

Recent news from WHO

- In Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 14 October, WHO launched *The world health report 2008* calling for a return to a primary health care approach. **Primary health care: now more than ever** marks the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Primary Health Care held in Alma-Ata in 1978. Read the report here: <http://www.who.int/whr/2008/en/index.html>
- WHO said, on 10 October, that it is working with experts in South Africa and Zambia to investigate **a new disease** that has killed at least three people.
- A new WHO programme launched on 9 October aims to address the lack of treatment and care for 75% of people suffering from **mental disorders** in developing countries.
- At a meeting in Madrid, Spain, from 6 to 8 October, WHO agreed with over 80 top researchers on a research agenda to develop an evidence-based framework for action in response to implications of **climate change** for human health.
- WHO and the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization called on countries, on 26 September, to look out for **melamine-contaminated dairy products** to avoid their spread after thousands of infants became ill after consuming such products in China.
- There is no evidence to back claims that the **electronic cigarette** is a proven safe nicotine replacement therapy, WHO said on 19 September. Users puff on this steel device as if using a real cigarette, to produce a fine mist instead of smoke that is absorbed into the lungs.
- On 26 September, WHO called for greater efforts to control **dengue** in the Asia Pacific Region. WHO also warned that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the principal vector, is expanding to new geographical areas that were previously unaffected and that more collaborative activities are needed to address dengue.
- WHO supplied Kyrgyzstan with **emergency health kits** following an earthquake on 5 October. Each kit provides enough medicines, disposables and instruments to support the emergency health needs of 10 000 people during a three-month period.

For more about these and other WHO news items please see: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre>