



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



UN UGANDA BULLETIN

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION COMMEMORATED

By Michael Wangusa, UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

OVERVIEW

- Where there is No Classroom; UNICEF's new high-performance tent is restoring hope
- UNESCO Regional Director visits Buganda Kingdom's Kasubi Tombs
- Minister of Health urges all Ugandans to get vaccinated against COVID-19
- Hopes High as IOM Renovates Health Centre in Amuru
- Digitalizing Inventory Management in Resource Constrained Health Facilities
- A Young Refugee Gives Back to His Community
- Apprenticeship brings a new dawn for refugee youth
- A Call to Review the Bail Guidelines Proposed by the Chief Justice
- Dresses along the road - WFP's cash assistance is feeding Lillian's tailoring dream
- Fish farming for improved nutrition takes root in Karamoja
- FAO and OPM empowering Karamoja Districts to manage and respond to food security shocks
- Female Genital Mutilation inspires award-winning app



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (centre) with other stakeholders during the commemoration of International Day of Education on 23 January 2022 ©IYI

The commemoration of International Day of Education in Uganda was jointly organised by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Incredible Youth International (IYI) with support from the Youth Coalition for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The commemoration was held on 23 January 2022 at the offices of IYI at Kabembe, Mukono District.

International Day of Education is an opportunity to educate students and the community about what education looks like for learners around the world, and to find ways to advocate for and promote the importance of improving access to a quality education. Education empowers learners, helps them achieve their goals, and sets them up for a lifetime of success.

The theme of the commemoration was "Changing Course, Transforming Education." The Chief Guest at the commemoration was UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo. The event was also attended by the UNICEF Representative, Dr. Munir Safiaddin and the UNESCO Project Office, National Coordinator, Mr. Charles Draecabo. Also in attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Education and Sports, publishers of educational books, counselors, mentors, parents, guardians, lecturers, teachers and students from universities and secondary schools. The students had an opportunity to interact and share their views with the other guests.

There were two panel discussions, which addressed the challenges faced by learners in the education system in Uganda and the opportunities of the new curriculum for secondary school





UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (right) delivering her speech ©IYI



Student Cortez Nagawa delivers her speech ©IYI



Panel discussion ©IYI

education. The UNICEF Representative, Dr. Safieldin emphasized the need to observe the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) to avoid the resurgence of COVID-19 in schools and the wider community.

It was noted that the COVID pandemic had exacerbated teenage pregnancy and many girls had dropped out of school. It was noted that there was need to provide learners with life skills and address issues of mental health and substance abuse in schools.



We need to help the young people to understand the dangers of the Internet. Let's educate them on how internet can be used responsibly," said Ms. Judith Owembabazi, one of the panel members.

A secondary school student participant in Senior Two, Cortez Nagawa pointed out that whereas the old curriculum involved a lot of cramming, which was not useful in the long run, the new curriculum promotes skills development. "I believe making skills education a major part of the education sector will improve our

Education system in Uganda," said Cortez.

UNESCO National Coordinator, Mr. Draecabo highlighted UNESCO's Futures of Education initiative, which aims to rethink education and shape the future. The initiative is catalyzing a global debate on how knowledge, education and learning need to be reimagined in a world of increasing complexity, uncertainty, and precarity. He highlighted the importance of learners acquiring the required skills for the future with the onset of the 4th Industrial Revolution including skills to navigate digitalization and make use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In his speech, the Founder and President of IYI and the initiator of commemoration of International Day of Education in Uganda, Mr. James Brian Ntwatwa, emphasized the importance of career guidance in enabling learners choose the right career paths and contribute to achieving the SDGs. In this vein, he informed the congregation that the second National Career Guidance Day involving thousands of secondary students would be held at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on 20th March 2022.

In view of the range of important issues raised, in her remarks, the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Namondo called on all stakeholders in the Education sector in Uganda to hold a National Conversation to address these challenges and harness the opportunities in order to contribute to achieve the SDGs and Uganda's transformation. 🌍

WHERE THERE IS NO CLASSROOM: UNICEF'S NEW HIGH-PERFORMANCE TENT IS RESTORING HOPE FOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION IN KASESE DISTRICT

By Hope E. Muzungu United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Joy Kyomugasho, conducts a P2 English lesson in the installed High Performance Tent (HPT) at Bulembia Primary School in Kasese District © UNICEF Uganda

At 3 am that night, a thunderous sound like an unending roll of massive drums woke up the residents of Kilembe Division as River Nyamwamba in Kasese District burst its banks. The raging floodwater ripped the sides of the Rwenzori mountain ranges as it gushed downhill, hurling tree trunks and boulders the size of small trucks at everything in its path.

Thousands of stones now stand over what used to be Bulembia Primary School, which was established in the 1940s in Kasese Municipality. Half of the school was swept away in 2013, and the other half in May 2020 when River Nyamwamba burst its banks again.

“

We lost our school, which until then had been a model school because it had some of the best facilities and systems in the district,” the head teacher Joseph Kule laments.”

In the wake of the floods, the school relocated to a new site about 100 metres across from the former location. With government support, the school converted three abandoned Kilembe mine workers quarters into classrooms. UNICEF also provided emergency education support, including tarpaulin tents to serve as classrooms.

One of the tents stands out from all the others. From the outside, it looks like a four-walled house with a double-layered roof. On the



Pupils of Bulembia Primary School in Kasese District enjoy play during a break off after attending classes in the installed High Performance Tent (HPT)- in the background © UNICEF Uganda

inside, it is a classroom with six windows on either side, as well as an entrance and an exit. This is the new high-performance tent developed by UNICEF to act as a classroom. Tom Akoko, the UNICEF Supply Assistant in charge of installing the tents, notes that the tent was purpose-built to enable continued service delivery in education, health, nutrition and child protection in emergency situations. It has distinct features such as hard flooring for hospital settings, solar and electrical, three layers of flaps, lighting, and all-around ventilation, which is a favourite at Bulembia Primary School.

“It is difficult for my class children to pay attention when it is too hot, so the aeration keeps them alert, which positively impacts their performance,” Lillian Nukaru, the Primary Two class teacher, says



An aerial view of a High Performance Tent classroom installed at Bulembia Primary School in Kasese District © UNICEF Uganda

while pointing at the air vents at the side and on the roof. When it rains, a plastic flap keeps out the rain while still letting in light due to its translucent material.

At Bulembia, the high-performance tent also serves some unintended purposes. When the floods washed away the school, it wasn't just the buildings that were swept away; textbooks, desks, teaching materials and even school records were also lost. This meant that when Bulembia Primary School reopened in January 2022, nearly everything had to be re-started from scratch.

"We have learned to improvise," the headteacher beams, pointing at the wooden box packaging for the performance tents, which have been converted as seats and desks for the children. In the Primary Two class, six children are seated on each of the four boxes during their literacy class. When the teacher asks them to write down the names of people at home, they turn around, place their green exercise books on the wooden boxes, and while kneeling down, write out varying answers; 'mother', 'father', 'sister'...

During lunch break, some children lie down and sleep on the plastic carpeted floor. Eight-year-old Harriet looks up and smiles shyly, speaking in short sentences, "I like my class because it is good. I like my teacher because she teaches me."

Twelve-year-old Fiona sits in the learning tent taking class notes on value placement in the mathematics lesson, she glances up with a smile.

"I like this classroom, it is smart. I also like the windows and the fresh air."

At Kihara Primary School, in Nyamwamba subcounty, Kasese District, children had this to say about their new classroom.

"Nganzire klassi eno." – "I like this class."

"Nnganasheka omu." – "I can sleep in this class if I am tired."

"Erikungula e klassi kihobire" – "Opening this class is so easy."

At the end of the class day, Teacher Nukaru, accompanied by two children, carefully unstraps, lowers and zips each of the window flaps, the front and the back exits. She is one of five teachers responsible for operating and maintaining the tents, but she also engages the children in this duty. "They are curious and will touch the tent either way, so I ensure that they know how to handle it with care," Teacher Nukaru says, adding, "we open and close the tent together and keep away sharp objects so as to protect our classroom." The new tents each accommodate an average of 82 children at Bulembia Primary School. "My learners also now have better spaces for learning, especially in light of the COVID-19 social distancing requirement."

So far, seven schools in Kasese are set to receive the new tents, including Nyamwamba, where the classroom roof was blown off by strong winds and Kihara where two classes were being conducted under trees.

"These new high-performance tents are part of our commitment to ensure that every child continues receiving an education, even in emergency contexts," the UNICEF Supply Assistant concludes. 🌍



UNESCO REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS BUGANDA KINGDOM'S KASUBI TOMBS HERITAGE SITE

By Vincent Ogal, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



UNESCO Regional Director Prof. Hubert Gijzen (left) and Buganda Minister for Tourism Mr. David Kyewalabye Male emerge from one of the huts located within Kasubi Tombs site © UNESCO Uganda

UNESCO Regional Director for East Africa, Prof. Hubert Gijzen, has applauded the restoration works at the Kasubi Tombs, the royal burial ground of the Buganda kings also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He stated that it takes a lot of time, patience, precision and attention to details to achieve the ultimate goal of preserving both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the kingdom during the reconstruction process of the tombs. Prof. Gijzen was speaking after a guided tour of the royal tombs that was gutted by fire on two separate occasions, first in 2010 and recently in 2020 while reconstruction work was already ongoing.

“Let us ensure that we learn from this disaster and from the reconstruction process. It has been a learning process. I hope that we have documented the entire rehabilitation and reconstruction. I will ask my team in UNESCO to support you in developing a very high-quality summary documentary that tells the story of the rehabilitation and reconstruction so that we document them and we keep lessons to learn,” said Prof. Hubert Gijzen.

The Buganda Minister for Tourism Mr. David Kyewalabye Male, while addressing the stakeholders at the site in Kasubi stated that reconstruction process of the tombs would have been a very simple task had it not been for the complex cultural intricacies associated with each of the huts gutted by fire.

“The intangible and tangible cultural heritage, identity and beliefs required utmost attention to values during the reconstruction process that make them evidently unique from any grass thatch house anywhere in the world. We have ensured maximum respect to those values by going as far as undoing and redoing some restoration process,” said Mr. David Kyewalabye Male

Mr. Male further assured the stakeholders that, the reconstruction of the tombs will be concluded before the end of the year (2022) adding that the process has now reached the thatching stage. He however stated that as the reconstruction process of the tombs (Muzibu-Azaalampanga) progresses towards its conclusion, there's urgent need to expedite the installation process of the permanent



(Left to Right) Prof. Hubert Gijzen while having a guided tour of the royal tombs together with Buganda Kingdom officials, Al-Hajji Kaddu Kiberu, the Reconstruction Committee Chairperson and Mr. David Kyewalabye Male the Culture Minister in the Kingdom, and Charles Draecabo, UNESCO Project Office National Coordinator ©UNESCO Uganda

firefighting systems at the site which is already at the procurement stage to avert the major threat of another fire disaster, whose implication he stated would result in ruining all that that has been done in the last decade. He therefore called for wider stakeholder collaboration so as to galvanize the efforts to make the site the number tourist destination in the region.

The UNESCO Regional Director was accompanied on this tour by the Secretary General of Uganda National Commission for UNESCO Ms. Rosie Agoi, Mr. Charles Draecabo the Kampala Project Office Head, the Commissioner of Uganda Museum and Monuments Ms. Rose Mwanja Nkaale among other key stakeholders from the cultural sector.

The tomb was built in 1882 and converted into the royal burial ground in 1884. Four royal tombs now lie within the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, the main building, which is circular and surmounted by a dome. The tomb is a major example of an architectural achievement in organic materials, principally wood, thatch, reed, wattle and daub. The site's main significance lies, however, in its intangible values of belief, spirituality, continuity and identity. 🌍



UGANDA'S MINISTER OF HEALTH URGES ALL UGANDANS TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)



Ministry of Health leadership and partners led by the Minister of Health Hon Dr Jane Ruth Acheng (yellow) observe as a community member receives her COVID-19 vaccine shot at the launch in Moroto District ©WHO Uganda

The Ministry of Health, with support from the Irish Government, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, recently launched an accelerated COVID-19 vaccination campaign at the Boma Grounds in Moroto, to drive up the COVID-19 vaccine uptake. The campaign is targeting 9 districts in the Karamoja region to increase vaccine uptake from the current 16% to more than 90%.

The target districts include Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga and Kotido. The other districts are Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Napak and they will benefit from over 500,000 vaccine doses which will be administered to all eligible persons.

During the campaign launch, the Minister of Health, Honorable Dr Jane Ruth Aceng said, "while Uganda is currently experiencing a decrease in the new COVID-19 cases, vaccination which was very instrumental in bringing the cases down should be promoted and taken up by all who are eligible."

She mentioned that vaccination coupled with other public health measures including social distancing and the appropriate wearing of masks is the only effective way Uganda will fight the pandemic.

"Although we are currently out of a danger, as shown by the current positivity rate standing at 2%, the mortality rate continues to go up especially for the elderly who are unvaccinated. Let us vaccinate, and those who are above 50 years of age get your booster shots," she said.

She appreciated all partners including Irish AID, WHO and UNICEF for the continued support in the COVID-19 response.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr Diana Atwine re-echoed the Minister's message calling on the people of Karamoja and Uganda at large to use the vaccines provided by the Ministry and partners. "If we vaccinate, we are safer, however, the lack of vaccination will lead to a stretch in the health system. Let us follow the guidance from the Ministry of Health and WHO," she said.

The WHO Representative in Uganda Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam speaking on behalf of WHO and UNICEF pointed out, "as seen from current statistics, Uganda has not yet reached its target but with the Accelerated Mass Vaccination Campaigns, I am optimistic that each district will achieve a coverage of 70% by April 2022."

He further said that through the support from partners like the Irish Government, WHO was able to extend both financial and technical support to the accelerated mass vaccination campaign in Karamoja region. It's expected that the campaign will reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID 19 in the region.

"We also need to prioritize vaccination in schools and as such once we achieve optimal coverage of the over 18 years, we can move to vaccinate the under 18 years as the next phase," he mentioned.



Vaccines save lives! But we must continue to observe standard operating procedures, including wearing masks, cleaning hands, good indoor ventilation, keeping physical distance and avoiding crowds," Dr Yonas concluded.

Whereas the Karamoja region has received adequate quantities of vaccines since the launch of the nationwide vaccine rollout on March 10, 2021, its uptake has remained very low giving a 16% coverage based on the first dose of those above eighteen years (target 598,727), as of 1st February 2022. A total of 106,873 first doses and 23,741 had been administered.

The necessity to reduce the economic impact of the outbreak motivated the Ministry of Health to change course for the narrow prioritization around only high-risk groups to all the vulnerable in a fast-tracked accelerated mass campaign strategy.

WHO's mandate is to support the Ministry of Health and partners develop capacity and health systems. Vaccinating 598,727 will not only allow increased access to the vaccine by a good proportion of the vulnerable population, which is nomadic pastoralists for the most part but will also eliminate any possibility for wastage of the scarce commodities that are received with a very short shelf life.

The WHO support with funding from the Irish Government includes mobilization and training of additional health workers, intensive social mobilization including mapping and pre-registration of the elderly, conduct vaccination campaigns by region over a period of seven days for the two rounds.

The estimated cost for the two rounds in the Karamoja sub-region is \$313,935. In addition, WHO will facilitate real-time data management, strengthen safety surveillance and monitoring and evaluation through coverage survey. 🌍

HOPES HIGH AS IOM RENOVATES HEALTH CENTRE IN AMURU DISTRICT

By Richard Mulindwa Kavuma, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has started rehabilitation works at Bibia Health Centre III to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health centre, located in the northern district of Amuru, is the designated referral facility for Elegu Point of Entry (PoE), at the border with South Sudan, one of Uganda's key trading partners. Elegu is a particularly busy border post and a traders' and truckers' hub, hence the need for an accessible and functional referral facility as part of the COVID-19 response.

The rehabilitation involves restructuring of the out-patient department, including a laboratory and a store; renovation of a two-unit staff block and construction of a new one; construction of a larger in-patient ward; improving the maternity ward; construction of six latrine blocks; and construction of an incinerator, among others.

Milton Okello, the Senior Clinical Officer in charge of the health centre, said that the centre's in-patient ward was too small, with steel windows and inadequate lighting. The new block will have separate rooms for women, men and children, with eight well-spaced beds. He said the centre now averages 550 patients a month, although the numbers used to be much higher when services were better.

The nearest higher-level health facility is Atiak health centre IV, 28 kilometres away. Okello said that because of challenges at his facility, some patients have had to endure the distance to Atiak.

According to Sauda Jurua, a mother of four who represents Bibia Parish in Elegu Town Council, the community is happy because the health centre has been "too small" for the patients. Ms. Jurua recalled receiving antenatal care and delivering her youngest child at the health centre four years ago, and requesting to be discharged immediately.




We are very happy that the staff, too, are getting more space because there was time when they were sharing a unit," Ms. Jurua said.



IOM Uganda Chief of Mission - with cap - speaks at the handover of tents to be used for clinical work during the construction period ©IOM Uganda



IOM, Ministry of Health and Amuru District local government inspect the construction works recently ©IOM

This initiative is part of the EU-IGAD COVID-19 Response programme, funded by the European Union, which is mitigating the health and socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region, in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Project activities include supporting the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 response, mitigating the pandemic's effects, and laying the foundation for long-term recovery. The regional programme is managed by UNOPS and implemented by IGAD, IOM, UNICEF, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ). 

CASE STUDY: DIGITALIZING INVENTORY MANAGEMENT IN RESOURCE CONSTRAINED HEALTH FACILITIES

By Rachael Kentenyngi, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



Judith Amiya, a store manager at Panyadolli HC III, in Kiryandongo uses the digital solution for health stock management ©UNCDF

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), together with Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL) and Signalytic have deployed a solution that digitalizes the stock management of essential drugs and medical supplies. This project, which complements the Ministry of Health 's efforts to improve access to essential medicines, is currently being piloted at Health Center IIs and IIIs in Kiryandongo District. Health Center IIs and IIIs are health facilities at the parish level and the first point of contact for treating common diseases in Uganda.

The S+ Platform aims to promote equity, and quality of health services as well as strengthen district monitoring and supervision processes to support quantification, ordering, reporting and redistribution of medicines. Digitalization of stock management will improve the ministry's ability to support quantification, forecasting and procurement planning.

The project is part of UNCDF strategy of 'Leaving No One Behind in the Digital Era' funded by SIDA, Sweden's government agency for development cooperation. The strategy aims to build inclusive digital economies that help eliminate poverty, by enabling millions of people to access and use digital solutions in the sectors of finance, agriculture, health, education, and energy.

Read more about how digitalization of stock management in lower-level facilities can address challenges in determining and maintaining adequate medical stock levels.

Link:

<https://www.uncdf.org/article/7450/digitalizing-inventory-management-health-facilities>. 🌐



DIGITALIZING INVENTORY MANAGEMENT IN RESOURCE-CONSTRAINED HEALTH FACILITIES

February 2022

A YOUNG REFUGEE GIVES BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY

By Orone David Ocaage and Yonna Tukundane, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Peter Mackuel constructing a latrine for fellow refugees in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement ©UNHCR Uganda



Peter Mackuel, at the latrine he constructed for fellow refugees in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement ©UNHCR Uganda



Peter Mackuel after receiving an award for excellence from the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA) ©UNHCR Uganda

Growing up as a refugee in Uganda, Peter Mackuel, a 19-year-old from South Sudan, appreciates the support provided to him by UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, and the Office of the Prime Minister. He is a student, who chose to save his pocket money and use it to construct eight pit latrines in Kiryandongo refugee settlement, where he grew up. Kiryandongo refugee settlement is home to over 75,000 refugees. Most vulnerable households cannot meet basic needs and find it difficult to access essential services due to disability or age. This has contributed to the settlement having only an 82 per cent latrine coverage.

“I used to see people in vulnerable households suffering in my community due to a shortage of latrines. I have a burning passion for the health sector, and I saw an opportunity to give back to my community,” said Peter.

In 2014, Peter and his family fled violence in South Sudan but were separated during flight. Together with his grandmother and two siblings, they made it to Uganda, while his parents sought refuge in an Internally Displaced People’s (IDP) Camp.

Peter received his secondary education in Panyadoli Self-Help Secondary School and later at St. Joseph Nazareth Secondary School in Kiryandongo settlement. His exemplary performance in class enabled him to receive a bursary at St. Joseph Nazareth Secondary School. He later received a scholarship from United World Colleges, which enabled him to study in Tanzania.

“I saved some pocket money while attending school in Tanzania. At the start of 2021, I applied for the GoMakeADifference award, and received USD 1,000 in April 2021. Together with the pocket money saved, I embarked on my dream of constructing pit latrines for vulnerable households in Kiryandongo” explains Peter.

Two skilled refugee groups from the community undertook construction of the eight pit latrines. Peter employed the youth groups, which were grappling with the harsh economic times because of the COVID-19 pandemic and food ration cut. To ensure quality and consistency, a Sanitation Officer with Water Mission Uganda worked closely with the two youth groups, providing technical guidance. Most youth used the proceeds to provide additional food and basic needs for their households.

Waste management is the leading contributor to the spread of diseases. The pit latrine contribution is aimed at promoting hygiene and sanitation in refugee vulnerable households.

Due to his outstanding academic performance, Peter received the AISA Award of Excellence 2021.

“I have been offered a scholarship from the United World College Graduate, to study at the University of Oklahoma in the USA. I will study a graduate course for four years,” says Peter.

Uganda includes refugees in its social service like health, education and WASH, through the Sector Refugee Response Plans. This is part of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and Global Compact on Refugees. 🌍



APPRENTICESHIP BRINGS A NEW DAWN FOR HOST COMMUNITY AND REFUGEE YOUTH IN UGANDA

By Pheona Namuyaba and Nilesh Nikade, International Labour Organization (ILO)



Apprentice chefs undergoing training under PROSPECTS programme at Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) ©ILO Uganda



Apprentice caterers undergoing training under PROSPECTS programme at Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) ©ILO Uganda

With a lot of curiosity and eagerness, a team from the International Labour Organization (ILO), Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and Uganda Hotel Owners Association (UHOA) visited the Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) in Jinja on 10 February 2022. A team of 95 refugee and host community youth were enrolled in this institute in January 2022 as part of an apprenticeship development programme under the PROSPECTS Partnership. Their enrolment at UHTTI followed a two-year delay as training institutions and colleges were closed as part of efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. After completing the first phase of college-based training, these apprentices were about to depart for their first on-the-job training experience in 40 different hotels across the country and the ILO tripartite delegation was keen to know more about their preparedness for their journey ahead.



“What an honour to see the transformation in the faces of the apprentices just one month after officially starting the programme,” exclaimed Ms Jean Byamugisha, Executive Director of the UHOA and a member of the visiting team. She added: “I remember when we interviewed them in the refugee settlements in 2020 when they resembled the very definition of “vulnerable” persons. One month later, after reporting to UHTTI their faces are fuller and brighter and more hopeful, full of life, full of dreams and full of love.”

The visiting team was thrilled with the positive impact on these young people in the programme, which will run for 12 months spread across 3 terms between January to December 2022. The apprentices will spend 30 per cent of their time at the training college and 70 per cent in the hotels undergoing workplace training under the supervision of trained trainers guided by the curriculum developed with the support of the ILO. All the partners involved in the programme play different but mutually reinforcing roles of overall governance of apprenticeships, workplace training for apprentices and pedagogical training respectively.

Mr Stephen Opio, Chief Technical Advisor and Officer in Charge of the ILO in Uganda, said: “Beyond the policy support to government on apprenticeships and workplace learning, we are investing in this pilot apprenticeship scheme because it offers enormous opportunities for school-to-work transition and offers employers the opportunity to participate in training the workforce they desire.”

At the same time, the apprentices benefit from learning practical skills and waged employment offering more workplace protection. “It is of the utmost importance not only for the refugees who are part of this pilot, but for all of these young people. This is in line with the SDG principles of leaving no one behind,” added Opio.

The beauty of apprenticeship programmes is that they are demand-based and offer a practical solution to address skills mismatch in the labour market that can impede trained youth in transitioning into productive employment.

“Without appropriate skills, labour market outcomes are poor.



Apprentice caterers under PROSPECTS programme at Uganda Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (UHTTI) ©ILO Uganda

There is underemployment and low productivity. Thus, the government is revitalizing apprenticeships to complement other skills development approaches. The government is committed to implementing apprenticeships as it offers a window of opportunity for these young people to acquire marketable skills while also earning a livelihood," said Mr Henry Mutebe, Apprenticeship and Graduate Volunteer Coordinator at the MGLSD.

The apprentices, supported by the PROSPECTS programme, will undergo training across four occupations (food production, front office, food and beverages services and housekeeping and laundry) and will later specialize in one occupation of their interest. This pilot programme is inclusive, involving 62 males, 33 females, 71 refugees and 24 host community youth and two persons with disabilities (all males). These apprentices are now engaged in hotels to receive their first ever industry exposure.

"I am very proud of all the partners for living up to all our expectations. This success is due to the hard work of all involved in

implementing the apprenticeship programme. Most importantly, I am very grateful to the ILO for supporting this pilot programme in the hotel sector. This is the first of its kind for the hotels. It has created a lot of excitement and goodwill from our members. We will certainly be honoured to continue the programme on a much bigger scale next year," added Ms Byamugisha.

The PROSPECTS Partnership through which this apprenticeship pilot is being supported is a multi-year programme, funded by the Government of the Netherlands, that brings together five agencies – International Labour Organization (ILO), International Finance Cooperation (IFC), World Bank, UNICEF and UNHCR to devise collaborative and innovative approaches for inclusive job creation and education in contexts characterized by forced displacement. In Uganda PROSPECTS Programme is focussing on the districts of Arua, Madi-Okollo, Terego and Isingiro. 🌍



A CALL TO REVIEW THE BAIL GUIDELINES PROPOSED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF UGANDA

By Sandra Nyangoma Kanagwa, UN Human Rights



OHCHR Country Representative Mr Robert Kotchani (third from left) and Ms Grace Pelly, the Deputy Country Representative (second from right) with CSOs representatives after the review meeting ©OHCHR Uganda

In partnership with the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Uganda convened a meeting of different Civil Society Organisations to analyse and give recommendations on the bail guidelines proposed by the Chief Justice, Alfonse Owiny-Dollo in December 2021. The meeting took place on 17, February 2022.

The members of CSOs proposed that the guidelines should preserve the right to personal liberty and be able to ensure the protection of the presumption of innocence as well as provide guidance on the discretion to courts in granting and, or denying bail. They added that the guidelines ought to comply with the minimum standards imposed by the national, regional and international human rights frameworks. They also advocated for the Judiciary to evaluate and remain receptive to the recommendations issued by different stakeholders on the proposed guidelines.

In his opening remarks, OHCHR Country Representative, Robert Ayeda Kotchani noted that the guidelines should, among others, provide guidance to the courts on the discretion in granting and, or refusing bail, as well as the parameters for imposing the death penalty.

“We expect the State to inter alia, provide a comprehensive framework for managing State Funded Legal Representation and extend legal services to suspects at places of detention, not only at courts, in the interest of justice.” Mr. Kotchani said.

He further noted that while the guidelines should effectively operationalise the existing legal frameworks, in particular, the 1995 Constitution, the guidelines should also comply with Uganda’s international and regional human rights obligations, and strengthen the administration of criminal justice in Uganda.



OHCHR Country Representative Robert Kotchani, shares views on the proposed bail guidelines with CSOs representatives at the UN Human Rights Offices in Kololo ©OHCHR Uganda

The Chief Justice exercising his constitutional authority granted under Article 133(1) issued the proposed Constitutional (Bail Guidelines for Court of Judicature), the Judicature (Representation at the Expense of the State); and the Constitutional (Sentencing Guidelines for Court of Judicature) that are essentially supposed to be put before the Rules Committee of the Judiciary, for deliberation and final adoption.

The meetings also took a deep analysis of the human rights concerns contained in the Guidelines, including the erosion of the presumption of innocence, the failure of the State to provide State funded legal representation to suspects at police stations in the interest of justice, and the excessive terms of imprisonment contained in the Sentencing Guidelines.

The CSOs are expected to consolidate the inputs collected at the meeting and engage with relevant judicial authorities accordingly. 🌍



DRESSES ALONG THE ROAD: WFP'S CASH ASSISTANCE IS FEEDING LILLIAN'S TAILORING DREAM

By Melissa Kyeyune, World Food Programme (WFP)



Lillian poses in a 'kitenge' dress, on a road near her home in Bidibidi Settlement. Photo credit: WFP Uganda

Originally from South Sudan, Lillian and her husband Jimmy fled to Uganda in 2016, after war broke out in their home country. Both she and husband were entrepreneurs in South Sudan, with Lillian

selling foodstuffs and her husband selling auto parts. However, when they found themselves as refugees in Bidibidi settlement, Uganda, they had to start from scratch.

It wasn't long before Jimmy's business spirit re-awakened in Uganda. He founded a savings group in the settlement, which also receives financial literacy training from WFP.

"Here is how it works. When you get food from WFP, you are happy because that UGX 2000 you would have used to buy food, instead you throw it in our savings box," he says.

Lillian, who is now 27 years old with three young sons, recently joined her husband's savings group, and plans to use money she borrows from the group to attend tailoring school in the nearby, bustling city of Arua, in order to create and sell colourful kitenge dresses. Over 50 percent of WFP's food assistance is now in cash, giving refugees more choice with what they do with their money and enabling people like Lillian invest in their dreams.

She describes her dream vividly.

“

I will put my dresses all along this road around our home, for women to stop and buy. They will look at the material and the colour and decide which one they want. I know they will buy.”

FISH FARMING FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION TAKES ROOT IN KARAMOJA SUB-REGION

By Sophie Akera, United Nations Area Coordination (UNAC) Office, Karamoja sub-region



Fish farmer group leader showing the fish harvested from their pond ©UN Uganda

Karamoja, located in North-eastern Uganda, with an estimated population of 1.4million. For decades, this region has been characterized by food insecurity and malnutrition. With major underlying factors being insecurity related to armed cattle rustling, extreme climatic conditions including, prolonged draught and flooding among other factors. To respond to the high prevalence of acute malnutrition, WFP has been supporting the Government of Uganda to implement the Community Based Supplementary Feeding Programme (CBSFP), a component of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) guidelines for more than a decade in Karamoja.

Though lifesaving, this conventional approach of managing malnutrition is unsustainable. And as a result, WFP is "Moving the needle on malnutrition prevention" and resilience building as novel strategic approach. Some of the actions in this strategic approach include the scaling of fish farming/aquaculture in Karenga District. This district was selected because it has the potential for fish farming.

Aquaculture was selected because, fish is a good source of high



WFP Country Representative, Mr. Meygag Abdirahman visiting one of the fish pond projects in Karenga District ©UN Uganda



WFP Country Representative, Mr. Meygag Abdirahman addressing the fish farmers and trying to understand their limitations ©UN Uganda

biological value protein and high economic value. During the visit of the WFP Representative and Country Director, Mr. Meygag Abdirahman, he committed that WFP would work with Andre Foods International and the Karenga District Local Government to establish 100 fishponds reaching over 2,000 households directly.

Karenga is endowed with some swampy belts with water all year round. And so following the guidance on the use of wet lands for food production, there is an opportunity for aquaculture in Karenga. The ponds are established in swampy belts of Karenga and vulnerable households within that sub county identified to participate and benefit.

The pilot project commenced in September 2020 in Lobalangi Sub-county, where one fish pond was established to malnutrition household members. In April 2021, a multiplier effect set in, with the parish chief paying these fish farmers to establish 9 fish ponds within the same parish. Some of the fish is sold to hotels and restaurants in Karenga town. The money realized by the farmers is put into the group savings.

Given the livelihood/humanitarian approach taken by WFP to excavate the pond (Labour Intensive Public Work), the cost of establishing a pond of 20 metres X 12 metres is about UGX 1,600,000, cost of fingerlings is UGX 800 each for 1500 fingerling and the estimated average cost of feed for 7month is UGX 700,000 per month. Tilapia fish grow to an average of 0.5kgs within months and are sold UGX 14,000 per Kg, therefore expected gross income is about UGX 10,500,000 per pond in 7 months. If well maintained a pond can remain productive for more than 25 years.

On looking at the existing fish ponds and the potential in Karenga, the WFP Representative said partners need to support Karenga District to become a fish zone for Karamoja Sub-region and identify other suitable locations that can support aquaculture in Karamoja sub-region for replication. 🌐

FAO AND OPM EMPOWERING KARAMOJA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MANAGE AND RESPOND TO FOOD SECURITY SHOCKS

By Agatha Ayebazibwe, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Office of the Prime Minister are convening a four-day workshop to hasten timely and quality early warning bulletin production and dissemination in Karamoja, for early action.

The workshop is part of the project “Strengthening Shock Responsive Systems in Karamoja”, which is funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships (EU DG INTPA) under the Pro Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) for Uganda and DANIDA. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Uganda to reduce, anticipate and rapidly respond to the effects of shocks while sustaining climate resilience in the Karamoja sub-region.

Early Warning System

FAO is leading the project’s component on early warning systems. The focus is on enabling national and local stakeholders to benefit from the improved capacity to generate and disseminate early warning information in a timely and accurate manner.



District Veterinary and Livestock Production officers undergo hands-on field training on livestock feed assessment in Mbarara District ©FAO Uganda

2 ZERO HUNGER

According to FAO's Representative in Uganda, Dr. Antonio Querido, the FAO-led project component focuses on developing an effective government-owned and operated system that integrates capacities to forecast, monitor impact of shocks and disseminate early warning messages.

Improving the bulletin and training

During the workshop, stakeholders discussed and reviewed the project's progress to date, with focus on ameliorating the established drought early warning system that produces monthly bulletins for each of the nine districts in Karamoja. The districts in Karamoja sub-region are Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Napak.

Furthermore, the capacity strengthening needs are validated and prioritized, building on previous work. Lastly, participants are receiving training on specific elements of bulletin production, on the use of data sources, software and data analysis.

An endorsed roadmap for further development and improvement of the early warning system as well as a draft capacity strengthening strategy are key deliverables of the workshop.

Early success

The current drought early warning system has already proved its worth to the communities, amongst others of Kaabong district. The bulletin raised alarms to warn of food insecurity threats in October 2021. This prompted the district's production department to prepare a detailed food security report, which was shared with the office of the Chairman LCV, who then submitted a request for relief to OPM. In response, the OPM provided relief in the form of beans and maize flour, to vulnerable communities in Kaabong. This prompt reaction and early response from the government averted a food security disaster.



“The bulletins really helped us to analyse the situation effectively, predict the deteriorating food security situation in our District and make a good case to the central government for assistance,” Said Mr. Jino Meri, the Kaabong LC V Chairman.

The stakeholders participating in the workshop include the District Early Warning Focal Persons, Chairpersons of the Districts Disaster Management Committees (DDMC), representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management, through the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC), FAO, WFP, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA).

About the Project

The “Strengthening Shock Responsive Systems in Karamoja” (PRO-ACT) project is a collaboration between the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management of the Office of

the Prime Minister, WFP and FAO, funded by the European Union Directorate-General for International Partnerships and DANIDA, targeting all nine districts of Karamoja sub-region.

Currently in its second year of implementation – FAO, working closely with WFP, DLGs, OPM and other key government ministries, departments and agencies- have established a drought early warning system at all the nine districts of the project. Additionally, district local government officials are receiving training and technical support to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate early warning information through monthly early warning bulletins. Key messages from the bulletins are integrated in the UNIEWS- the Official Government of Uganda inter-ministerial/ agencies monthly national integrated, multi-hazard early warning bulletin. The development of a Karamoja multi-hazard web portal hosted at the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) is underway; to further integrate information into national early warning infrastructure.

Feeding into national planning and budgeting processes, the project supported district local governments in Karamoja sub-region to develop and update district contingency plans, and integrate them into their annual district development plans. 🌍



A farmer in her sunflower garden in Napak District. Napak is one of the nine districts benefiting from the PRO-ACT project under which FAO is working with local government to predict and prevent shocks using a Drought Early Warning information system ©FAO Uganda



DEATH OF A FRIEND'S SISTER FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION INSPIRES AWARD-WINNING APP

By Martha Songa, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)



Ugandan finalist Joseph Mulabbi pitches his new mobile app to fight female genital mutilation at the UNFPA FGM HackLab final pitch event. © UNFPA Uganda



UNFPA Deputy Representative for Uganda, Daniel Alemu, acknowledges Mulabbi, Nassanga and their teams for their commitment to finding solutions to end FGM © UNFPA Uganda

What if girls and women who are at risk of or have survived female genital mutilation (FGM) could receive services and support right when they need them? This challenge led to a Ugandan team creating a mobile app to link FGM survivors and at-risk girls with services in real time.

The multilingual app, Axces mobile, earned social entrepreneur Joseph Mulabbi and his team of developers a runner-up prize in UNFPA's FGM Hacklab. His inspiration for Axces Mobile comes from a deeply personal experience:

"While at school, a friend (from the Sabinu tribe in Kapchorwa, Eastern Uganda) lost her sister at the age of 16 after she underwent FGM. With the nearest health centre over 20 km away, and with a poor road network, the girl bled to death while being rushed to hospital," he said.

"When I read about the FGM HackLab, I had a flashback to what I had witnessed years back. I tasked myself to do something to help girls and women access services when they need them. My solution had to be one that is very simple in terms of cost and ease of use, even for those with no access to smartphones or the Internet."

The national prevalence rate for FGM in Uganda is just 0.3 percent, yet in the six districts where it is practised, the rate is much higher. In Kapchorwa, 13 per cent of girls and women undergo FGM, according to the 2017 Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting survey report by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF.

Mulabbi's Axces Mobile enables the user to make a toll-free call to a community volunteer (village volunteer agent) to report incidences of FGM. The agent then identifies the type of service required and connects the survivor with a service provider.

Fellow Ugandan innovator Deborah Nassanga and her team created an app based on her personal experience of a family member who underwent FGM. Her innovation, HERStory! enables girls and women to report FGM anonymously.

Over 100 innovative ideas received

The FGM Innovation HackLab, a youth-led initiative, was launched by UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office, in partnership with the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme.

More than 100 innovative ideas on how to address FGM were received from young people in 18 countries across Africa. These were narrowed down to ten through a competitive selection process.

On the day of the final pitch event, UNFPA Uganda, led by Deputy Representative Daniel Alemu, hosted Mulabbi, Nassanga, and their teams at an event in Kampala. Here, they connected virtually with the judges and other teams at the pitch event in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"Several interventions to end FGM have been implemented but what we are missing is what we have right now - the creativity and energy of young people," said Alemu. "This is not just about winning. It is about you having the courage to come together to find a solution to this crisis."

He encouraged them to build sustainable business models for their innovations by expanding their scope beyond development partners, to include the private sector.

The overall winner of the hacklab was Nigerian team Family360, whose SmartRR mobile application also helps survivors of female genital mutilation access services.

The winning teams received seed funding of \$50,000 and will be mentored for six months by AfriLabs, an organisation that provides support to entrepreneurs, innovators, developers and youths across Africa through technology hubs. 🌍

FROM WHERE I STAND: “AN AWFUL ACCIDENT SAVED ME FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, AND NOW I FIGHT FGM IN MY COMMUNITY”

By Eva Sibanda, UN Women



Dorcas Chelain in her hometown of Amudat District, following a drama performance illustrating the ills of FGM and advocating to end the practice ©Communication for Development Uganda (CDFU)



Elders participate in an Akiriket, a Parliament for Elders in Karamoja Region ©Communication for Development Uganda (CDFU)

Dorcas Chelain, is a community mobilizer and activist working towards ending FGM in Uganda. Dorcas did not undergo FGM, because she suffered an injury right before the surgery was due to take place - as such she is 5% (95% of women having undergone in her community).

She is one of the 5 per cent of women in Amudat district, who have not undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), given that 95 per cent of women in Amudat today have undergone FGM. She managed to escape the procedure because of an awful mining accident that left her disabled. Today she works with UN Women and implementing partner to sensitize communities about consequences of FGM and works to end this harmful practice.

“I would join them from the age of 6-years old, we would dance and watch the cutting. I could

have even died. I was young at that time, if I had gone for female genital mutilation (FGM) I might have bled and died,” says Dorcas.

“That awful accident saved my life, had this not happened I would not be in the position I am in today. The moment my friends were cut, they stopped going to school and were prepared for marriage. As a young woman with disabilities, I was able to continue my education, having escaped from home, while my friends were unable.”

In 2010, Uganda passed an act criminalizing FGM. Thinking of the time when it was not illegal.... the girls come together as a village and watch the ceremony in the month of August. They sing and dance as the cutter - an older trained female ‘surgeon’ of 40 to 60 years old, performs the procedure. Since 2010, the practice has moved underground. To transform culture takes time, from 2010 when the law was passed up to now, we are still facing FGM.

Girls are still experiencing FGM because of culture, we grew up this way. There was no clear reason why we had to be cut, we just did. The thinking was that when you grow up and you are cut, you become courageous, you are now clean, and you can talk in front of people.

We are trying to change the situation with UN Women’s help, and engaging elders. When elders condemn something, and the community understands then the community will fear it and may decide to stop.

Most political leaders are afraid to speak on the issue because it means they may lose votes. This means elders have more of an influence on FGM. Aside from engaging elders, I believe we can end FGM by taking girls to school. In schools, girls are protected from the practice. The second way is to mobilize the cutters/surgeons and sensitize them on the law and its consequences. Cutters earn 70,000 Uganda shillings (the equivalent of 20 USD) per girl. The third way would be to mobilize all the girls in the community and speak on the dangers of FGM and highlight the referral pathways. The fourth point is on engaging men as men refuse to marry uncut women in the community.

When we talk about FGM, men must be sensitized to know that there are real dangers for childbirth and delivery for women who have undergone FGM. Women die giving birth, the child may not survive, and the family is left devastated.

When I speak to men, they listen. As a woman leader, I am limited in my influence, cannot attend “Akiriket” which is the parliament meeting of elders. However, when I speak to men in my community, they listen. If the “Akiriket” outlawed the practice of FGM, this would end the practice among the Pokot.

I want the community of Amudat to have a mindset change. Everyone has a role to play. Parents must refuse to allow their girls to undergo FGM. Most importantly, elders must condemn FGM in the Akiriket.”

Dorcas, 40, is an Anti-FGM activist, a leader in her community for people with disabilities and was the Vice Chairperson for the Amudat District local government in 2016. UN Women implementing partner Communication for Development Uganda (CDFU) has trained community elders and religious leaders on the use of power using the SASA! Methodology, a community mobilization approach developed to prevent violence against women and HIV, and how to use power positively. Dorcas is part of the CDFU-led drama group Natukuman Drama group.

