

NEWS BULLETIN

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GLOBAL

EDUCATION - Access to secondary education is still a challenge for girls, especially in parts of Africa and Asia, according to a United Nations atlas published today that highlights the differences in education between girls and boys in terms of access, participation and progression.

WOMEN - An interactive graphic produced by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the coalition Farming First shows the degree to which women are the backbone of rural farming. Across the developing world, women account for 43% of agricultural labor and 66% of livestock keepers, yet receive considerably less land, training and credit compared with men.

CLIMATE - The global surge in large-scale mining in iron, coal and rare metals is, in turn, leading to large-scale land grabs, as well as the devastation of lands, rivers and aquifers across Africa, Asia and Latin America. In the northwestern Zamfara region of Nigeria, unprecedented levels of gold mining have reportedly killed more than 400 children and poisoned thousands more.

AFRICA

NIGERIA has nearly doubled funding for its anti-polio efforts, from \$17 million to \$30 million, in a bid to eradicate the disease from a remaining eight states by 2015.

ASIA & PACIFIC

CHINA - An initiative by China's State Council calls for condoms, or condom vending machines, to be available in 95% of the country's hotels by 2015. Government figures show that about 780,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in China, and that heterosexual transmission has surpassed injection drug use as the primary route of infection.

TIMOR-LESTE - An increase in the number of suspected dengue cases in Timor-Leste in 2012, compared with the same period last year, has prompted government health and sanitation warnings.

WFWO's Communications Team