



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - A new United Nations report claims that extreme poverty in Latin America has dropped by 85 per cent between 1990 and 2008. The report, released on Wednesday, notes that Brazil, Chile and Peru had that achieved most progress in the area. News agency said that the UN considers the region to be on track to meet the **Millennium Development Goals** of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

UNITED NATIONS - US President Barack Obama will travel to the United Nations to address delegates to the upcoming summit on Millennium Development Goals on Sept. 22 and the opening session of the General Assembly the next day. The summit will look at ways to accelerate efforts on poverty, maternal and child mortality, HIV/AIDS and other MDGs ahead of the 2015 deadline.

ENVIRONMENT - The United Nations declared 2010 the Year of Biodiversity. But 17 years after the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the issue of biopiracy is still pitching North against South.

CLIMATE CHANGE - The United Nations' Clean Development Mechanism for the exchange of carbon credits awarded for reduction efforts in developing countries may soon unravel if the world's climate negotiators cannot reach new agreement at the December climate summit in Cancun, Mexico, warns Christiana Figueres, head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The CDM, created as part of the Kyoto Protocol, expires in 2012. Countries may decide to create trading markets independent of any broader agreement, or form an extension market unregulated by the UN, Ms. Figueres said.

HEALTH - Concerted efforts to provide vaccines to young children around the world before 2015 should be a critical element of efforts to meet the 2015 Millennium Development Goals and could finally eradicate polio worldwide. Polio cases have dropped 99% in the past two decades and the disease remains endemic in only four countries.

■AFRICA

SOMALIA - Primary school is a dead end for many children in Somalia, particularly in the southwestern Gedo region where many end up jobless, joining a militia, or emigrating.

■ASIA

PAKISTAN - Development planners, government officials and relief agencies are struggling to identify a road map for Pakistan to replace the massive amount of food-producing capabilities destroyed by recent monsoon flooding. Raging waters destroyed 1 million hectares of agricultural land, existing food supplies, seed banks and millions of chicken and livestock. Planners hope to help Pakistani farmers complete the winter planting season, but it will be years before Pakistan can return to a status as a "food secure" country.

SRI LANKA - Fifteen months after the end of fighting between Sri Lankan government forces and the Tamil Tigers, women in the north are taking up a new and challenging role as breadwinners - with more and more becoming day labourers to support their families.

■MIDDLE EAST

BAHREIN may be dependent on expatriate labour, but that has not stopped it from deporting migrant workers who are found to be HIV-positive.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

CUBA - Even today, many years after it was proved effective, the Cuban vaccine against meningitis B is still ignored by industrialised countries, whose medical literature usually states there is no immunisation against that strain of the disease.

WFWO's Communications Team