

# NEWS BULLETIN

24 FEBRUARY 2012



## GLOBAL

**UNITED NATIONS** - The phrase "financing for gender equality" may sound dry, but it lies at the heart of some of the most intractable problems faced by women around the world today – and whether the political will exists to allocate real resources to solving them or simply pay lip service. Beginning next week, from Feb. 27 to Mar. 9, ministers and civil society delegates will meet at the United Nations for the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

## AFRICA

**SOUTH SUDAN** - Health workers in the world's newest country are hoping that the pledge by pharmaceutical companies and world leaders to combat "neglected" tropical diseases will finally help to have an impact on South Sudan's appalling health indicators.

**SOUTH AFRICA** is slated to deploy troops along its borders with Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho in an effort to halt the soaring rhinoceros poaching that claimed a record 450 animals in 2011. US wildlife investigators in California and a dozen other states announced arrests in an international smuggling operation that trafficked in sawed-off rhino horns, contributing to the spike in poaching in Africa.

**TOGO** - A top United Nations official called for an increase on national spending on HIV/AIDS in Togo, noting that most of the country's funding to combat and prevent the disease comes from external sources.

## ASIA & PACIFIC

**AFGHANISTAN** - Thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Afghanistan, mainly from the strife-torn southern provinces, have been heading for Kabul in the hope of finding work and a better life, but most end up living in appalling conditions in makeshift camps.

**BANGLADESH** - In Bangladesh, where some 85 million people, or nearly 60% of the population, use cellphones, the government is providing free medical advice through 24-hour hotlines staffed by health workers. Authorities also are using text messages to remind pregnant women about pre- and postnatal care.

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

**MEXICO** - Orange juice and beef form part of the diet of many people in Mexico and other countries of the Americas. But the traces of antibiotics and fungicides they can contain pose risks to human health, and authorities in the region have begun to address the problem.

WFWO's Communications Team