

## Regional News Roundup

### ETHIOPIA

#### **Diarrhea outbreak hits 18,000**

Cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases have infected 18,000 people in Ethiopia over the last three weeks in many parts of the country, including the capital Addis Ababa, according to a document seen by Reuters. The document revealed that half of the moderate-to-severe cases of the 18,000 infections were cholera. The government and international charities are distributing antibiotics and emergency treatment centres have opened across the country, including in the capital.

**Read more:** <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L7718472.htm>

### KENYA

#### **El Nino rains could bridge food deficit**

The El Nino-related short rains that are expected from mid-September to December could help a significant recovery of drought-affected crops in parts of Kenya's Rift Valley Province, say officials. Due to erratic and low rainfall the province could not fulfill its potential to feed Kenya this year. Up to 40 percent recovery of the maize crop is possible in the North Rift, while the South Rift could recover up to 60 percent. Farmers were urged to take advantage of the anticipated rains.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86036>

### SOMALIA

#### **Record number of displaced at 1.5 million**

The number of conflict- and drought-displaced Somalis has reached 1.55 million, according to the UN. Despite a drop since the beginning of July, hundreds of families are still fleeing the capital Mogadishu. The UN estimates that 3.8 million Somalis, almost half the population, urgently need humanitarian aid. The main reason for their flight is insecurity, although drought and the lack of livelihoods are also cited as causes, said a spokeswoman of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86034>

### SUDAN

#### **WHO warns of epidemics in conflict areas of south**

Conflict-affected areas of Southern Sudan are facing a high risk of epidemics, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned. Conflict has damaged health facilities, displaced health workers and prevented people from accessing facilities that were still functioning. Rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army have continued attacks in Western Equatoria and forced 80,000 people out of their homes. There is a huge need for emergency supplies of food, safe drinking water and medicines.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86057>

#### **Women and children increasingly targeted in Southern clashes**

Women and children are being increasingly targeted in the escalating attacks against communities in Southern Sudanese states, officials said. In the violent clashes that increasingly occurred during the last year women and children are deliberately targeted and the number of deaths is higher than the number of wounded, according to MSF. The clashes can no longer be seen as tribal conflicts, but rather as deliberately organised attacks on civilians by those that are against peace in Southern Sudan, said an Archbishop of the Episcopal Church. Continuing violence could damage the smooth implementation of the peace agreement, the Archbishop warned.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86000>

### TANZANIA

#### **Health officials confident of beating malaria**

Health officials in Tanzania are confident they are on track to eradicate malaria deaths by 2015,

even if significant challenges stand in the way of the target. Malaria is a leading killer in the country, infecting about 18 million and killing over 60,000 annually, according to the National Malaria Control Programme. Initiatives implemented under the Roll Back Malaria programme have helped reduce malaria cases in recent years. Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete told the WHO that his government was determined to attain universal bed net coverage by end of 2010 and eliminating malaria by 2015.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85991>