



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



UN UGANDA BULLETIN

1 NO POVERTY



UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR VISITS WEST NILE SUB-REGION

By Collins Aduango, UN Area Coordination (UNAC) Office, West Nile Sub-region

OVERVIEW

- UN RC commissions refugee-inclusive market in Yumbe District
- EU-UN Spotlight Initiative hands over new GBV Reception Centre to Terego District
- UN Women and Judiciary Launch GBV Judicial Training Institute (JTI) Training Manual
- Act collectively to end the crisis of teenage pregnancy in Uganda
- New WASH facilities attracting pupils back to school
- UNAIDS Executive Director Calls for more on Domestic Financing
- A new kind of fishing in Uganda: Diversifying income and skills to rebuild livelihoods on Lake Victoria
- Joint Consultative meeting held with UPDF on Human Rights
- UNODC supports Uganda pilot prisoner classification
- How one West Nile couple now have a lifetime of nutritious food
- Korea and UNESCO conclude one-week BEAR II mission to Uganda
- UNIDO trains road construction equipment operator trainers
- IOM Research links forced migration to Climate Change



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (second from left) with Commissioner, Gender and Women Affairs from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development Ms. Angela Nakafeero (far left), being taken around the Reception Centre at Imvepi by the UN Area Coordinator, Ms. Sokhna Thiandoume (second from right) ©UN Uganda

The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) for Uganda, Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo visited West Nile Sub-region from 19th to 23rd April 2022. During her mission she met and interacted with UN staff, Government representatives, partners implementing critical programmes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), beneficiaries and persons of concern and gained a better understanding of the development challenges and opportunities as regards to third National Development Plan (NDP III) and SDG Implementation in West Nile Sub-region.

While in the sub-region, she paid courtesy calls on the leaders of Arua, Terego and Yumbe districts including the District Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs). She also visited Imvepi and Rhino refugee settlements in Terego District and Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District. She commissioned two programme facilities for UN interventions in the region: the GBV Reception Centre in Terego District (EU-UN Spotlight support) and a market facility in Yumbe district which was constructed with UNCDF support. She also participated in the fifth a National Joint Steering Committee meeting of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative in Arua.

During the field mission, the Resident Coordinator visited UN project sites in Imvepi, Rhino and Bidibidi refugee settlements, and engaged with settlement commandants from the Office of the Prime Minister, UN staff, implementing partners, refugees, and members of the host communities.





UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR COMMISSIONS REFUGEE-INCLUSIVE MARKET IN YUMBE DISTRICT

By Sunday Aliiti, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo commissioning Okubani Market in Yumbe District on 22nd April 2022 ©UN Uganda

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo, commissioned Okubani Market in Yumbe District on 22nd April 2022.

Okubani Market, a UGX 710 million new facility, is a women and child-friendly market that was funded by the European Union (EU) through the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU).

The modern market facility has five market sheds with a total of 130 stalls, one administrative block containing offices, store, nursing mothers' room and resting room, as well as a 5-stance VIP latrine. The market also has a child-friendly space furnished with play equipment. It directly employs about 130 vendors and another 1000 indirectly, including youth, women and men from both refugees and host populations of Ariwa subcounty and beyond.

The market also has other amenities including two rainwater harvesting tanks and a solar lighting system. These have provided better access to water and lighting enabling the women and youth to work in a more hygienic and comfortable environment. It has also improved service provision, ensuring clean stalls and storage space for the various food commodities as well as sheltered the vendors from direct sunshine and heavy rains.

Okubani Market was handed over to the market management committee by Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo, witnessed by Dr. Dmitry Pozhidaev the UNCDF Head of Office and representatives from UNHCR, WFP, UN Women and Danish Church Aid. The handover was also witnessed by Engineer Paul Kasule Mukasa from the Ministry of Local Government, district and sub-county political representatives and technical heads, religious representatives, market vendors, and community members.

Prior to the commissioning, the Yumbe District LC V Chairperson Hon. Asiku Abduwalib, applauded the EU and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) for financing three women-friendly market infrastructures in Yumbe. Asiku also appreciated the support towards establishing a UGX 1.8 billion motorized water scheme in Arafa sub-county (formerly Drajini) in Yumbe district. He also reiterated the district's commitment of co-funding the water scheme with UGX 600 million.

The DINU Programme is funded by the EU under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). With a budget of around € 26 million, this flagship programme is designed to consolidate stability in Northern Uganda, eradicate poverty and under-nutrition, and strengthen the foundations for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development. 🌍

1 NO POVERTY UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR VISITS WEST NILE SUB-REGION

Continued from page 1

The UN Area Coordinator (UNAC) for West Nile and UNHCR Head of Office in Arua, Ms. Sokhna Thiandoume during interaction with the Resident Coordinator, local government leaders and partners at highlighted that West Nile is currently the 2nd on poverty level in the country and that there is need to work more closely and a more vigorous advocating for more development and humanitarian partners to come to the region. She further brought to the attention of the Resident Coordinator and her delegation, which included the UNFPA Country Representative, Dr. Mary Otieno, that the incidences of flooding in low land areas more especially around Obongi, Madi-okollo, Pakwach among other districts requires more resources for interventions in these areas.

While engaging with local government leaders and partners, a key message from the Resident Coordinator was that the COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated more than ever the importance of achieving all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the crisis had set back some of the gains already made, it was also widely noted that the eventual recovery from the COVID-19 crisis must make us more resilient to pandemics and other global challenges.

The local government leaders from the three districts called for more support from UN and partners to further development of the region which hosts more than half of the refugee population in the country. 🌍



EU-UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE HANDS OVER NEW GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RECEPTION CENTRE TO TEREKO DISTRICT

By Davinah Nabirye, United Nations Resident Coordinators Office (RCO)



(L-R) Ms. Bassie Ajilong, Terego Resident District Commissioner; Mr. Nicolas Gonze, Head of Governance and Human Rights at the European Union Delegation; Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Ms. Angela Nakafeero, Commissioner, Gender and Women Affairs at the Ministry of Gender on the front row at the launch of the Terego GBV Reception Centre ©UN Uganda

On Thursday 21st April 2022, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo handed over the new gender-based violence (GBV) reception centre to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Terego District Local Government.

“As the United Nations, we remain committed to supporting the Government of Uganda in delivering quality services to its citizens, and we trust that today’s occasion is proof that we listen most attentively to the constructive feedback that you give us. We always endeavour to do our utmost to implement the recommendations that you propose to improve programme delivery in the areas that we support,” said Ms. Ngongi.

The reception center was then launched by Ms. Angela Nakafeero, Commissioner, Gender and Women Affairs from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in the presence of Mr. Nicolas Gonze, Head of Governance and Human Rights at the European Union Delegation; Ms. Bassie Ajilong, Terego Resident District Commissioner; UNFPA Representative, Dr. Mary Otieno; representatives of UN Heads of Agencies from UNDP and UN Women and representatives from Action Aid Uganda. Other attendees included the Spotlight Initiative Programme Coordinator, Ms. Luta Shaba, technical teams from the Spotlight UN implementing agencies, the Ministry of Gender, Terego District, the European Union, United Nations, implementing partners and beneficiaries.

Ms. Nakafeero appealed to Terego District leadership to ensure operationalization of the reception centre. “I am happy that we now have this centre, but we have a challenge of keeping it functional. I appeal to the district to allocate resources for sustained operations of the reception centre,” she said.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Mr. Gonze reported that GBV is one of the barriers to development in Uganda. “In this post-Covid-19 era, it is even more relevant to prioritize GBV. We have seen the number of GBV cases and teenage pregnancies increase

in the last two years. It is important that we collectively address GBV, which is a critical barrier to development in any society.”

Located at the Terego District Local Government headquarters, the reception centre will provide both comprehensive response and prevention services to survivors of GBV within the host and refugee communities of Terego District. The services will include; legal aid and pro bono services, psychosocial support services/counselling, medical support, referrals and follow-up, resettlement and re-integration of survivors. Beneficiaries will be able to access the various services through appropriate providers on the referral pathway who include district leadership, local leaders, community and cultural leaders, religious leaders, medical personnel’s, community action groups among others.

The decision to construct a GBV reception centre in Terego was endorsed during the Spotlight National Joint Steering Committee meeting that was held in October 2021 in response to a plea from Terego District through Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. At the time, Terego was a newly formed district with limited resources and infrastructure to respond to high GBV cases having been carved out of Arua District in June 2021. Terego has population of almost 200,000 people including 69,816 refugees. Cases of GBV in the district have been on the rise just like in other parts of Uganda due COVID-19 preventive measures that were enforced in 2020 and 2021.

The centre will be supervised by the district local government under the social services department lead by the District Community Development Officer on behalf of the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development.

The establishment of GBV shelters and reception centres is a requirement of the Uganda’s Domestic Violence Act, 2010. However, implementation is still very low with a total of only 12 shelters and reception enters country-wide, now boosted with the three new reception centres in Terego and Amudat. 🌍

UN WOMEN, THE JUDICIARY IN UGANDA, AND CIVIL SOCIETY LAUNCH THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (JTI) TRAINING MANUAL FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS

By Eva Sibanda, UN Women



(L-R) UN Women Uganda Country Representative Ms. Adekemi Ndieli; Head of Coordination for the Austrian Development Cooperation, Dr. Roswitha Kremser; and His Lordship Mike Chibita launch the Training Manual on 4 April 2022 © UN Women Uganda

On 4 April 2022, the Judiciary in Uganda congregated to celebrate the launch of the Gender Based Violence Training Manual for Judicial Officers. The 35 Judicial Officers, UN staff and representatives of civil society attended the momentous launch of the specialized manual, at Serena Hotel, Kampala. The training manual was the result of a collaborative process that took place between 2018-2020. A pre-testing and ToT was undertaken in 2019 with judicial officers and prosecutors. The manual was then refined by a team of judicial officers, prosecutors, police officers and representatives of CSOs in 2020.

Violence against women (VAW) is predominant in Uganda, and it is perpetrated with impunity. VAW undermines the health, dignity and security of women and girls leaving them with lasting or permanent mental and physical injuries. The manual imparts information and skills to judicial officers on how to effectively manage VAW cases in a gender sensitive, trauma-informed and victim-centered manner. It's important that to note that the manual seeks to address institutional norms or attitudinal norms among judicial officers that act as a barrier to women accessing justice. The training manual complements UN Women's ongoing support to the justice sector – Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Uganda Police Force – legal aid service providers and the informal justice actors. Training aids and equipment has been provided to these actors to strengthen their capacity to enhance

access to justice for survivors of violence and ensure perpetrator accountability. This support acknowledges that access to justice is a chain and each link (institution) is as strong as the next.

It is important to note that the Judicial Training Institute has been proactive and been undertaking training of judicial officers even before the launch of the manual. To date 125 (50 males, 75 females) have been trained on GBV.

The function was presided over by His Lordship Mike Chibita who represented the Chief Justice shared that: "The Uganda Judiciary is more focused than ever in its commitment to ending violence in all its forms. It is in recognition of this that efforts targeted towards combating GBV have become so specialized and require adequate preparation, specific technical skills, and significant substantive knowledge and resources in order to effectively adjudicate these cases in the courts of law."

UN Women Uganda Country Representative Adekemi Ndieli celebrated this momentous launch noting that Uganda is one of the only countries in Africa with affirmative action regarding access to justice for women. Adekemi continued: "Systemizing the training of judicial officers is important, we want to see this integrated into the curriculum of JTI. So that anyone who goes the JTI through has knowledge to dispense with justice regarding GBV. This is a lifesaving priority." 🌍

ACT COLLECTIVELY TO END THE CRISIS OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN UGANDA

By Linday Barnes, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja (centre) launches UNFPA's flagship State of World Population report and the Government of Uganda's Cost of Inaction report, in Kampala © UNFPA Uganda

Uganda's 'serious problem' of teenage pregnancy requires collective action to prevent and respond to the crisis – and new reports by UNFPA and the Government of Uganda will be critical for national efforts to reduce unintended pregnancies.

This view was expressed by Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja at the launch in Kampala on 12th April 2022 of UNFPA's flagship State of World Population report, 'Seeing the Unseen: The case for action in the neglected crisis of unintended pregnancy,' and The Economic and Social Burden of Teenage Pregnancy in Uganda: the Cost of Inaction.

'The launch of these reports is timely, as the country and world starts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and related health and socioeconomic challenges,' the Prime Minister said. 'We must work together to support the girls who got pregnant in that period by allowing them to go back to school.'

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world, with 75 per cent aged below 30 years, and its young population presents opportunities and challenges. 'If the right investments are made to ensure that the young people are healthy, properly educated and appropriately skilled, Uganda stands to benefit from them. If we don't make the right investment, we stand to lose,' she added.

Pregnancy not a choice for half of all women

The State of World Population 2022 report demonstrates that nearly a quarter of all women are unable to say no to sex or make decisions about their own health care, and almost half of all

pregnancies worldwide (121 million) are unintended each year. A quarter of women in the region, some 49 million women, and 2 million of them in Uganda, want to stop or delay childbearing but are not using a method of contraception.

In his opening address, Dr. Bannet Ndyabangi, UNFPA Regional Director for East and Southern Africa called on policy makers and community leaders to prioritize urgent action to address unintended and adolescent pregnancy, to 'see the unseen'.



Girls who lack choices and opportunities in life, or who have limited or no access to sexual and reproductive health care, are more likely to become pregnant," he said. 'Unintended pregnancies have serious personal repercussions for the women and girls affected, for their health, education and wellbeing,' he added.

Invest in a better future for all

The increased occurrence of teenage pregnancy during COVID-19 is a reminder of the vulnerabilities and inequalities that women and girls face every day in their safety, health and wellbeing, education and economic security, the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Uganda, Karin Boven, said. Each year, more than UGX 645 billion (\$182 million) will be spent by the government on health care for teen mothers and the education of their children, the Cost of Inaction report states.



'IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WATER': New WASH facilities attracting refugees and host communities back to school in West Nile Sub Region

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



Pupils of Nyumazi Primary school in Adjumani district drink clean and safe water from taps in the school compound. The water is pumped from the solar powered system constructed under the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project with funding from the Government of the Republic of Iceland ©UNICEF Uganda

The normal school day at Nyumazi Primary School in Nyumazi Refugee Settlement, Dzaipi Sub County in Adjumani District would last about four hours only. Most students would report to school after 9:00am and only a few would return after the lunch break.

However, since schools reopened in 2022, the new school day starts at 8:00am and runs beyond 3:30pm, with all students staying till the end of the school day.

Nyumazi's Headteacher Phillip Tabou reveals the reason for enhanced school attendance.

"It's all about the water!"

Nyumazi Primary School has a newly installed motorised solar water system that supplies water to taps in the school courtyard, the staff quarters and two drainable five-stance latrine blocks, one for boys and another for girls. The girl's block is replete with a washroom fitted with an incinerator for safe disposal of sanitary pads.

These WASH facilities were all installed at Nyumazi as one of 27 primary schools benefiting from a three-year government 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in institutions' project in West Nile sub region, supported by UNICEF with funding from the Government of the Republic of Iceland. The intervention focuses on increasing sustained access to, and use of safe drinking water, and improved sanitation and environmental hygiene practices in schools and health facilities, with a focus on learners and pregnant women in refugee and host communities.

The results are evident. All 18 schools at which the WASH facilities have been installed so far have reported an increase not only in class attendance but also overall enrolment, especially for girls. At Unaa Primary School, Pachara Sub County in Adjumani District, over half of the 1,435 learners are girls.

The Adjumani District Education Officer, Robert Dima, further notes that holistic improvement in WASH has impacted the overall quality of education, thus increasing the district pass rate to over seven in every ten children in primary school.

Water for lunch

At Unaa Primary School, the water supply also has greatly boosted the school feeding programme through direct water supply to the school kitchen, eliminating the need to send children to the borehole to fetch water for school cooking.

When the lunch bell rings, scores of children run out of their classes, some to the playground, others make a beeline for the water tap that can accommodate an average of eight children at a go.

12-year-old Ivan in Primary Five lets the water run through his hands, with a big grin.

"I take water about six times a day."

The head teacher explains that prior to the installation of the water system, there were frequent fights as the older children jostled with the younger ones for a chance to drink water. The community members too always had their jerrycans lined up at the shared borehole and would not want to give way to the children. Now they all drink water at will.

The impact however has been greatest for the girl child.

Alice Minzira, the Senior Woman Teacher at Nyumazi is at a loss of words when trying to explain impact of the WASH facilities on girl learners.

"For eight years, I personally felt the pain of girls missing school because of menstruation." Alice says. "But now, having the girls consistently attend class because they have access to abundant water and can even make and properly dispose of their sanitary pads is ___"

There is a long pause as she stares in the air.

"I don't even know what words to use."

The Senior Woman teacher at another beneficiary school, Amelo Primary in

'IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WATER': New WASH facilities attracting refugees and host communities back to school in West Nile Sub Region



Pupils of Amelo Primary school in Adjumani District drink safe and clean water from taps in the school compound. The water is pumped from a solar powered water system constructed under the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project with funding from the Government of the Republic of Iceland © UNICEF Uganda

Pakele Sub County, Adjumani District, explains that boreholes were a black spot for child protection as children would spend hours waiting to fetch water and, in the process, get involved in harmful activities. At the motorised taps, the water flows fast and there are no queues, the children fetch water and go home. Every week, Alice teaches the members of the menstrual hygiene management club how to manage menstruation including how to make reusable pads. Twenty of the club's 50 members are boys.

"Few parents ever speak to their children about menstruation, often the girls are clueless on how to handle menstruation and the boys consider it a shameful thing. Now they all know that menstruation is normal.

By end of 2021, the WASH facilities in the schools were directly benefiting 9,400 learners across refugee hosting districts in West Nile including 15-year-old Nyandeng, a refugee from South Sudan.



During menstruation I would just stay home, but now I can enter the girl's bathroom, bathe, dispose of my pad, wear a fresh one that I made myself and no one will even know that I am having my period. No one should know," she narrates.

At the schools, the WASH facilities are operated and maintained by a management committee comprising teachers, student representatives and the school security guard. At Amelo Primary School, the village members financed the construction of a brick fence around the community water taps, with a small gate that is opened at 8 am and closed at 6pm. Whoever fetches water must leave his/her shoes at the entrance. The gate key is held by the chairperson of the Water User Committee who explains the community's somewhat strict rules governing access to the water.

'We do not want to go back to where we came from, so we carefully look after the water taps.' 🌍

ACT COLLECTIVELY TO END THE CRISIS OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN UGANDA



Dr. Mary Otieno, UNFPA Representative for Uganda ©UNFPA Uganda

Teenage pregnancies decrease household incomes and jeopardize the country's strategy for achieving a demographic dividend, which is built around adolescents and young people being healthy, educated and skilled to contribute to the economy, the Minister of State Planning, Amos Lugolobi, stated.

'If no action is taken, more girls will get pregnant and die in childbirth. More girls will not complete their education. Government expenditure on health care for teen mothers will more than double. We must step up the challenge of addressing teen pregnancies and preach the gospel of ending child marriage. Convince parents to give girls an equal chance at school and an education,' he urged.

Data to ensure no one is left behind

'Data and statistics are vital for evidence-informed policies, plans and budgets,' said Dr. Mary Otieno, UNFPA Representative for Uganda, speaking on behalf of UN Resident Coordinator Susan Ngongi Namondo. "Unless we complete the unfinished business of the ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) Programme of Action and realize the investment case for ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, and for girls' and women's empowerment and gender equality, reaching the ambitious SDGs by 2030 will be difficult, if not impossible."

On achieving a demographic dividend for Uganda, she advised that keeping girls in school longer and empowering them with the right information to make the right reproductive choices to delay onset of childbearing is a key strategy. 'The burden of teen mothers and their children is with us, and we need to act together, be accountable and ensure no one is left behind,' she said. 🌍



UNAIDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALLS FOR MORE ON DOMESTIC FINANCING

By Caroline Magambo, The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)



The UNAIDS Executive Director Ms Winnie Byanyima after her meeting with the UN Country Team ©UNAIDS Uganda

The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Winnie Byanyima, was in Uganda for a four-day working visit from 7-10 March 2022.

Her mission sought to renew UNAIDS' commitment to work with the Government and the people of Uganda to build on the substantial gains achieved in the HIV response and address the remaining gaps including intensified advocacy for sustainable domestic financing, address inequalities and uphold the rights and dignity for all.

During her meeting with the Minister of the Presidency, Milly Babalanda, she acknowledged and appreciated the Government of Uganda for fully endorsing the June 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030.

she also welcomed Uganda's positive initiative with HIV mainstreaming, which resulted in allocation of 0.1% of sectoral budgets by Ministries, Departments and Agencies to national HIV response - a bold movement towards sustainable HIV financing.

However, she noted that Uganda's HIV response is extremely dependent on external resources with over 80% of the funding, mainly HIV drug and commodity supply, relying on donor support. "There is limited funding for HIV prevention programmes, leaving significant gaps in addressing mindset change most especially around social and cultural drivers of the epidemic," she said.

She added that many African countries, including Uganda, will soon become middle-income economies and therefore will receive less international aid.

Speaking to the UN Country Team, Ms. Byanyima thanked them for accelerating the SDGs implementation in the country through the UNSDCF, the commitment to the UN Development System Reform and other key guidance from the UN Secretary-General, at country level. She noted that globally and as a country, Uganda had done well, and with sustained commitment and support from the team, it would be possible to end AIDS as a public health threat.



The UNAIDS Executive Director Ms Winnie Byanyima after her courtesy visit to the Minister for Presidency Hon Milly Babalanda ©UNAIDS Uganda

The HIV burden has been on a steady decline since the 1990s, up until now with prevalence estimated to be at about 5.4% among adult population. Both new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths declined by 60% in the decade (2010-2020); Uganda was also among the eight countries in the world that fully achieved the 90-90-90 UN targets by December 2020, i.e., 94% - 92% - 84%

She urged the country team to continue pushing for delivering as one UN with a unified integrated voice and approach.

To the ambassadors, she noted that Uganda should not waiver in protecting the human rights of everyone. She called on them to be strong, bold and tactic in addressing the deteriorating human rights situation in the country and addressing the shrinking space for Civil Society, arrests and detention of key populations and other marginalized groups.

In her final engagement with civil society, Ms. Byanyima acknowledged that the new Global AIDS strategy is very strong on community engagement and putting people at the center. She encouraged them to speak up, saying "You are the voice of the community, and you should hold government and others accountable." 🌍



A NEW KIND OF FISHING IN UGANDA: Diversifying Income and Skills to Rebuild Livelihoods on Lake Victoria

By Agatha Ayebazibwe, Food and Agriculture Organization



Women fisher folk ©FAO Uganda

“I was a fisherman using illegal methods,” says Kigozi Robert Sande, a fisher in the Kalangala district. “When the Ugandan government ran an operation to stop these practices, we became jobless.”

Many fishers like Robert were fishing without permits or using small boats and nets that were not allowed on the lake. For example, some were using a specific type of net, seine nets, to trap immature fish, though illegal.

When the government cracked down, “a big percentage of people were left without a source of livelihood, and they were dependent on fishing,” says Jacob Olwo, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Officer working in Uganda.

One million people in Uganda are engaged in capture fisheries, while more than five million people across the country depend on the sector for their livelihoods.

However, fishing communities around the lake have been dealing with declining catches, poor handling facilities, increased post-harvest losses, greater competition for fishing resources and limited sources of income for some time.

For the past two years FAO has been working with Uganda’s Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries on a joint project to reshape the lake’s fisheries and aquaculture sector. The project is timely as FAO marks the contribution of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers during 2022, the Interna-

tional Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA).

Entitled Integrated Livelihood Support to Fishing Communities around Lake Victoria, the project has provided affected communities with training and equipment to diversify their skills and increase their incomes.



This project made people more aware of legal fishing methods, provided input and equipment, especially for women and youth and promoted alternative practices such as aquaculture through cage fish farming on the lake and inland ponds,” explains Olwo.

Participants learned new skills to develop cage fish farming, a form of aquaculture carried out on the lake, and to construct land-based ponds for culturing local fish species. Others were provided with new equipment and training on how to improve post-harvest processing techniques.

“We thought this project would provide support to the people who lost their fishing inputs, who lost their source of livelihood and needed to start something new to support their families,” says Olwo.

A platform to change lives

Mary Nantongo is a member of the Agali Awamu group, a cooperative which also took part in the project. She says the women in her group learned how to farm fish and reinvest their income to increase production.

“In two years from now, we as a group expect to be large-scale fish farmers harvesting every three months,” she says. “We would love to get more ponds and more refrigerators.”

Dheyongera Geoffrey, Principal Fisheries Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, says, “These communities have benefited through capacity building. They have acquired knowledge; they now know how to do fish farming.”



It was a platform for me to change my life,” says Robert, who also gained business skills through the project. He now leads a group of 10 male and female fish farmers developing aquaculture on the lake. “We have a target of 20 cages so each of us can own two cages. If you have two cages you can manage to rear 10 000 fish.”

What a difference a drying rack makes

Apart from skills and training, the Lake Victoria project also provided equipment including boat engines and fishing nets as well as drying racks to improve the processing and the quality of locally caught silverfish known as mukene.

“Previously we had to dry the silverfish on the ground and the prices were very low compared to when silverfish is dried on the racks,” says Nantongo Irene, the chairperson of the Kezimbra Women’s Group in Lambu, another lakeside community. “Silverfish dried on the ground may get 12 000 shillings (about USD 3) a bucket while ours dried on the racks got 40 000 shillings (about USD 11).”

The highly nutritious silverfish were previously being used more for animal feed as, being dried on the ground, the product would often spoil or get contaminated. With drying racks, silverfish can be dried cleanly and quickly and sold for human consumption, bringing in more money to the producers.

Irene says the new drying racks made a huge difference to their processing capabilities and her members’ profits. Various silverfish products are now being prepared and packaged for human consumption which has improved the nutrition of local families in an area where child malnutrition rates are high.

FAO’s Country Representative in Uganda, Dr. Antonio Querido, says the project will not only improve livelihood options for fishing communities but help them to improve their long-term resilience in the face of the climate crisis and related impacts.

By recognizing the power and value of the work of small-scale artisanal fishers, fish farmers and fish workers particularly during IYAFa, FAO is helping to build a world where they can continue contributing to human well-being, healthy food systems and poverty eradication through the responsible and sustainable use of marine and natural resources. 🌍



The project provided vulnerable communities with fishing and aquaculture equipment and training to diversify their skills and increase their incomes ©FAO Uganda



Drying racks provided by the project helped improve the processing and the quality of silverfish, making them available for human consumption and sell at higher prices. © FAO Uganda



JOINT CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD WITH THE UPDF

By UN Human Rights, Moroto



Group photo during the joint sensitisation of the trainees ©OHCHR Uganda

OHCHR office in Karamoja and Abim District Local Government facilitated the 46th Karamoja Regional Protection Meeting (KRPM) in Abim district with participation of 40 people (35 men and 5 women). Participants included representatives from UPDF, Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions, local district government, CSOs, journalists and other UN agencies.

The KRPM has been instrumental in facilitating dialogue on human rights protection among stakeholders and strengthening their commitments to fulfil human rights obligations in the region. The discussion underlined increasing insecurity brought about by cattle rustling and human rights violations associated with the ongoing disarmament operation, continuous challenges related to access to justice for victims of gender-based violence and child abuse and neglect as well as limited staffing and resources which prevents effective coordination among stakeholders.

OHCHR office in Karamoja met the Prison Commander of Moroto government Prison and members of human rights committee composed of inmates to discuss the conditions in prison. The Office

discussed and verified with all the seven Prison Commanders across Karamoja region, the challenge of knowledge gap on human rights and management of the committees, for human rights committee focal points. The Commandant of Moroto Prison informed the challenge of the high number of detainees awaiting trials by the High Court and court martial and overcrowding. The Office agreed to provide technical assistance to newly appointed prison officials overseeing the human rights committees and its members to enhance safety and human rights in the prison.

OHCHR and UHRC offices in Karamoja and UPDF 3rd Division authorities agreed to hold bi-weekly consultative meetings to share information on the ongoing disarmament operations and related human rights concerns documented by the two human rights offices during the disarmament exercise. The meetings are to entice UPDF take redress steps and interventions for human rights violations and concerns committed during the UPDF disarmament operations, and for OHCHR and UHRC to sensitize UPDF trainees at Olilim Training School, on human rights. Already, UPDF is investigating their own officer who tortured 2 women and 2 men in Napak district over allegations of possessing an illegal gun and is has also scheduled routine monthly Court Martial sittings to speed up the trial of both civilians and military personnel under their custody. From 11 – 14 and 26- 28 April, a total of 39 civilians (including 30 Matheniko and 9 Turkana) have been convicted and one (01) civilian remanded over allegations of illegal possession of guns and participating in armed cattle rustling and murder. 🌍

UNODC SUPPORTS UGANDA PILOT PRISONER CLASSIFICATION

By Henry Mukasa, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, Mr. Neil J. Walsh handing over the ICT equipment, medical equipment and furniture to the commissioner of Prisons, Dr. Johnson Byabashaija at Luzira Maximum Security Prison in Luzira. © Henry Nsubuga Mukasa

Uganda Prisons Service has embarked on classification of prisoners, a key element in good prison management, handling of violent extremist prisoners and prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons.

The Uganda Prison Service (UPS) recently developed the Prisoner Classification Framework with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Prior to that, UNODC supported the training 95 prison officers on prisoner classification.

To kickstart this piloting phase, UNODC handed over to UPS an assortment of ICT equipment and furniture that will be used in six sites namely; Masaka Main Prison, Kitalya Mini-Max Prison, Jinja Main Prison, Mbarara Main Prison, Luzira Upper Prison and Luzira Women's Prison.

Handing over the items to the Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, UNODC's Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, Mr. Neil J. Walsh, said that the classification of prisoners facilitates the assessment of risks and understanding of their diverse needs.

"We all know from the preventing violent extremism space that when you have got so many people locked together it's the perfect environment to radicalize the vulnerable prisoners. Everything we do here to help you classify the prisoners, is to help you reduce those risks and make the prisons safer," Mr. Neil said.

Uganda has a high number of prisoners, with many prisons overcrowded. Facilities that were built in 1940s to house 19,000 inmates are now holding over 68,000 prisoners, operating at 316 percent above capacity.

"The message that the UNODC is sending to government is that there is a need to minimize the number of offenders that you are sending to prisons. Alternative sentences for petty offenders is the way to go, it reduces the numbers, it reduces the risks: You don't want to send a petty offender to jail and five years later he comes out radicalized," Mr. Neil appealed.

In 2019 Uganda became a beneficiary of the Joint Global Initiative, "Supporting the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons." Its implemented by the Uganda Prisons Service, the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive

Directorate (CTED), and co-funded by the European Union, the Government of Netherlands and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

Agreeing with Mr Walsh, Commissioner Byabashaija said that the Uganda Prisons Service was very much aware that prisons, like anywhere in the world, were fertile ground for recruitment for radicalization towards violence.

He said support from UNODC on good prison management and focus on dynamic security, will enable Uganda Prisons respond to the challenges of violent extremism, including having a safe and secure work environment for staff. "We must keep our vigilance and ensure that the activities we are doing with the support of UNODC shall enable us deal with these challenges," Dr. Byabashaija said.

Explaining the partnership with the Uganda Prisons Service, UNODC Head of Office in Uganda, Ms. Sharon Nyambe, pointed out that efficient prisons management should enable the institution to manage violent extremist prisoners.

UNODC is the custodian of normative and international standards on crime prevention and criminal justice. The agency supports member states to comply with the United Nations Minimum Standard Rules for the treatment of prisoners also known as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

"We work with members states in supporting prison reform and more broadly criminal justice reform," Ms. Nyambe noted.

Besides the donation of ICT equipment and furniture, UNODC also handed over specialized medical equipment to be installed in a prefabricated clinic whose construction in Masindi Prison the agency funded.

UNODC also provided resources for the continued vaccination for COVID-19 for prisoners, prisons staff and their families. "We want prisons staff who are healthy and can professionally provide humane custody to prisoners," Ms. Nyambe elaborated. 🌍



HOW ONE WEST NILE COUPLE NOW HAVE A LIFETIME OF NUTRITIOUS FOOD

By WFP–Child Sensitive Social Protection Programme

The West Nile region has some of the highest rates of malnutrition and anemia in the country, according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) have since June 2019 been implementing the Sweden-funded Child-Sensitive Social Protection Programme (CSSP) in refugee-hosting districts of West Nile. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the programme transferred cash to 124,140 households, to improve the nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers, and children under the ages of 5.



Cicily and Marichelo and some of the produce from their tomato and watermelon gardens. © WFP/CSSP

For all their adult lives, Cicily Manderu and Marichelo Inyani of Obongi district relied on casual work and subsistence agriculture for their sustenance. And for as long as they could remember, they harbored dreams of starting something that would help to lift their family out of absolute poverty. But these dreams did not yield much because the couple could not make enough to meet their basic needs.

Their despair turned to desperation in 2020 at the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemic related restrictions led to less paid work for the couple.



Most of our previous customers said that they did not have money. Things were hard for everyone. The few customers that we were getting wanted to pay us in kind — in cassava,” Marichelo said.

Without money, a balanced diet was out of the question. The only available food was cassava meal.

In 2021, Cicily became pregnant with the couple’s third child. The couple knew that both the mother and the unborn baby needed better food to remain healthy, but better food was out of reach.

Then, in May 2021, Cicily learnt that she was to be registered to benefit from a cash transfer aimed at helping vulnerable women and children cope with the economic effects of COVID-19.



I couldn’t believe it. I was so happy before I even got the money. We started planning — we would use most of it to buy food. The remainder, we would buy tomato seeds and fungicide to start growing tomatoes,” Cicily noted.

Three months later, the money came. Cicily got UGX 96,000 intended to cover two months of supplies. The couple, as planned, bought food and used the remainder to start their tomato growing project.

Today, the couple has saved about UGX 500,000 from the tomato garden alone and have expanded to watermelon growing. With the proceeds from these projects, they are able to access the food they need and to “provide for our children so they do not suffer like we have.”

The couple is appreciative of the cash transfer, for giving them a fresh start. They also credit their strong relationship based on mutual respect and openness for their success.

“We understand each other, and we are open with each other. This helps us to share ideas without fear. We think this is what has helped us get here,” Cicily noted. 🌈



KOREA AND UNESCO CONCLUDE ONE-WEEK BEAR II MISSION TO UGANDA

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



The BEAR II Delegation Team pose for photo with students from RUCID Agricultural College, Mityana while showcasing an ongoing work on a charcoal cooler (a post-harvest management technology) for storing agricultural products ©UNESCO Uganda

A Delegation from UNESCO and Korea have concluded a one-week fact finding mission in Uganda on the Better Education for Africa's Rise II (BEAR II) Project implementation in the country. The overarching goal of the mission which ran from 4 to 7 April 2022 was to review the overall progress, achievements, challenges related to BEAR II at the national level and discuss the final evaluation perspectives of the Project ahead of the final year of implementation.

The Delegation that visited the country included: Ms. Hong Sun Kim, Senior Programme Specialist BEAR II (strategic and technical guidance on project implementation and evaluation-MoFA ROK); Mr. Eilia Borovynskyi Associate Project Officer (technical support and coordination, UNESCO, Paris); Mr. Mame Mor Diarra Ndiaye, Senior Project Officer, Regional coordinator of BEAR II Project, UNESCO; and Mr. David Ochieng Onyango, UNESCO.

BEAR II is a joint initiative of UNESCO and the Republic of Korea, which has been implemented over a period of five years commencing in 2017 to 2022. The Project supports five Eastern African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and

Uganda, and seek to improve the relevance, quality and perception of the TVET systems in the above-mentioned countries.

Key among the activities earmarked during the mission were visits to the various institutions that are part of the BEAR II Project implementation, dialogue with key stakeholders crucial in the implementation of the Project with a view of collecting first-hand experience of the beneficiaries' engagement with BEAR II and draw conclusions on best practices and lessons learnt since the Project inception.

While addressing a group of students and Head of institution of Rucid College Mityana, the only private institution in Uganda implementing the BEAR II Project during a school visit on Thursday 7 March, Ms. Kim, commended the college for fast tracking the implementation of the new curriculum on Agro-processing and post-harvest management. The curriculum equips learners with practical skills in producing quality products and prolonging their life-span to reduce post-harvest losses, which is one of the biggest challenge agricultural farmers in Uganda have had to contend with.



Integration of entrepreneurship courses into the curriculum towards its end will help equip the learners with marketing skills they need to strive in the commercial agriculture industry at the end of their education," said Ms. Kim, Ah Young the Deputy Chief of Mission.

Mr. Joseph Kikomoko who represented the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) during the debriefing meeting commended UNESCO and the Republic of Korea for prioritizing Uganda as one of the beneficiaries and implementing countries of the BEAR II Project. He further added that the Ministry of Education strived as much as possible to ensure that the key targets that the projected intended to address was ultimately achieved.

“
We (MoES) tried to ensure that the 3 result areas of relevance, perception and quality is attained,” said Mr. Joseph Kikomoko-
Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda.

Mr. Kikomoko conveyed the Ministry of Education's appreciation commending the tremendous impact BEAR II has had and the transformation it has brought to the TVET sector in Uganda. He however added that during its 5-year implementation, BEAR II concentrated largely on capacitating the TVET institutions and not the learners thereby leaving a gap.

Mr. Mame Mor Ndiaye the BEAR II Regional Coordinator commended Uganda for executing the BEAR II Project with a lot

of commitment and determination adding that, “among the other implementing countries in the region, Uganda rank highly in terms of implementation rate and reporting on the Project. Information on BEAR II can easily be accessed making them point of references for other regions and partners to benchmark on.

Ministry of Education and Sports retooled with ICT equipment;

During the debriefing meeting, the Delegation handed out a set of ICT equipment to the Ministry of Education and Sports, specifically targeting E-guidance and career counseling as well as the World Skills Uganda.

Institutions/department interacted with during the mission

The institutions and departments visited during the one week included: Department of Higher TVET at MoES; Uganda National Commission for UNESCO; Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uganda; Uganda Industrial Research Institute; Tropical Institute for Development and Innovation; RADIX, Abilonino National Instructors College, and RUCID College, Mityana, Executive Director, Federation of Uganda Employers, ENABEL skilling officer, Executive Directors for FENEL (Education of Non state Actors), Executive Director Coalition of Association of Teachers of Private schools. During the mission, it was noted that the various institutions still require technical and financial support to ensure sustainability of the BEAR II Project after its closure. 🌍



Ms. Hong Sun Kim, (4th left) together with some of the students of RUCID Agricultural College Mityana ©UNESCO Uganda



UNIDO TRAINS UGANDA'S FIRST BATCH OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINERS

By Stefan Windberger, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



The first batch of road construction operator trainers from Gulu who benefit from UNIDO Training ©UNIDO Uganda

UNIDO trained Uganda's first batch of road construction equipment operator trainers. The 45 trainers will become the first ones in the country to be accredited under the new and recently approved plant operator trainer curriculum by the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT).

To address the industrial skills gap in Uganda, the Government of Japan, the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Works & Transport (MoWT) and UNIDO, with technical support from Japanese partner Komatsu Ltd., are building the first dedicated training centre for road construction equipment operators in Uganda, METRAC (Mechanical Engineering Training and Advisory Centre – Luwero).

In recent years, the Government of Uganda has procured road construction and maintenance equipment such as motor graders, wheel loaders, excavators, bulldozers and backhoes and distributed them to District Local Governments across the country. METRAC will allow to match this investment in road machinery with an equivalent investment in human resources, by training over 500 Ugandan road construction equipment trainers, operators and youth seeking employment.

To begin with, the project partners developed Uganda's first curriculum for road construction equipment operator trainers together with DIT. After accreditation of this new curriculum by the Ministry of Education and Sports at level 4 of the Uganda Vocational Qualification Framework in September 2021, the training of the 45 nominated MoWT construction equipment instructors successfully began in November 2021. In parallel, UNIDO and DIT also trained Uganda's first two assessors at this level for these machines.

For the training of Uganda's first batch of road construction equipment operators, UNIDO prepared a comprehensive training schedule for 8 weeks per person, comprised of health and safety training, theory training, e-learning, simulator training, and practical training. The training was divided in four batches, each of them corresponding to one region of Uganda and MoWT regional workshop: Kampala (Central), Jinja (Eastern), Gulu (Northern), and Mbarara (Western).

From January to May 2022, UNIDO conducted the in-person training in these four batches, with 1 week theory revision and 2 weeks practical training for each group. The practical training was undertaken around the METRAC project site in Kakinzi, Luwero District, which benefitted both the trainees, but also the impending construction of the training centre and the local communities, who lauded the newly constructed murram access roads.

The UNIDO Project Coordinator, Mr. Stefan Windberger, said: "Preliminary feedback indicates that 100% of the participants strongly agreed that they will be able to apply the knowledge on their job, and 100% stated that the training met or exceeded the expectations. We're very happy to support Uganda in paving a bright future for the country by training qualified operators to build, maintain, and improve Uganda's road infrastructure."

After the end of the practical training, each batch is assessed by the DIT in line with the new curriculum, and the 45 construction equipment instructors are expected to receive their certificates in June 2022. They will then be able to start training the Government's motor grader, wheel loader, excavator, bulldozer and backhoe operators across all of Uganda's districts. 🌍



IOM RESEARCH LINKS FORCED MIGRATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By Innocent Vuga, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



IOM Uganda Chief of Mission, Mr. Sanusi Tejan Savage and Minister of State for Environment, Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar, during the launch of the report ©IOM Uganda

A new research study commissioned by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Uganda shows that thousands of people are being forced to move due to climate change and environmental degradation.

The research covered the eastern Uganda districts of Bududa, Katakwi and Amudat. It was conducted by the Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovations (MUCCRI) in collaboration with Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment.

The study report, "Assessing the Evidence: Migration, Environment and Climate Change Nexus in Uganda," captures significant proof of migration caused by sudden and gradual adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change processes.

According to the report, "Both the slow-onset and sudden-onset climatic and environmental changes have a strong influence on population migration patterns in Uganda, but in different ways."



Sudden-onset events (floods and landslides) often cause destruction of livelihoods and displace the affected populations who have to leave their homes mainly temporarily, but in some cases permanently, like the cases of landslides in Mt. Elgon sub-region and flooding in Teso sub-region."

On the other hand, the study found, many people have migrated and/or are expected to migrate due to gradual land and environmental deterioration due to impact this has on their livelihoods.

The report was launched in Kampala on 29 March, by Hon. Beatrice Atim Anywar, the State Minister for Environment.

"As Government, we welcome this report; we are going to have it alongside our planning and strategies. It has become clearer and more defined for us on the roles we have at play to ensure that we walk the same journey [on environment] for sustainable life," she said.

Sanusi Tejan Savage, IOM Uganda Chief of Mission, pledged the organization's unwavering support to the government to integrate migration issues into laws, policies and action plans on climate change at the national and local levels.

"Together, we will work to increase public awareness of the link between environmental degradation, climate change and displacement," he said.

Presenting the findings, Revocatus Twinomuhangi, the MUCCRI Coordinator, expressed hope that the report would aid effective policy interventions.

"There is a need for Uganda to develop a comprehensive migration policy that covers both internal and international migration, voluntary and forced migration, as well as planned relocation and/or resettlement, and migration as adaptation strategy," Twinomuhangi said. 🌍

Detailed story: <https://tinyurl.com/ymy92a9t>



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



For more information, please contact:
MICHAEL WANGUSA | michael.wangusa@un.org | +256 (0) 771 005 988
MONICAH ATURINDA | monicah.aturinda@one.un.org | +256 (0) 772 147 505
UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

uganda.un.org UNUganda UNinUganda