

## Regional News Roundup

### AFRICA

Financial crisis threaten to set back education worldwide The aftershock of the global financial crisis threatens to deprive millions of children in the world's poorest countries of an education, the 2010 Education for All Global Monitoring Report warns. With 72 million children still out of school, a combination of slower economic growth, rising poverty and budget pressures could erode the gains of the past decade. According to the report, sub-Saharan Africa has increased enrolment at five times the rate achieved in the 1990s but is still an area for priority action. With fiscal deficits rising across the region, education spending plans could face painful adjustments. Education systems across the region could be deprived of around USD 4.6 billion per year in public spending in 2009 and 2010 as a direct result of the crisis. The report also found that in some countries in sub-Sahara Africa, young adults with five years of primary schooling have a 40 percent chance of being illiterate. Aid commitments to basic education, having stagnated from 2004, fell by more than one-fifth in 2007.

Read more:

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=47232&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=47232&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### KENYA

Need to address urban poverty Slum-dwellers are among the Kenyans worst hit by high food prices, yet they receive far less humanitarian attention than other demographic groups. The poorest hit urbanites spend up to two-thirds of their income on staple foods alone. "There is a humanitarian crisis in deprived informal settlements around the world, and one of the regions where this dynamic is playing out is in Kenya," said an advocacy and outreach officer of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Kenya. According to the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Nairobi has some of the most dense, unsanitary and insecure slums in the world. Almost half of the population lives in over 100 slums and squatter settlements within the city, with little or inadequate access to safe water and sanitation.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87780>

### SOMALIA

IDPs on the run again as fighting hits Beletweyne Thousands of internally displaced in Somalia's central town of Beletweyne are on the move again following 10 days of fighting between rival Islamist militias, amid report of continuing heavy shelling in parts of the town. At least 30 people have been killed and 50 injured, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Many artillery shells landed on residential areas and most of the victims are civilians. An aid worker said the newly displaced had no shelter, food or water and no agencies were operating in town since the fighting started.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87787>

Somalia clashes kill 138 in two weeks Fighting in central Somalia has killed at least 138 people and displaced 63,000 others in the last two weeks, the Elman human rights group said last week. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said earlier last week the recent fighting in central and southern Somalia was sending more refugees into neighbouring countries. According to the agency 3,000 Somalis were registered as refugees in Ethiopia in December and 4,175 had registered in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp since December. It said the total number of Somali refugees in the region now stood at 560,000.

Read more: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE60E0EV.htm>