

# NEWS BULLETIN

7 MARCH 2012



## GLOBAL

**MDGs** - The goal of reducing by half the number of people without access to safe drinking water has been achieved, well ahead of the 2015 deadline for reaching the globally agreed development targets aimed at ridding the world of extreme poverty, hunger and preventable diseases, the United Nations said today.

**EARTH SUMMIT** - Participants of the first Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro look back at the landmark conference and assess the gains in sustainable development over the past 20 years.

**HEALTH** - The growth of fetuses can be stunted even when expectant mothers, infected with malaria early in their pregnancies, no longer show any symptoms, according to a study. The findings bolster the case for earlier prevention even in areas with declining rates of infections and especially in places such as sub-Saharan Africa, where such treatment usually does not begin until after the first three months of pregnancy.

**WOMEN & GIRLS** - On the cusp of International Women's Day, UN Foundation CEO reflects on the estimated 283 million adolescent girls living in rural areas who are especially vulnerable to violence, early marriage and death because of pregnancy and childbirth. She said a new series of blogs from young women "who are advocating for political agendas that work for girls" will help ensure that rural girls are not overlooked.

## AFRICA

**TANZANIA** - Commercial production of Tanzania's first locally manufactured antiretroviral drugs will start in the next few months; it is hoped the country will eventually provide medicines for half of all HIV-positive Tanzanians.

**ZIMBABWE** - Farmers tackle water problems in rural Zimbabwe, drinking water is available from such sources as boreholes, but experts says their major concern surrounds sources of water for irrigation purposes.

**WEST AFRICA** - Families Preparing for the Hungry Season Across the Sahel, experts are expecting a rush of malnourished child cases in the coming months as impact of the region's food crisis escalates.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**DISASTERS** - The costs of natural disasters throughout the world soared to \$356 billion last year, some two-thirds higher than the previous high from 2005, said Margareta Wahlstrom, UN special envoy on disaster risk reduction. Ms. Wahlstrom attributed the rise in costs primarily to earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand and floods in Thailand and other countries.

WFWO's Communications Team