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Some of the many affected by Gustav try to seek shelter

"I hope donors will respond generously to help the survivors of these devastating storms, which have affected such a broad swathe of a country and population already struggling with the effects of poverty and price rises"

John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
10 September 2008

Topic of the month: Extreme Weather

UNICEF brings relief to hurricane-ravaged Cuba, Turks and Caicos Islands

(13 September 2008)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff in Cuba are rushing to provide clean water and sanitation to the areas hardest hit this week by Hurricane Ike, the fourth deadly tropical storm to batter the Caribbean region with torrential rains and heavy winds within the past month.

Preventing outbreaks of infectious disease is now the top priority in the wake of Ike,

UNICEF's deputy representative in Cuba, Viviana Limpias, said yesterday from Havana.



[More Details](#)

Destruction a serious obstacle to emergency aid efforts in Haiti- UN agencies

(11 September 2008)

The damage to infrastructure and extensive flooding across hurricane-battered Haiti is so severe that relief and recovery efforts are being handicapped, a top United Nations official to the country said today.

As the UN Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)) prepared to airlift 11.5 tons of relief supplies to victims made homeless and displaced,



local Government figures say that damage from the four back-to-back hurricanes since mid-August has affected over 300,000 children.

UNICEF is airlifting 11.5 tons of relief supplies to Haiti

[More Details](#)

More on Energy & Environment

- [New UN guidelines aim to ease impact of fishing on deep sea areas](#)
- [UN rushing aid to Caribbean nations hit hard by severe weather](#)
- [New UN tool allows armchair environmentalists to virtually visit global hotspots](#)

Energy & Environment

UN agency predicts continued expansion of nuclear power in coming decades

(11 September 2008)

The United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said today that nuclear power is expected to continue to expand in the coming decades in line with the growing global demand for energy, while also reporting that the power source's share of global electricity generation dropped another percentage point in 2007 to 14 per cent.

The projections contained in the 2008 edition of Energy, Electricity and Nuclear Power Estimates for the Period to 2030, published by the Vienna-based IAEA, reflect major expansion plans under way in countries like China and India, and new policies and interest in nuclear power emerging in countries like the United Kingdom and the United States.

[More Details](#)

More on Health & Poverty

- [States must deliver on promises made at Accra aid forum- UN official](#)
- [Cambodian women with HIV receive boost from fashion designer and UN agency](#)
- [Ghana: UNICEF to provide thousands of extra bed nets in fight against malaria](#)

Health & Poverty

UN report provides \$22 million boost for poor Ghanaian farmers

(12 September 2008)

The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) today [announced](#) a \$22 million loan to Ghana to boost the livelihoods of over 100,000 households in the West African nation.

The funds from IFAD are part of a larger \$103 million initiative targeted at achieving sustainable livelihoods for poor people in rural areas, especially small farmers, women and vulnerable groups in northern Ghana.

The Northern Rural Growth Programme seeks to enhance the incomes of rural residents. Some 45,000 households will be directly supported, and it is hoped that more than double that amount will benefit from improved infrastructure.



[More Details](#)

More on Human Rights

- [UN expert marks first anniversary of landmark declaration on indigenous peoples](#)
- [Sri Lanka: UN officials stress need to help civilians caught up in fighting](#)
- [UN urges Iran not to impose death penalty on juveniles](#)

Human Rights

UN human rights chief urges greater efforts to halt gender discrimination

(12 September 2008)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights today said that much more needs to be done to protect women from discrimination and achieve gender equality, despite progress made in the 60 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Women throughout the world were amongst the poorest and most marginalized, with limited access to rights, resources and

opportunity, Navanethem Pillay told delegates at the opening of the annual gender discussion of the [Human Rights Council](#) in Geneva.

[More Details](#)

More on Peace & Security

Peace & Security

- [UN to train African Union peacekeeping support staff](#)
- [Security situation in volatile eastern DR Congo remains tense - UN mission](#)
- [Darfur: stepped up attacks on trucks bearing food could shut down deliveries, UN warns](#)

UN deplores deadly bombing in Afghanistan

(14 September 2008)

The United Nations has condemned this morning's suicide bombing in a south-eastern Afghan town that targeted a UN convoy taking part in a polio eradication programme.

Three members of the convoy were killed in the explosion, which occurred about 9:40 a.m. in the town of Spin Boldak, which lies close to the Pakistani border in Kandahar province.

In a joint statement, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) said several bystanders were caught in the blast and more information is now being sought on their status.



[More Details](#)



UNAA NEWS AND EVENTS

30th UNAA Media Peace Awards Presentation Dinner 2008

Nominations for the 2008 United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards are closing on 19th September. These Awards recognise outstanding efforts by those in the media to highlight social justice and humanitarian issues, raise awareness within the Australian community and stimulate public debate.

Winners will be announced at a gala 30th Anniversary Presentation Dinner

Date: Friday 24 October, 2008
Time: 6:30pm
Venue: The Arts Centre ANZ Pavilion

We invite the Australian community to join with us in celebrating this significant milestone.

For further information regarding the Awards Presentation Dinner please contact the UNAA Office.

UNAA EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Wed 17th:

Media Peace Awards Nominations Close

Sun 21st:

Media Peace Awards Preliminary Judging

Sun 28th:

Media Peace Awards Final Judging

Sustainable Futures Forum 2008

The UNAA Victoria is supporting the Australian Information Industry Association's significant Climate Change Event on October 7th at Sofitel Melbourne.

The key topic for the forum is *Climate Change: Preparing for the Carbon Future*.

Key areas of focus and thought leadership discussion will include:

- The role of Government
- Carbon Reporting Requirements
- Financial Preparation for the Carbon Future

For further information please visit the website at

<http://www.aiiaconference.com.au/>.

For sponsorship, exhibition or registration enquiries please contact Rosemary Cotton by phone 0409 364468 or email rosemary@gener8.com.au.



Unifem Spring Walks

Unifem's [Spring Walks](#) campaign has officially been launched with information, downloadable materials and online registration forms.

Spring Walks begins on the International Peace Day Sunday 21st September. The programme seeks to raise awareness that many women and children across the developing world walk anywhere between 5

to 15 kilometres each day to gain access to water and firewood.

Spring Walks is a great way to get a group of friends, family or work mates together for a great cause.

If you would like to organise your own walk or register for a walk near you, please visit the website at www.unifem.org.au.



UNAA Education Program

Model UN Conferences

Over the recent weeks various Model UN Conferences have been successfully run in Victoria.

Year 10 students from Woodleigh School represented 31 countries and debated the topic, "*Confronting Climate Change*".

A further conference was held at Victoria University, where students represented 32 countries and debated the topic "*How to address the situation of Environmental*

Refugees".

The conferences aimed to enhance understanding of complex global issues, the United Nations system, and the importance of dialogue and diplomacy in international affairs.

The next Model UN Conference will be held in Geelong on October 17 and will address the situation of environmental refugees.

[More Details](#)

UN Observances

15 September: International Day of Democracy

Stressing the continuing need to promote democratization, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the General Assembly, on 8 November 2007, agreed to observe 15 September each year as the International Day of Democracy.

In [adopting](#) by consensus a resolution on the issue, the 192-member body reaffirmed that "while democracies share common

features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region."

The Assembly invites all Member States, organizations of the UN system, regional and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals to commemorate the Day "in an appropriate manner that contributes to raising public awareness."

21 September: International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations as an annual observance of global non-violence and ceasefire. Every year, people in all parts of the world honour peace in various ways on 21 September.

This year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will ring the Peace Bell at United Nations Headquarters in New York in the company of the UN Messengers of Peace. He has called for a 24-hour cessation of hostilities on 21 September, and for a

minute of silence to be observed around the world at noon local time.

For further information please visit the website at www.internationaldayofpeace.org



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