



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS children's agency plans to focus on providing critical health services to the poorest portion of the world's poor children, especially in urban slums and in remote rural areas. The charity announced its new approach after recognising that it has failed to reach the neediest of poor children around the world. The shift in strategy was described in a report published on Tuesday ahead of the UN summit later this month which will review progress towards achieving the **Millennium Development Goals**. The UN also warned that the goal of reducing child mortality rates is off-track. Children from the poorest 20 per cent of households in the developing world are still more than twice as likely to die as children from the wealthiest 20 per cent, the report claims.

UNITED NATIONS agencies have set up more than 1,100 mobile health clinics in the wake of massive monsoon floods and have treated more than 2 million Pakistanis, said officials. Malaria, respiratory infections and waterborne conditions have already struck more than a million people in the country.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY, 2010 - The WFWO observed and raise public awareness to call attention to the international community to maintain their commitment to the **Millennium Development Goals**, in particularly Goals 1/2/3 in which this year the theme is focusing on Goal 3. "Literacy and women's empowerment" is the theme of International Literacy Day 2010. Today we are celebrating literacy day around the world, while women's empowerment is at the core of the global development agenda, girls still account for more than half of the 67.4 million out-of-school children in the world, and two-thirds of the 796 million adult illiterates are female." Today literacy is a cause for celebration since there are now close to four billion literate people in the world. However, literacy for all - children, youth and adults - is still an unaccomplished goal and an ever moving target. A combination of ambitious goals, insufficient and parallel efforts, inadequate resources and strategies, and continued underestimation of the magnitude and complexity of the task accounts for this unmet goal. Lessons learnt over recent decades show that meeting the goal of universal literacy calls not only for more effective efforts but also for renewed political will and for doing things differently at all levels - locally, nationally and globally. We need to action and the solidarity of all to achieve our common objectives.

ENVIRONMENT - Russian banking authorities will soon launch tenders for 15 projects that will create as much as 200 million metric tons of carbon emissions credits - called Emission Reduction Units - under the United Nations' Joint Implementation Program. The UN-backed program awards credits for projects that curb emissions through 2012.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Researchers said that climate variability does not have a significant impact in sparking civil conflicts in Africa. The study, found that traditional factors such as poverty and social tensions were usually the main factors that triggered clashes. The conclusion challenges previous research which suggested that environmental disasters, prompted by changes in the climate such as droughts, were linked to conflicts in the African continent.

CAMEROON - As school resumes in Cameroon, some 1.6 million students in the north are receiving cholera-prevention messages via SMS, flyers, stickers and special textbooks, in a public-private effort to stem the country's worst outbreak in 20 years.

DR CONGO - Twenty-eight minors have been documented as victims of last month's four-day raid of more than a dozen villages centred around Walikale, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UN officials said. Children, including one 12-years old boy were identified. The Walikale victim toll has risen to over 240.

MALAWI - The scope of Malawi's health assistants - first introduced in the 1960s as part of an initiative to eradicate smallpox - is being broadened to compensate for the lack of available medical skills and to assist in managing the treatment of child malnutrition.

MOZAMBIQUE's government announced on Tuesday that it would introduce new subsidies to reverse an increase in the price of bread following violent riots that killed 13 people last week.

SOMALIA - Authorities in Galkayo, in Somalia's self-declared autonomous region of Puntland, are offering internally displaced persons (IDPs) skills training in a bid to integrate them into the community, officials said.

■ASIA

Asia Region - The World Health Organisation (WHO) is urging countries in Asia to remain vigilant about the spread of the H1N1 influenza virus, which the international body declared was no longer a pandemic a month ago.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - Researchers have unveiled a new highly detailed, three-dimensional map that uses satellites images to reveal the amount of carbon stored by the Peruvian Amazon rainforest. The map also allows scientists to estimate the amount of carbon emitted when the vegetation is cut down. The lead author of the study, said the findings could help climate negotiators reach an agreement on how to curb deforestation and forest degradation around the world.

WFWO's Communications Team