



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

FOOD SECURITY - The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has called for action on key issues related to food security and nutrition such as land tenure and international investment in agriculture, food price volatility and on addressing food insecurity in protracted crises. The five-day Rome meeting of the high-level intergovernmental body was its first following a reform which aims at making it the cornerstone of the global governance of agriculture and food security. The deliberations of the committee and its decisions come against a background of increased food price volatility and continuing unacceptably high levels of hunger and malnutrition which have underlined the need for an improved strategic approach to hunger.

■AFRICA

Africa Region - Recent research into the effect of mass rape on HIV in conflict situations has highlighted the need for better post-rape care services for affected women and girls.

CHAD - Rising floodwater in Chad's capital N'djamena - coming in the midst of a cholera outbreak - has engulfed household wells and toilets and displaced thousands of people, raising the threat of infection.

RWANDA - In an attempt to meet the development goal of universal access to primary education by 2015, Rwanda's government has decided to reallocate a large part of its tertiary education budget to the primary education sector.

SOUTH AFRICAN business leaders have banded together to introduce new ways to finance and monitor the world's most ambitious national HIV testing campaign.

ZAMBIA - Civil society organisations warn that unless Zambia addresses its high poverty levels, the strides the country already made in achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) may be reversed.

ZIMBABWE's debt burden of about 8,3 billion dollars, owed to internal and external institutions, is crowding out essential national budget items such as health and basic services, with detrimental effects for particularly women. Indications are that many Zimbabwean women opt to give birth at home, with some children being born HIV positive because their mothers cannot afford the maternity fees or the fees charged at hospitals and clinics for the prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

■ASIA

BANGLADESH - Recent flooding which displaced nearly half a million people and led to at least 15 deaths has sparked a debate about whether the government's long-standing use of earthen embankments is the best way to control floods.

MYANMAR - A new report by NGOs indicates health conditions in conflict-affected eastern Myanmar are dire, with women and children suffering most.

PAKISTAN - An outbreak of dengue fever has hit the Pakistani coastal city of Karachi, with five reported deaths out of 1,000 confirmed cases, triggering a run on shops selling mosquito nets.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

LAC Region - Women in Latin America have broken down barriers in education, and in several countries have more years of education than men. But the task now is to make sure that education reduces, rather than fuels, inequality between men and women. Representatives of women's organisations and human rights groups from more than 20 countries, mostly in the Latin American region, met in Lima to discuss how to achieve non-discriminatory education that does not reproduce stereotypes inside and outside schools.

WFWO's Communications Team