



## ■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - The number of deaths from land mines and other unexploded devices left behind after wars has dropped to the lowest level since tracking began a dozen years ago thanks to concerted efforts to clear unexploded ordnances, advocacy groups said in a report issued at the United Nations. Fewer governments are producing or using land mines, with India, Myanmar and Pakistan being the only countries still producing the devices, according to the report.

ENVIRONMENT - A new UN study shows that global temperatures will rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius - regarded as the danger threshold - even if all countries that have pledged to cut greenhouse gases followed through on their promises. The UNEP conclusions come at a time when concentrations of major greenhouse gases are at their highest levels since industrialization.

HIV/AIDS - Theologians around the globe are debating the meaning behind remarks from Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican on the use of condoms by prostitutes and others to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Church teachings previously banned the use of condoms under any circumstances, and the remarks have sparked debate over whether the pontiff's comments reflect a shift on the broader issues of contraception.

## ■AFRICA

BURKINA FASO - More than 12 million people in Burkina Faso will be the first to receive a new meningitis vaccine as part of an Africa-wide immunisation plan, the World Health Organisation says.

CAMEROON - Cocoa farmers in southwest Cameroon, where cocoa quality has for years suffered as a result of unusually heavy rains, now have some good news: the government has announced a plan to dry cocoa beans with renewable energy.

CONGO - Health officials are pointing to a "lost generation" of Congolese who were never immunized as a partial reason for the recent spike in polio that has killed more than 150 people. The virus, which spread from neighboring Angola, primarily is infecting adults between the ages of 15 and 25.

ETHIOPIA - New automated weather stations could boost Ethiopia's fledgling agricultural insurance schemes, expanding the use of payouts triggered by abnormally low rainfall and reducing costly visual verification of yield losses.

UGANDA - The rapid growth of the ICT market in Uganda has been greeted with optimism over its potential to boost the country's development. But less attention is being paid to the increase in gender based violence due to the use of information and communications technology.

## ■ASIA & PACIFIC

CHINA - Senior Chinese climate officials have laid out strict terms for any international agreement ahead of the Cancun climate summit next week. Developed countries need to fulfill pledges to provide \$30 billion in funds for developing countries, agree to a transfer of green technology and take the lead in greenhouse-gas emission cuts, Chinese officials said.

MYANMAR - A form of malaria resistant to the most powerful drugs available may have emerged along the Thai-Myanmar border as well as Vietnam, and containment measures are planned, the World Health Organisation says.

## ■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI's cholera outbreak is spreading quickly and may result in hundreds of thousands of cases over the course of a year, warns the United Nations humanitarian coordinator in Haiti. Efforts to prevent more deaths from the outbreak are being hampered by bureaucracy and a lack of dedicated fund.

WFWO's Communications Team