

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

HIV/AIDS - The UN World Health Organization (UNWHO) has advised women on injectable hormonal birth control to use condoms to prevent HIV infection in light of possible HIV risks associated with "the shot", but HIV organizations and activists say this has not been effectively communicated to women.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICA - Governments and civil society organisations in Central Africa are slowly developing strategies in response to global warming. But specialists say the steps being taken seem hesitant in the face of emerging realities. For some time now, smallholder farmers in many parts of Africa, but particularly in the Congo basin, have noted with alarm a slump in farm output that can be linked to climate change.

GUINEA faces acute problems in the supply of clean water and electricity to its citizens, slowing the country's economic development. A major project to address this is now under way, but some Guineans are sceptical of its promises.

LIBERIA - At least 4 in 10 women in Liberia were subjected to sexual violence during the country's civil war from 1979 to 2003. Not many are willing to participate in a new program based on traditional justice, however, because they say previous testimony before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission brought up painful memories and did not lead to justice.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA - In Latin America, Argentina spends the most on healthcare. It has a vast infrastructure, highly qualified health professionals and the necessary material resources. But other countries in the region are achieving better and faster health outcomes with fewer resources.

CHILE - Two years after the earthquake and tsunami in south-central Chile, the worst natural disaster to hit the country in half a century, thousands of families who saw their homes destroyed are still waiting for a solution.

NICARAGUA - The indigenous Miskito community in Nicaragua's Mosquito Coast has taken hostage 12 nonindigenous people, including police, while demanding the return of land they say was seized by some 600 "colonist" families. Tensions long have been rising over property rights along the Caribbean coast as Nicaraguan cattle ranchers, loggers and farmers push eastward, and the government plans construction of an inter-oceanic canal, a hydroelectric dam and a deepwater port.

WFWO's Communications Team