



News Bulletin

■GLOBAL

UNITED NATIONS Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) launched an ambitious new initiative to improve the safety and wellbeing of women in five major cities Monday - New Delhi, India; Cairo, Egypt; Quito, Ecuador; Kigali, Rwanda; and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

HEALTH - Worldwide 1 billion people can't afford to pay for health care, while 100 million are reduced to poverty as a result of health care expenditures, according to the [World Health Report](#), released today. Rich and poor countries alike could do more to make services available to the estimated 1 billion people who cannot afford them.

AIDS campaigners and Catholic reformers are praising remarks by Pope Benedict XVI, in a book slated for publication next week, in which he suggests condom usage might be appropriate under certain conditions in order to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. The United Nations program UNAIDS characterized the pope's words as a "significant and positive step forward." The Vatican, however, took pains to clarify the pope's remarks as not altering church teaching on the use of birth control.

■AFRICA

KENYA / UGANDA - Polio prevention efforts have been increased in Uganda and neighbouring Kenyan districts after a case was confirmed in Bugiri District, in eastern Uganda.

ZAMBIA is struggling to balance the need for Chinese investment to support economic development with concerns from domestic workers over employment conditions and legal protection. China has poured \$1.2 billion into Zambia over the past year, according to government figures, with Chinese-run enterprises providing salaried employment to 25,000 Zambians. Workers complain of long hours, harsh conditions and Chinese bosses ignoring deals with labor unions.

■ASIA & PACIFIC

INDONESIA - Recent disasters - including a deadly tsunami and volcano eruption - underscore the need for Indonesians to be better prepared for disaster emergencies, experts say.

■MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT - Civil society has warned of adverse social and health consequences after the Egyptian government ordered the removal of content related to male and female anatomy, reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) from the school curriculum.

■LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL - Cooperation between countries of the developing South took another step forward with the recent signing of international agreements in Brazil aimed at stimulating public policies to support small farmers.

HAITI - The United Nations on Saturday said that donors internationally have provided only about 10% of the \$164 million in aid it requested to combat the cholera epidemic in Haiti, which has killed 1,200 and stricken tens of thousands. Scientists say that weather conditions are in part responsible for the outbreak of the waterborne disease.

WFWO's Communications Team