

NEWS BULLETIN

25 February 2011



GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - After years of planning, fundraising and consultations, UN Women was officially launched Thursday. Formally known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women combines four pre-existing UN agencies into one task force that embodies the highest ambitions and aspirations of the drivers of gender equality.

ENVIRONMENT - A UN study is focusing on the reduction of two short-lived pollutants, black carbon and ground-level ozone, as a means of slashing global temperatures within the first half of this century in the absence of an international agreement on curbing emissions of carbon dioxide, the biggest contributor to global warming. Ground-level ozone decimates farm crops while black carbon, a component of soot, speeds the melting of snow.

AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE - A new United Nations report highlights an ongoing pattern of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, abductions and excessive use of force, in Côte d'Ivoire since the November election and warns that the situation is only getting worse.

KENYA - The bold branding of HIV care centres in Kenyan hospitals stops many HIV-positive pregnant women from accessing vital HIV treatment that could protect their children from infection for fear of stigma.

SUDAN - Anti-government protesters, who have taken to the streets of Khartoum and other Sudanese cities over recent weeks, run the risk of sexual assault, torture and detention, say human rights workers and demonstrators.

ASIA & PACIFIC

MYANMAR - Authorities in Myanmar are stepping up polio vaccination campaigns after an infant contracted the disease, say officials from the UNWHO. More than 10,000 children have been vaccinated and more campaigns are imminent. Myanmar was declared polio-free in 2000.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

GUATEMALA - The debate is growing in Central America over the scope of industrial crops in forested areas or subsistence farming zones, and their impact on the source of food for the rural population. In this country, where half of the 14 million inhabitants live in poverty and 17 percent are extremely poor, the rural population subsists on growing maize, beans and vegetables.

WFWO's Communications Team