



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - Governments and financial institutions are calling upon the United Nations to address issues of sovereign debt by creating rules that would help prevent irresponsible lending, and empower courts to resolve debt-related disputes. The initiative, which is expected to be taken up early next year by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, is intended to reduce the frequency, and intensity, of debt crises.

**FOOD** - Accurate and timely information on the food stocks held by major grain exporters and importers, or "food intelligence", could help prevent sudden and abnormal price hikes that threaten food security. This was one of the proposals put forward of the Inter-Governmental Groups on Grains and on Rice at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, held in Rome on 24 September.

**HIV/AIDS** - A record 1.2 million people in low and middle income countries started antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS in 2009, the World Health Organisation has said, but targets set for 2010 are unlikely to be met. A total of 5.25 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in 2009, three-quarters of them in Africa, WHO said in a report co-authored with UN children's fund and UNAIDS. But that is only a third of those who need treatment, and less than 40 percent of people living with HIV know their status. After 15 years of increased support for HIV/AIDS programmes, funding stagnated last year due to the global economic crisis.

**BIODIVERSITY** - One out of every five plant species in the world is in danger of extinction primarily due to human land-conversion activities such as agriculture and logging, according to the first global plant threat analysis. Researchers hope the findings will help drive action at a United Nations summit in October on global efforts to protect biodiversity.

## ■AFRICA

**COTE D'IVOIRE** - The World Bank says it will give a record US\$540 million over three years to finance post-conflict recovery and development projects in Côte d'Ivoire.

**MOZAMBIQUE** - In response to food price riots in early September, the Mozambican government has laid on a range of price cuts and subsidies to make life easier for the poor, and has promised to do some belt tightening of its own, but observers say the measures are unaffordable and will not address the deeper issues.

**SWAZILAND** - Communities in Swaziland are coming together as never before to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has so deeply affected them.

**WEST AFRICA** - Nutrition must be an integral component of agricultural and development programmes in order to tackle child malnutrition, experts have warned. Health, nutrition and agriculture experts from 15 West African countries met at a nutrition forum of the Economic Community of West African States last week.

## ■ASIA

**PAKISTAN** - Survivors of Pakistan's worst-ever floods, which have forced at least 10 million people from their homes, are desperate for money to rebuild their houses. Failure to rehabilitate flood victims nearly two months after the disaster could trigger instability in a country which is fighting a full-blown Islamist insurgency.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

**IRAQ** - The UN Refugee Agency has expressed concern about the growing number of deportations of Iraqi asylum-seekers from Western Europe in the last two months.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**HAITI** - In Haiti, a tornado-like storm killed five people, including two children, on Friday as it tore through thousands of tents housing people left homeless by the massive Jan. 12 earthquake, a senior official said.

**MEXICO** - In Mexico, a landslide in a remote mountain town sent the authorities scrambling to deploy rescue workers, but initial reports that hundreds were buried have proved overblown. Civil protection authorities in Oaxaca said the landslide was due to heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Matthew, which killed 12 people in Central America over the weekend.

WFWO's Communications Team