



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTN: CHIEF REPORTER/NEWS EDITOR

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS **THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

Dhaka, 12 November 2011: On Saturday, 12 November, the Secretary-General will depart for a three-country visit to South-East Asia, which will take him to Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia.

A key purpose of his visit is to showcase the progress and leadership of these countries in advancing women's and children's health in the context of the "Every Woman Every Child" effort he initiated in 2010.

In Bangladesh, the Secretary-General will visit a community clinic in the north-east region of Moulvibazar, where community health workers are being trained in a government-led effort to drastically increase the number of women who give birth with a skilled birth attendant. He will also visit a joint project of the Government and the non-governmental organization BRAC, which illustrates how empowering women through microfinance impacts the health of their communities.

In the capital, Dhaka, he will stop at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR,B), one of the oldest health research institutions in Bangladesh. It developed the Oral Rehydration Solution, which is considered one of the most significant medical breakthroughs of the 20th century. The hospital affiliated with the Centre receives 120,000 patients a year, two thirds of whom are children.

Jointly with the Prime Minister, the Secretary-General will address the Climate Vulnerable Forum gathering in Dhaka.

The Secretary-General will pay tribute to the contribution of Bangladesh to United Nations peacekeeping efforts by visiting the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training (BIPSOT). He will also meet with the families of those peacekeepers who perished in the line of duty.

The Secretary-General will give a public address at the University of Dhaka, where he will also be bestowed an honorary degree.

While in Bangladesh, the Secretary-General will meet the Prime Minister, the President and the opposition leader, as well as the Foreign, Health and Finance Ministers. He will also meet with private sector leaders on women's and children's health.

The next stop on his trip will be Thailand, where the Secretary-General will meet with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The Secretary-General plans to visit the flood-affected areas in Bangkok.

While in the Thai capital, he will also deliver a keynote address at a roundtable on universal health coverage. That event is expected to be attended by Thailand's Minister of Public Health, health experts, civil society, diplomats and others.

The final leg of his trip will take him to Indonesia, where the Secretary-General will visit Central Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo. There, he will visit a community health centre and meet with representatives of communities affected by deforestation.

The Secretary-General will conclude his trip in Bali with the fourth summit between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

On the sidelines of that event, he will meet with regional leaders, including Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, whom he will formally recognize as the “Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction.” The Secretary-General will engage in a dialogue with the Global Pulse’s Indonesian partners.

While in Bali, he will also visit a health facility and address business leaders gathered for the ASEAN summit to mobilize their support for the “Every Woman Every Child” initiative.

The Secretary-General will return to New York on Sunday, 20 November.

ENDS

For further information please contact: Mr. AM Sakil Faizullah, Communication Specialist, UNICEF Bangladesh, via email: asfaizullah@unicef.org, mob: +88 01713 049900 or Mr. Abdullah Al Muyid, Communications Consultant, UNDP Bangladesh via email: Abdullah.muyid@undpaffiliates.org, ph: +88 02 8150088, ext. 1805, mob: +88 01713068384