



News Bulletin

■AFRICA

Africa region - The re-emergence of polio in Africa has spurred a 15-country immunization initiative aimed at reaching 72 million children. An oral vaccine recently was being administered by United Nations Children's Fund representatives to children under five in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 30 cases have been reported this year.

BENIN - Relief agencies and the government of Benin have appealed for US\$46.8 million to help the West African nation recover from the worst flooding in nearly 50 years: Agricultural experts have warned of huge damage to land and livelihoods in rural communities.

CONGO - At least 94 people have died, with 201 cases of acute flaccid paralysis reported in the Republic of Congo (ROC), since 5 November. Four cases have been confirmed as wild poliovirus type 1, says the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

KENYA - The poor in Kenya pay more for water than the rich, but even then millions do not have enough, mainly because provision is skewed, an advocacy group has said.

MOROCCO - Violence erupted in the disputed Moroccan territory of Western Sahara on Monday after security forces raided a camp where more than 12,000 displaced Sahrawi people were protesting against their living conditions.

RWANDA - The Rwandan authorities are trying to tackle gender-based violence by addressing the role of security personnel in ending the scourge.

SOMALIA - Fighting between two sub-clans over grazing pasture and water has left 20 dead and thousands of families displaced from several villages in central Somalia, say locals.

SOUTHERN AFRICA - An aggressive national campaign to persuade people to abstain from sex or commit to 100 percent condom use for a month could make a significant contribution to HIV prevention efforts, says a leading HIV expert.

UGANDA - Local assistance in northern Uganda played a crucial part in post-conflict recovery in Pader and Katakwi districts but determining the exact impact requires more work, according to research findings.

■ASIA

Asia region - Green producers of palm oil are meeting in Jakarta in a bid to increase sales to consumers in China and India in order to offset the costs of eco-friendly standards, supported primarily by Europe. Producers currently can certify as green some 7% of the global annual output of 45 million tons.

INDONESIA - Search and rescue workers continue to comb an ash-covered 20km area around Mt Merapi in Indonesia's Central Java region, collecting corpses and transporting survivors to medical care.

THAILAND - An influx of about 20,000 refugees from Myanmar to Thailand over the past two days has left Thai authorities and aid workers scrambling to address their humanitarian needs.

WFWO's Communications Team