come by but a new study launched on 28 June in the United Arab Emirates has attempted to gather all existing data into one place and add some analysis and action points for policymakers.

EGYPT - Thousands of Aswan flood victims still awaiting compensation - More than five months after flash floods hit the southern Egyptian governorate of Aswan and destroyed hundreds of homes, thousands of flood victims are still without proper shelter, they said.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

MEXICO - A strong 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck southern Mexico in the early hours of Wednesday, shaking buildings as far away as Mexico City.

PARAGUAY - Of the many things that are not within the reach of everyone in Paraguay, safe drinking water is the one the indigenous population longs for most.

WFWO's Communications Team