

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

WATER privatisation has been proven not to help the poor, yet a quarter of all World Bank funding goes directly to corporations and the private sector, bypassing both governments and its own standards and transparency requirements in order to do so, says a new report released Monday.

AFRICA

WOMEN & GIRL - Education is known to be a key for reining in population growth, and in Africa experts agree that means keeping girls in high school. The higher level of schooling gives girls the ability to enter the workforce rather than be left to conceive babies at a young age. "If you educate girls to the secondary level, then exposure to pregnancy doesn't happen until they are mature and can make choices," said the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund.

SWAZILAND - The African mountain kingdom of Swaziland registers the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the world, affecting a staggering 1 in 4 adults. "HIV medication is getting better because we have drugs, but the people are not using protection so they are still spreading the virus. Most are women. Men don't come. Swazi men are still reluctant to be tested" official say.

ASIA & PACIFIC

NEPAL - Poor understanding of antiretroviral therapy (ART) amongst health officials, clinicians and patients in Nepal could undermine gains in the country's HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and threaten future progress in lowering the number of new infections.

PAKISTAN - Low awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding in Pakistan poses a significant health risk to infants, say experts.

MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT will launch a four-day polio immunization campaign on 21 April targeting 12.5 million children under five, say officials.

WFWO's Communications Team