



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

CLIMATE CHANGE - The United Nations Environment Programme has launched a "30 ways in 30 days" initiative to highlight successful climate solutions ahead of the Cancun summit. One of the highlighted projects looks at solar loans for families in India, to help impoverished families access a renewable energy source.

HEALTH - Scientists fighting mosquito-borne diseases are racing to obtain approval to release genetically modified insects designed to stop the spread of dengue, a potentially fatal virus.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - A deadly viral disease which broke out in Tanzania earlier this year risks spreading to Southern Africa, posing a mortal threat to more than 50 million sheep and goats in 15 countries, UNFAO warned.

CHAD - Aid workers in the eastern Chad fear an upsurge in kidnappings and attacks after the scheduled withdrawal next month of UN peacekeepers. Troops from Chad, which recently established a joint border force with Sudan, will be responsible for security in the region, where aid workers have been serving some 500,000 displaced people.

SOUTH AFRICA - KwaZulu-Natal Province remains the epicentre of South Africa's HIV epidemic but new research reveals that nearly a third of hospitals surveyed had not started a single HIV-positive infant on antiretroviral treatment in several years.

■ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says it is concerned about the growing number of internally displaced persons caused by conflict in Afghanistan, and the fact that it is often too dangerous to assist them.

INDONESIA - Much of Southeast Asia again is being smothered by a haze, fueled largely by fires used to clear forests in Indonesia, that has plagued the region since the mid-1990s. Yet a two-year moratorium on commercial deforestation in Indonesia, coupled with closer government cooperation, are reducing its potency.

MYANMAR - The United Nations released new figures on Tuesday detailing the extent of damage and casualties suffered in Myanmar after cyclone Giri struck its western coast on 22 October. The UN said that around 200,000 people were affected by the cyclone and will require food aid for the next three months. A further 81,000 people were made homeless more than 15,000 hectares of paddy were destroyed, according to estimates by UN agencies.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - Malaria is suspected in the recent deaths of dozens of Yanomami Indians living in the Amazon rain forest. Venezuelan health workers were continuing to carry out tests to isolate the source of the epidemic among the Yanomami, who, with a population of 30,000, are one of the Amazon's largest isolated indigenous groups.

WFWO's Communications Team