



# News Bulletin

## ■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS - A report by the UN Development Program suggests that despite economic expansion in the Asia-Pacific region over recent decades, women yet face discrimination in jobs, health care, education and political representation. Equality for women was named as one of the Millennium Development Goals, and the Asia-Pacific Human Development Report suggests that efforts to secure legal rights and political representation for women will help nations achieve the other goals, in particular by boosting national domestic incomes.

GLOBAL - Disagreements over how to proceed against climate change are playing out at the World Bank, where industrialized and developing countries wrestle over project funding. The U.S. and Britain have threatened funding for a South Africa coal-fueled plant over climate-effect fears, even as they continue development of coal-power installations in their own countries.

GLOBAL - A growing number of scientists and economists are throwing their support behind the idea of placing financial values on natural assets. Supporters believe the measure would help quantify the benefits nature provides and shore up conservation efforts.

GLOBAL - Prepare for "climageddon" - Rice producing Asian countries had to contend with poor rains in 2009, and now another season of low rainfall has been forecast for some of them, which has prompted concern whether the price of the grain could go up later in 2010.

GLOBAL - Fund gets results, but will it get funding? - Achieving targets to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and halve tuberculosis rates hang in the balance as donor commitments to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Fund come up for review.

## ■AFRICA

AFRICA REGION - Funding shortfalls foil new treatment guidelines - Global funding shortfalls for fighting AIDS could make it impossible for developing countries to implement new World Health Organization treatment guidelines, activists have said.

CHAD - Hungry season sets in early - The poorest households in Chad will find themselves with no food reserves in the coming weeks, according to the NGO famine early warning systems network.

NIGERIA - Violence delays polio vaccinations - A polio vaccination campaign in the violence-wracked central Nigerian city of Jos has been delayed until 13 March due to the violence and a recent health worker strike, aid workers said.

SOUTH AFRICA - Rift Valley Fever reported in two provinces - An outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in two South African provinces has killed one person, while five others have tested positive for the disease, which has also caused "extensive livestock deaths", the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), said in a statement on 9 March.

SOMALIA - Too many patients, one mental health facility - The number of people seeking mental health treatment has increased in Bosasso, the commercial capital of Somalia's self-declared autonomous region of Puntland, despite the existence of only one small health unit, officials said.

SOMALIA - Poverty pushes Bosasso children on to streets - A long civil war, frequent droughts, unemployment and high food prices have led to an increase in the number of street children in Bosasso, the commercial capital of Somalia's self-declared autonomous region of Puntland, with NGOs and government officials calling for urgent steps to resolve the problem.

SWAZILAND - Tackling one crisis at a time does not solve all - The myriad crises afflicting Swaziland can only be solved with a holistic approach, not a piecemeal one, the UNWFP deputy executive director, Sheila Sisulu, said during a recent tour of the country.

UGANDA - Sanitary pad project "changes refugees' lives" - A project using papyrus and waste paper to make sanitary pads has changed the life of Evelyne Banyamisa, who fled rebel violence in Bunia, north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2003 when she was only 13.

## ■ASIA

VIETNAM - Government leads region in climate change challenge - Serious efforts are under way to respond to the impact of climate change in Vietnam but a lack of capacity and resources remains a challenge, experts say.

## ■MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ - IDPs returning to Diyala Province in increasing numbers - The security situation in Iraq's northeastern province of Diyala is slowly improving and thousands of displaced families have returned to their homes, according to officials.

YEMEN - Landmine awareness campaign targets IDPs - A mine risk education campaign aimed at targeting a sizeable portion of the roughly 238,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in three Yemeni governorates - Saada, Hajja and Amran - started on 7 March.

## ■LATIN AMERICA

HAITI - Women at risk in the camps - Many women at the Jean-Marie Vincent site for displaced people (IDPs) in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince wash themselves inside their makeshift tents because the only alternative is to do so out in the open. Given the overcrowding and meagre security, this exposes them to the risk of attack or rape.

WFWO's Communications Team