



UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



UN UGANDA BULLETIN

2 ZERO HUNGER



GOVERNMENT AND UN WORKING TOGETHER ON URGENT HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FOR KARAMOJA

Patience Akumu, World Food Programme (WFP)

OVERVIEW

- National Training of Trainers on Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
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- Working together towards Durable Livelihood Solutions for refugees
- Karamoja Regional Protection Meeting held
- Managing disasters through contingency planning
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- Capacity building of District Engineers in Arua



Nawi Lina has lunch with her children, four of whom received nutrition treatment from World Food Programme @ WFP Uganda

As over half a million people in Karamoja face high levels of food insecurity, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund has provided USD 4 million to WFP, UNICEF, FAO and UNFPA Uganda to complement the Uganda government's response.

In June, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) working group comprising the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Health, WFP, FAO and UNICEF released a report that showed that over 40 percent of the population, in the nine districts of Karamoja (Kaabong, Moroto, Kotido, Napak, Nabilatuk, Amudat, Karenga, Abim and Nakapiripit) are facing crisis levels of food insecurity or worse.

The percentage of people facing high levels of food insecurity around the same period in 2021 was at 30 percent. This means that the situation has gotten worse. The report further showed that in one of the hardest-hit districts, Moroto, half the population goes without food for an entire day and night for at least three days a month.

The highest levels of malnutrition are in Kaabong and Moroto districts. Overall, 2.4 percent of children in Karamoja are severely malnourished – up from 1.9 percent last year. Another 10.7 percent are moderately malnourished, up from 8.8 percent last year. About 91,600 children and 9,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished and urgently in



NATIONAL TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION ASSESSMENT IN MBARARA

By Madrine Amuge, UN Area Coordination (UNAC) Office, South Western Uganda



Participants of the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment Training of Trainers in Mbarara © UN Uganda

UNICEF funded by the European Union (EU) is now providing technical and financial support to the Government of Uganda through Action Against Hunger (AAH) Canada to support the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) harmonization and standardization process in Uganda. ACF Canada working in close collaboration with Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and UN agencies (UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF) support the harmonization and standardization of the FSNA.

Action Against Hunger (AAH) conducted a second review of capacity gaps for the implementation of successful FSNAs and in response developed a draft FSNA toolbox containing standardized training materials and survey tools ACF then conducted a national Training of Trainers (TOT) on the application of the FSNA tool kit.

The TOT took place from 14th to 23rd June 2022 at Hotel Triangle Hotel, Mbarara. The participants were drawn from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, UBOS, UN Agencies (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR) and FSNA implementing partners International Baby Foods Action Network (IBFAN) and Makerere University School of Public Health.

This training on the FSNA Toolbox, involved practical sessions and field exercises. The team visited Nakivale Refugee Settlement



Testing for anemia among the refugee mothers in Nakivale Refugee Settlement © UN Uganda



Refugees participate in the interviews on the Food security and Nutrition outcomes © UN Uganda

where they carried out field tests for anthropometry, hemoglobin measurements and use of Mobile Data Collection tools. 🌍

Government and UN working towards sustainable solutions for Karamoja

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need of treatment. The IPC predicted that while the food insecurity situation is likely to improve between August 2022 and January 2023, its longer-term impact, malnutrition, is likely to stay in the same worrying state.

Perfect storm

During the launch of the IPC report, the UN and Uganda government called for urgent aid to counter the reverberating effects of COVID-19, delayed and unpredictable rainfall, rising food prices made worse by the Ukrainian war on the already vulnerable region of Karamoja. They pointed out that by March 2022, the people of Karamoja had started consuming their seed stock and had nothing left for the planting season. Cattle raids robbed families of their livestock while insecurity drove people away from their homes and destabilized crop production.

Sustainable solutions

Karamoja, a region in North-eastern Uganda has for decades remained one of the poorest and least developed. Karamoja is currently facing a humanitarian situation that hundreds of thousands in the horn of Africa are facing as a result of climate change.

In addition to meeting emergency needs in Karamoja, UN is collaborating with government to draw a road map on how to enable Karamoja better prepare and respond to shocks that cyclically hit the region, including how the early warning system that FAO, WFP and the government of Uganda have established can be popularised and enhanced. Inclusive interventions will ensure that the region is not left behind as Uganda marches towards its regional and international development goals.

WHO has mobilized over \$2.4 million of its internal resources to support the country in responding to the health impact of the drought emergency in the Karamoja region and surrounding districts. In addition, WHO has recruited and repurposed staff to provide immediate technical support and on the ground service to the region.

More details of the ongoing Government and partners response will be shared in the next edition. 🌍



FAO AND PARTNERS SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, ONE STOVE AT A TIME

By Anita Tibasaaga, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Members of Nyai Women's Group pose with some of the stoves they made, ready for sale © FAO Uganda

Over 90 percent of Uganda's population relies on biomass, specifically charcoal and firewood, as their main source of energy for cooking.

The high demand for wood fuel puts pressure on forests and other woodlands, affecting the environment, people and the planet, and accelerating climate change. Yet, making energy affordable and reliable is essential for meeting basic human needs, improving livelihoods and promoting development. With support from the European Union and the Embassy of Sweden in Kampala, FAO is working with the Government of Uganda to increase access to clean energy, empowering rural communities to address climate change and tackle the negative impacts of charcoal production in Uganda.

Established in 2010 to eliminate poverty through mobilisation of village savings, provision of loans and production of high value crops, Nyai Women's Group in Maracha District, West Nile sub region, is making energy-saving stoves that can use little wood compared to the ordinary stoves. The 28-member group (24 women, four men) is a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) involved in growing food crops such as vegetables, cassava, maize and tomatoes, making bio-briquettes, making and selling charcoal stoves, providing training in making the stoves, making, promoting use of shielded cook stoves and tree planting.

With support from FAO under the Swedish Government-funded project, titled: Climate-Resilient Livelihood Opportunities for Women Economic Empowerment (CRWEE) in the Karamoja and West Nile regions of Uganda, the women produce 25-30 stoves monthly, each sold at UGX 15 000. Since the stoves cook fast, the women are able to spare some time to attend to other household activities.

The goal of the CRWEE project is to contribute to the economic empowerment of women and eradication of poverty in Karamoja and West Nile sub regions of Uganda. The project seeks to strengthen gender responsive and climate-smart resilience of rural women who depend on agricultural production systems. FAO implements the CRWEE project in 12 districts, eight in West Nile (Nebbi, Zombo, Arua, Maracha, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo and Adjumani), and four in Karamoja (Abim, Napak, Moroto and Nakapiripirit).

Through the CRWEE project, Nyai Women's Group received tools and materials such as iron sheets to make the stoves, tree seedlings to plant watersheds, training on best agronomic practices and how to use their small pieces of land to grow high value crops. Through FAO's support, Nyai Women's Group has registered a number of benefits, including information and knowledge sharing, good relations with community members, adoption of improved methods of farming and increased incomes from vegetable and stove sales.

FAO AND PARTNERS SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT, ONE STOVE AT A TIME

According to Eunice Ezajuru, the Chairperson of Nyai Women's Group, "making and using these stoves helps to preserve the environment because fewer trees are cut for firewood and so rampant tree cutting is mitigated. The stoves, mostly used by women, produce less smoke and this reduces the risk of respiratory and eye diseases. When the women are away from home, men can easily use the stoves to cook food and this encourages good gender relations".

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We have learnt how to make the stoves and our plan is to make at least 100 stoves monthly", Ezajuru says. "However, we need support to acquire more capital to access the raw materials and also appeal for the construction of an energy saving stove making institution to help pass on skills, especially to women and youths", she adds.

In another part of the country, Gomba District in the central region, residents are steadily abandoning firewood and associated tree-cutting practices for solar-powered cooking stoves. The stoves are fitted with features to provide lighting in their homes. This energy transition is powered by FAO's five-year project titled Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Plus.

The USD 10million project, funded by the European Union, aims at contributing to making rural households in nine cattle corridor districts including Gomba, more resilient to climate change effects and food insecurity by promoting sustainable and gender transformation actions. Working with Gomba District Farmers Association (GODFA), FAO is promoting mobile and non-portable solar-powered cook stoves, which use majorly volcanic stones to produce heat and energy.

The stoves use an inbuilt air system to keep the volcanic stones-sourced mainly from South Western Uganda, burning. Once lit, heat is transferred to the stones that become red hot, thanks to the fan in the air system. A dimmer switch, which is used to regulate the heat required for cooking. Because of the slow burning process, a family that uses one sack of charcoal for a month can use the same amount over three months with the solar-powered cook stove. The stones shrink over time and can be replaced after about six months. The system is connected to a solar-power which provides lighting.

According to Milly Namuyiga and Nelson Ssali of Bunyinywa village, Kabulasoke Sub-county, Gomba District, the family of 12, the innovation has saved them money spent buying charcoal and the inconvenience of cooking outdoors.

"Even if it rains the whole day now, I'm able to cook, eat and feed my family", Namuyiga says. "We have been able to use about one kilo of volcanic rocks for over a year now and it is still working very well," she adds.

Rhoda Kulabako - Coordinator of Gomba District Farmers Association notes that "the stoves save up to 60 per cent of cooking fuel bills of many households and is one of the new



Members of Nyai Women's Group during a working session to make stoves © FAO Uganda



Milly Namuyiga prepares tea using her solar powered cook stove © FAO Uganda



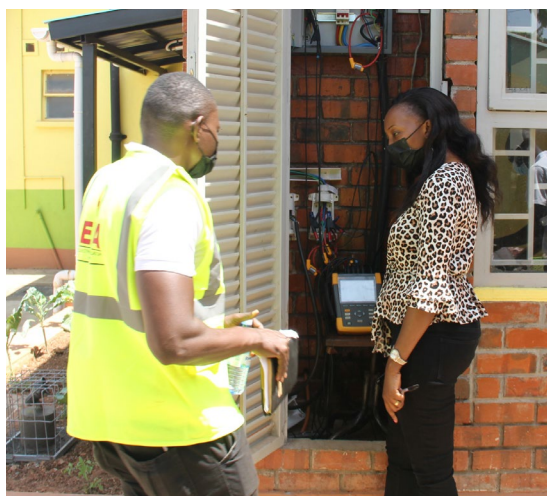
A member of GODIFA displays some of the volcanic rocks used for the solar powered stoves © FAO Uganda

technologies we have adopted to empower both youth and women". Currently, 250 households in the district are using these energy-saving cook stoves. 🌍



UNDP AND ERA PARTNER TO END DEFORESTATION THROUGH A BOLD ENERGY TRANSITION FROM COOKING WITH BIOMASS TO ELECTRICITY

By Ashley Prigent, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



UNDP and ERA staff inspect the electricity supply at Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit, Mulago Hospital © UNDP Uganda



Mwanamugimu kitchen staff member using the newly installed electric cooking stoves © UNDP Uganda

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported Uganda's National Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) to launch the Biomass to Electricity project at Mulago Hospital.

This initiative is geared toward incentivizing large institutions throughout the country to use electricity as an alternative energy source to biomass (organic matter). This project was piloted by the UNDP Accelerator Lab within Mulago Hospital's Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit, where the kitchens have now been fully converted to electricity.

The World Bank estimates Uganda's national electrification coverage at around 28% in 2022, while Uganda's rural electrification coverage is much lower at 8%. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Uganda has one of the lowest electricity consumption rates per capita in the world, estimated at an average of 80 kWh per year in 2017, compared with 155 kWh per year in Kenya and 300 kWh per year in Ghana. Meanwhile, Uganda's energy sector is dominated by biomass, with 87% of households using either firewood or charcoal for cooking and most of educational institutions (schools and universities), hospitals, and prisons generally use firewood for cooking.

According to the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda's forest cover reduced from 24% in 1990 to just 12% in 2017, and if deforestation continues at the present rate Uganda risks losing its forests by the year 2033. Successfully transitioning large social institutions and urban households throughout Uganda from cooking with biomass to electricity is likely to play a key role in easing the burden of deforestation, in turn reducing the risk of biodiversity loss and exacerbation of climate change impacts.

Back in 2019, having identified a lack of affordable and effective renewable cooking energy as a primary driver of deforestation in Uganda, the UNDP Accelerator Lab conducted solutions mapping

through an open call to identify energy solutions that could help reduce nationwide consumption of biomass and in turn protect Uganda's forests and biodiversity. This is where the partnership between UNDP and ERA came about.

Before conversion to electricity, the Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit would use on average 96.5 kg of firewood to prepare meals for around 100 people daily. Kitchen staff – who prepare meals for mothers and newborn babies – had exclusively used firewood as cooking fuel. Not only does this practice place a considerable burden on Uganda's forests, but excessive smoke from burning wood poses significant health risks for staff, while the inconsistency of cooking with wood fuel creates delays in preparation and delivery of meals for patients, including severely malnourished children whose life depends on timely provision of food by the hospital nutrition unit.

The Biomass to Electricity project set out to design and test the right tariff structure for electricity to incentivize or promote the use of electricity as opposed to the use of firewood and charcoal. The aim is to enable the Electricity Regulatory Authority to get right the tariff structure for electricity suitable to boost consumption of electricity and effectively stop the otherwise more expensive use of firewood and charcoal in large social institutions and urban households. This would significantly reduce carbon emissions, deforestation, and its impacts. The lessons from this pilot through the UNDP and ERA partnership has already led to policy change in Uganda, lowering the national electricity tariff rate from 556 Uganda Shillings (UGX) per kilowatt hour (kWh) to 451 UGX per kWh for eligible institutions. The electric cooking tariff for domestic use has also reduced to 412 UGX per kWh for the first purchase of each month, to encourage electric cooking in households. The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development has also initiated a drive to switch cooking at the Luzira Prison from use of firewood to electricity. UNDP and ERA continue to explore measures to scale up this project to the national level where social institutions such as hospitals, schools and prisons will be enabled to shift from cooking with biomass to using electricity at suitably set power tariffs. 🌍



GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY AND UN WOMEN COMMENDED FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN REFUGEE SETTINGS IN UGANDA

By Edmond Mwebembezi, UN Women



RDC Terego District Ms. Ajilong B. Modestar appends her signature to launch the LEAP II project in Terego © UN Women



Local drama group showcased the effects of Gender Based Violence on families through a skit © UN Women

The Resident District Commissioner for Terego, Ms. Ajilong B. Modestar, has hailed UN Women in Uganda and the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala for partnering to empower women and girls in refugee settings.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Uganda, at the launch of a four-year project entitled, “Enhanced Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection” (LEAP) 2021-25, Ms. Ajilong said, “the government has an open-door policy that allows refugees to walk in, settle and work to forge a livelihood. We are therefore thankful to our partners for identifying this important need to empower these women and girls and working to address it through various projects.”

The LEAP project which is funded by the Government of Norway through their Embassy in Uganda will be implemented for four years (2021 – 2025) and is worth 48,000,000 NOK (\$5,764,381). The project aims at ensuring that the refugee and host community women and girls affected by crisis, lead, participate in, and benefit from humanitarian response and recovery efforts.

These efforts are in line with the Uganda National Plan of Action of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) (2021-25), the Refugee Response Plan (2022-25), the National Action Plan III implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and drawing on lessons learned from the UN Women’s LEAP I Programme.

Between 2017 and 2021, UN Women, with funding from the

Government of Norway implemented the first phase of the LEAP Programme in Adjumani and Yumbe which contributed to an increase in the number of women in leadership in the Refugee settlements with 54 percent and 46 percent representation of women on the Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) structures, from 10 and 15 percent representation in Adjumani and Yumbe in 2017 respectively. During this phase 1,333 refugee and host community women also gained literacy and numeracy skills through the English for Adults Programme while 1,544 refugees & 466 host community women improved their incomes after engaging in village savings and loans association and being supported to engage in various business enterprises.

Speaking on behalf of UN Women, the Political Participation and Leadership Specialist, Ms. Agripin Nandhego said that the UN Women’s mandate in Uganda is centered around empowering women and girls. “We are happy to launch the second phase of the LEAP program to build on the strides made under the first phase and the Norwegian Government for the generous financial support.”

She further recognized the support from key partners that worked with UN Women during phase one of LEAP, including TPO, Refugee Law Project, CARE International, Overcomers Women Association.

The LEAP II Programme will be implemented in Adjumani, Kyegegwa, Terego, and Yumbe in partnership with Office of Prime Minister, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Secretariat, district local governments, UN agencies, civil society organisations, local women’s organisations, academic institutions, and the private sector. The Programme will benefit 56,310 refugee and host community (40,610 women and girls and 15,700 men and boys) as direct beneficiaries and 1,300,000 refugee and host community women and men. 🌈



IOM UGANDA BUILDS PERMANENT HAND WASHING FACILITIES FOR BORDER COMMUNITIES

By Richard M Kavuma and Innocent Vuga, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Amuru Resident District Commissioner Stephen Odong Latek washes his hands at the new facility at Elegu Border Post © IOM Uganda

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) handed over three permanent handwashing facilities and related supplies to Ugandan authorities, to bolster efforts to improve hygiene and prevent a range of diseases.

The facilities are located at Elegu, Amuru District, on the border with South Sudan, and Kasensero Landing Site, Mutukula, Kyotera District, on the border with Tanzania. Each facility has eight hand-wash basins including those meant for children and people with disabilities. They are expected to help control water-borne infections and zoonotic diseases, caused by germs that spread between animals and people.

The handwashing facilities were built through the 'WASH and Health promotion sensitization and awareness of COVID 19 and other communicable Diseases in the EAC Region' project. It aimed to increase health awareness and promote hygiene practices, as a measure against diseases like COVID-19 in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Thirty-two permanent handwashing facilities were been built in the six countries.

The project focused on health and hygiene promotion, construction and equipping of WASH facilities, and increased coordination and harmonization of approaches among the countries.

"The project also procured Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Infection Prevention and Control supplies worth USD 24,000 to

support Infection prevention and control," said Dr Risatul AFM Islam, the head of IOM Uganda's Migration Health Assessment programme.

In Uganda, community health workers were trained and equipped to spread messages on COVID 19 and other infectious diseases, reaching some 141,000 people in Uganda.



"We all know that when you wash hands you prevent 70 percent of infections," said Dr Moses Mwigu Kabangi, Uganda's Commissioner for Environmental Health Services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on the need to focus on improving the region's ability to respond to the special requirements of cross-border preparedness and response and address the needs of migrants and cross border communities.

The handwashing facilities, worth US \$57,000, were constructed under a project funded by Germany's Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat.

Across the six countries, the project reached more than 4.7 million people with behaviour change interventions, including health and hygiene risk awareness activities and capacity building of key community influencers. 🌍



THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN UGANDA SENSITIZED ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

By Elise Tcheutchoua Yonkeu, World Health Organization (WHO)



A member of Ugandan civil society joins the WHO and the Ministry of Health in raising awareness about the negative impact of tobacco use on health through signage messages in Entebbe Municipality of Uganda on May 31, 2022 © WHO Uganda

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health, and members of the Civil Society conducted a series of activities in Entebbe Municipality to commemorate World No Tobacco Day 2022 under the theme “Protect the Environment”.

Activities included awareness-raising among over 4,750 community members on the negative impact of tobacco on health and the environment; cleaning up tobacco cigarette butts in the Entebbe Market and Mass screening for some diseases caused by Tobacco, including diabetes and high blood pressure.

During the community outreach session, the Guest of Honour, Dr. Charles Olaro, the Director of Health Curative-Services at the Ministry of Health, called on the community to join the rest of the world in strengthening tobacco control efforts to prevent premature deaths and promote economic development through a healthier and more productive population.”

‘For every cigarette smoked, resources which could be used for education, clothing, and feeding are wasted. Reducing tobacco consumption is important to achieving Sustainable Development Goals,’ said Dr. Olaro.

Dr. Bayo Fatunmbi, the Team Lead for Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases at the WHO Country Office, commended the efforts made so far on the reduction of tobacco consumption in Uganda as reported in the Tobacco Epidemic Report (2019).

The report revealed that Uganda achieved progressive implementation of interventions for tobacco control with monitoring at 70%, a ban on advertising, promotion, and sponsorship at 70%, and Smoke-Free Environment at 30%.

‘Uganda already has developed some important instruments for the control of Tobacco Consumption. I encourage everyone to make good use of Uganda’s Tobacco Control Act 15 and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to end the tobacco pandemic,’ said Dr. Fatunmbi.

In Kenya, a Tobacco-Free Farms project, coordinated by the World Health Organization and the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) supports the government to enable farmers to plant alternative crops that contribute to improving food security and household incomes for these communities.

The tobacco epidemic is one of the greatest public health threats the world has ever faced. It kills more than 8 million people worldwide each year. More than 7 million of these deaths are the result of direct tobacco use, while about 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers’ exposure to second-hand smoke.

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PARTNERS UNITE TO VACCINATE THOUSANDS OF PRISONERS IN THREE WEEKS

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



A nurse, Ms. Stella Kanakwa, vaccinates a prisoner against COVID-19 in a prison near the Uganda-Tanzania border © UNODC Uganda

A total of 11,137 prisoners, 633 prison staff and 442 of their family members have been vaccinated against COVID-19 as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports an ongoing vaccination drive by Uganda Prisons Service (UPS).

Twenty-nine prisons in three regions – Kampala Extra, Southern (Masaka) and Southwestern (Mbarara) – benefitted from the vaccination push held from 16 May to 6 June 2022.

UNODC's logistical support to the Uganda Prisons Service was made possible through the generous financial support of the Government of Norway to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Emergency Appeal for COVID-19 Response and its Impacts in Uganda and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the US Department of State.

THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN UGANDA SENSITIZED ON THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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A team from WHO, the Ministry of Health and civil society organizations collecting tobacco butts in the market in Entebbe Municipality, Uganda, May 31, 2022 © WHO Uganda

In Uganda, the harmful impact of the tobacco industry on the environment and health is vast. Over 15% of boys and 13% of girls aged 13-15 years start smoking annually. It is estimated that tobacco kills 204 Ugandans weekly, which is more than HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, accidents, and crime put together.

Despite this high mortality rate, more than 1,020,500 men and 1 in 10 persons in Uganda smoke cigarettes daily, making it an ongoing and dire public health threat.

Dr. Olaro stressed that to reduce the consumption of tobacco in the country, decision-makers should: Impose the Extended Producer Responsibility principle on the tobacco industry to hold them accountable for the cost of cleaning up tobacco product waste; Impose an environmental tax levy on tobacco manufacturers, distributors, and consumers; Support policy actions to ban single-use plastics which include cigarette butts, smokeless tobacco pouches, and electronic waste; and advise farmers to switch to sustainable and environmentally friendly crops that provide a greater return on investment in terms of health and wealth. 🌍

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The prison environment is highly conducive for the transmission of COVID-19 due to overcrowding and poor ventilation. UNODC has been encouraged by the Government of Uganda's proactive response to COVID-19 in prisons and their consideration of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

"The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility whereby prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge, without discrimination on the grounds of their legal status," the UNODC Head of Office in Uganda, Ms. Sharon Lesa Nyambe, explained.



The inclusion of the prison community in the Ministry of Health's vaccination roll-out in since March 2021 cooperation with the Uganda Prisons Services is commendable, especially given the challenges associated with mounting an effective vaccination campaign in prisons," Ms. Nyambe said.

The prison population in Uganda changes constantly, with the admission of new prisoners and discharge of others.

Consequently, during the vaccination exercise there was a good representation of prisoners who had never been vaccinated, some who were receiving their second dose and a cohort who received their booster dose.

Speaking at the close of the exercise, the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) Assistant Commissioner of Health, Dr. James Kisambu, said the COVID-19 vaccination rate at national level stands at 40 per cent, according to the Ministry of Health, while just 30 per cent of new prisoners were fully vaccinated.

Vaccination in prisons means safety for both the prisoners and Uganda at large because prisoners come from and return to the community," Dr. Kisambu said while expressing his appreciation of the timely intervention from UNODC.

To get the voluntary buy-in of prisoners, staff and family members at each facility, the medical teams – comprising specialised staff from Prison Headquarters in Kampala and at regional level – briefed the prisoners on the importance of COVID-19 vaccines, types of vaccines available and how to manage side-effects should they occur.

"We express our sincere gratitude to UNODC for the support rendered to the Uganda Prisons Service in the vaccination exercise carried out in three high-volume regions of Kampala, southern and southwestern," Dr. Kisambu said. 🌐



A nurse vaccinates a prisoner against COVID-19 in a prison near the Uganda-Tanzania border © UNODC Uganda

HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES DONATE BLOOD IN KYANGWALI SETTLEMENT

By Olga Nora Ruza, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



Refugees donating blood in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement on World Refugee Day, 20th June 2022 © UNHCR Uganda

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with its partners Medical Teams International, Red Cross Uganda, and Uganda Blood Transfusion Services conducted a blood donation drive in the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, Western Uganda, where refugees and the host community donated blood on World Refugee Day, 20th June 2022. Hundreds of refugees took part in the three-day blood drive following a public awareness campaign on the benefits of blood donation.

In Kyangwali, about 130 blood transfusions are done every month. Yet for several years, the lack of blood at the Kyangwali Health Center IV has been a major concern. The estimated blood requirement for the settlement is 205 units per month but only an average of 137 units is supplied, leaving a gap of 68 units each month.

“Blood is needed but we never get a sufficient quantity,” said Dr. Nicholas Moreri of Medical Teams International, UNHCR’s partner. “There are many illnesses here that cause an urgent need for blood in some patients. In Kyangwali alone, the high prevalence of anemia at 59 percent means that there has to be frequent transfusions,” he added.

Malaria is also prevalent in Kyangwali, accounting for 80 percent of blood transfusions performed on children under the age of five. Other needs at Kyangwali Health Center IV are related to obstetrics and gynecology, accounting for around 15 percent of all transfusions. The rest are for accident victims and surgical patients.

“Blood transfusion saved my two-year-old boy,” said Marianne Dusange, a refugee mother in Kagoma Village in Kyangwali. “He nearly died but doctors gave him the blood, at no cost. From then I understood the importance of donating blood. I appeal to all the Kyangwali residents to respond to the call for blood donation,” urged Marianne.

This year in Uganda, World Refugee Day highlighted the right to seek safety while conserving and protecting the environment. To be able to exercise this right while simultaneously protecting and conserving the environment, a good health care system that allows patients including refugees, who require blood transfusions to receive safe blood in a timely manner is critical. Every year, 459,000 units of blood are required in Uganda. However, only about 300,000 units are collected.

For steady availability of blood in the blood bank, active recruitment of new donors as well as encouraging the return of previous donors is required.

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In order to provide fresh blood products for the treatment of patients, these drives are essential and should be carried out frequently,” said Dr. Ronald Lubega, UNHCR’s Public Health Officer in Uganda. “This will save the lives of thousands of children and expectant mothers whose demand for blood is overwhelming due to high levels of anemia in the settlement,” Lubega said.

Currently, there are 137,713 refugees and asylum seekers in the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, 81 percent of whom are women and children. 🌍

UGANDA JOINS OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES COMMITTING TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

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



Students asking questions during the dialogue with the Ministers during the launch of the Education Plus Initiative in Uganda, 2nd June 2022 © UNAIDS Uganda



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo delivering a speech during the launch of the Education Plus Initiative in Uganda, 2nd June 2022 © UNAIDS Uganda

The Government of Uganda reaffirmed its commitment towards the empowerment of adolescent girls, boys and young women – a critical last mile towards the end of AIDS by launching the Education Plus Initiative. The First Lady, Minister of Education and Sports and UN Champion for adolescent girls Hon. Janet K. Museveni led the launch on 2nd June 2022 at Mengo Senior School in Kampala.

“Our government fully believes this ambitious approach of Education Plus is critical for us to build momentum with the already existing campaigns like the teenage pregnancy campaign for the empowerment of adolescent girls and young women and the achievement of gender equality in the region, however any effective effort designed to empower young people must start with the family. Positive parenting is what we must talk and discuss with our communities,” said Janet K. Museveni, First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports

The Education Plus Initiative is a high-level political advocacy drive to accelerate actions and investments among adolescent girls, young women and boys to prevent HIV, reduce teenage pregnancy, early marriages, gender-based violence with access to and completion of secondary school education as a strategic entry point.

Co-led by five UN agencies working together with governments across Sub-Saharan Africa, the initiative calls for free and quality secondary education for all boys and girls, universal access to sexuality education, fulfilment of sexual and reproductive health rights, freedom from gender-based and sexual violence, school-to-work transitions, and economic security and empowerment.

“Through this initiative, the UN aims to create and build stronger alliances and partnerships with government, education development partners, civil society, young women and youth networks, religious and cultural leaders, private sector and all relevant stakeholders for the advancement of education, health and economic rights of adolescent girls and boys in Uganda,” said Susan Ngongi Namondo, UN Resident Coordinator

Uganda has commendable and progressive laws, policies and strategies such as the Universal Primary and Secondary Education,

National School Health Policy for Uganda that promotes the integration of life skills-based education, the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy that is strengthening child protection mechanisms, the National Sexuality Education framework to make sexuality education an integral part of the policies and practices of the school. There is also the National Strategy for Girls’ Education to address gender inequalities, and guidelines on Prevention and Management of HIV/AIDS – all of which are to improve the lives of adolescent girls.

While the country has done tremendous work in prevention of HIV/AIDS, about 42% of HIV infections occurred among young people with huge disparity by sex, namely three in four of new HIV infections among young people occurred among adolescent girls. HIV prevalence was almost four times higher among females than males aged 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 HIV prevalence is nearly three times higher in men and women aged 20-24 compared to those aged 15-19.

The high risk of acquiring HIV is just one of the many threats adolescent girls and young women face pertaining their health, safety, dignity, and life aspirations. While women and girls are biologically more susceptible to HIV than men and boys, unequal gender power dynamics and harmful gender norms are the root cause, compounded by intersecting forms of discrimination.

The national net enrolment rate for girls in secondary school stands at 21%, and the percentage of girls enrolled is 47.8 of the national enrolment in lower secondary schools. Although the transition from primary to secondary is at 68.5%, only one in three girls completes Senior four (lower secondary school).

Also of concern, 18% of the annual births in Uganda in 2021 were by teenage mothers and one in four adolescent girls aged 15-19 years have begun childbearing and therefore live as teenage mothers.

Thus, keeping girls in secondary school is crucial – a right in and of itself – and a means to protect girls against HIV infection. The Education Plus initiative will complement and build on already existing progressive policy direction. 🌍

WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS DURABLE LIVELIHOOD SOLUTIONS FOR WEST NILE REFUGEES

By Collins Adubango, United Nations Area Coordination (UNAC) Office, West Nile



Some of the youth being taken through garment cutting © UN Uganda

The United Nations Area Coordination (UNAC) Team West Nile is advocating for the development of joint programme activities around Livelihoods and Gender in the region. Identified activities where several agencies can converge include block/pond fish farming, soap factory establishment, palm tree farming to support the current soap factory in Bidibidi settlement; skilling project in Palorinya Refugee Settlement; livestock farming with an emphasis on rabbit-breeding; agricultural mechanization, enterprise-focused group farming; woodlot afforestation and mushroom farming.

As a step forward, the UNAC team had a field mission to Moyo and Obongi Districts on 19th & 20th April 2022 with the purpose of strengthening coordination and generating new joint programme activities; learning from the already established Palorinya Skilling & Community Centre project.

Palorinya Skilling and Community Centre Project

Established in Palorinya Refugee Settlement by Comboni missionaries, the centre is situated on a 40 km² piece of land and runs several skilling programmes for refugees and nationals, including the 'Response to increased demand on Government Service and creation of economic opportunities in Uganda' (RISE) project funded by UNHCR and GIZ.

The project intends to skill 1,000 (70% Refugees and 30% Host) youth in 16 different trades, to enhance their employability and economic inclusion and construct and operationalise seven Community Centres to provide safe spaces for the community members to deliberate on pertinent social issues, provide a platform for community members to engage with stakeholders and provide appropriate physical structures for refugee and host population to create a sense of community.

The different skilling programmes (trades) include metal fabrication, building, tailoring, hairdressing, plumbing, electrical installation, carpentry, bakery, catering, curtains making, sunflower and



Trainees practicing at the carpentry workshop how to assemble office table © UN Uganda



Trainees working on some of the machines at the workshop on their own © UN Uganda

sesame oil processing, tree and flower-planting, briquette making, tie and die, phone repair and maintenance and shoemaking. About 60 percent of the trainees are women and girls of whom majority are teenage mothers with children.

The UNAC team acknowledged the centre as having potential to produce vegetable oil that can support Persons of Concern (PoCs) across the region and many products and services such as furniture, yoghurt, bread, mechanical services etc. can be accessed easily at the centre giving opportunities for expansion. Further-

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KARAMOJA REGIONAL PROTECTION MEETING HELD *By Yusuke Hara, UN Human Rights*



UN Human Rights Country Representative, Mr. Robert Kotchani delivering remarks during the Karamoja Regional Protection Meeting © OHCHR Uganda



Uganda Police making their presentation on protection related matters during the Karamoja Regional Protection Meeting © OHCHR Uganda

On 22 June 2022, OHCHR facilitated the 47th Karamoja Regional Protection Meeting (KRPM) in Moroto District to discuss recent human rights issues and concerns in Karamoja sub-region with attendance of 77 participants (56 men and 21 women).

Participants included representatives from Uganda People Defence Force (UPDF), Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions, district governments, local NGOs and UN agencies

In his remark, OHCHR Country Representative, Mr. Robert Kotchani highlighted the importance of the KRPM which has been instrumental in facilitating a constructive dialogue on human rights protection among stakeholders and strengthening their commitments to fulfill human rights obligations in the Karamoja region.

During the meeting, OHCHR, together with Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), raised serious concerns over

numerous human rights violations reported during the intensified disarmament operations across the region such as arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment and violations of the right to a fair trial.

The Office also underlined that poor preparedness and coordination among stakeholders involved in the operation led to further violations. OHCHR urged the government institutions to 1) ensure an unfettered access to approximately 2,000 suspects at detention facilities, 2) make further efforts to ensure all suspects be handled and treated in a dignified and humane manner at every step of the operation, and 3) minimize pre-trial detention of suspects and expedite their cases' proceeding both at civil court and court-martial in compliance with human rights standards.

Since 2010, the KRPM, with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, has led to coordinated and effective intervention and advocacy for human rights issues as well as enhanced capacity of duty bearers in the realization of access to justice and redress. The KRPM's unique multi-stakeholder platform also plays a critical role in the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025 in Karamoja sub-region. 🌐

THINKING IN THE FUTURE BUT PREPARING NOW: A UNICEF partnership is strengthening the capacity of local governments in Uganda to manage disasters through contingency planning

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

'It is really possible to have a disaster-free community?'

A team of 35 district officials gathered at a conference hall in Soroti District, pore over this statement as they work at developing a concrete vision statement on managing disasters in their district.

The heads of department, administrators and even law enforcement representatives from Amolatar District local government agree that whereas disasters cannot be eliminated, they can be managed.

'The important thing is to think of an outcome, what you would like to see in the future, regarding disaster management,' the facilitator guides.

The training sessions are the first component of a UNICEF-funded project aimed at strengthening local government emergency preparedness and response in Uganda. During the one-year project being implemented by World Vision in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister, over 120 district local government officials in four districts will be equipped to effectively respond to disasters in a timely manner. The key focus is on attaining active involvement of the district in developing a contingency plan that will guide district-led disaster management.

'A contingency plan helps you think in the future _ and plan for it,' Edward Hauha Regional Programmes Manager World Vision notes adding, "We cannot prevent all disasters from happening, but we are equipping the local governments to prepare for them, respond effectively through them and then recover from them.'

The training targets local government officials in four disaster-prone districts; Amolatar in the north; Serere in the east; Nakasongola in central and Kagadi in western Uganda. The four districts are affected by floods and drought, two of the highest-impact hazards noted in a 2019 World Bank disaster risk profile for Uganda. The report projects that up to 50,000 people could be affected by floods in Uganda, and 4.5 million by draught each year.

Back at the conference hall, Raymond Kirungi, the Disaster Preparedness Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, leads the participants through the training sessions, with a progression through disaster awareness and then contingency plan building.

'I did not understand all the terms relating to disasters, but now I can clearly explain hazards, vulnerability exposure, disaster risk and other terms,' one participant exclaims.

After four days of learning and brainstorm, the Amolatar District Local Government officials finally have a nearly complete disaster management contingency plan with a district profile, clearly scoped out hazards, the accompanying disaster risks, likelihood of occurrence, potential impact, response and mitigation measures, and the resources required to implement these measures. During the final collective brain storming session, the team deliberate over the intended outcome of the plan, also known as the vision, followed by goals, and strategic objectives.



Juliet Ayoo, Chief Accounting Officer Amolatar District delivers her remarks during the training of members of Amolatar District Disaster Management Committees and Sub-County Disaster Management Committees ahead of drafting of the district contingency plan © UNICEF Uganda



Anach Jerome, Amolatar District Planner delivers his remarks during a training of members of Amolatar District Disaster Management Committees and Sub-County Disaster Management Committees ahead of drafting of the district contingency plan © UNICEF Uganda

'Resilient', 'prepared', 'respond', were the key words that sounded throughout the vision boarding session. After an hour, the Amolatar District Local Government team agreed on a vision for the contingency plan on managing disasters in the district, 'A resilient society before, during and after disaster.'

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FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL SDG CONFERENCE HELD

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



A panel discussion at the First Annual National SDG Conference: Left to right, Ms. Elsie Attafuah, UNDP Resident Representative; Dr. Peter Kimbowa, NSSF Board Chair; Dr. Marios Obwona, NPA; Mr. Julius Kapwepwe, PDM Secretariat © UN Uganda

The First Annual National SDG Conference for Uganda (ASDGC-UG2022), was held on 16th and 17 June 2022 at Kampala Serena Hotel. The conference was organised by the Office of the Prime Minister's National SDG Secretariat in partnership with the UN System in Uganda.

The key objectives of ASDGC-UG2022 were to gain consensus on priorities and policy recommendations to accelerate implementation of Agenda 2030 and Africa Agenda 2063 over the next decade of action; to share good practices, success stories and common challenges, and innovations that can potentially be used to address those challenges; and to draw annual declarations and key messages and preparations for side events at the auspices of the High-Level Political Forum.

The conference was preceded by three regional forums: Mbale for Eastern Region; Hoima for the Western Region; and Gulu for the Northern Region.

The regional forums brought together over 600 participants that included leaders from local government, civil society, private sector, cultural institutions and children. The regional forums focused on understanding the models currently being implemented at the community level and how these can be scaled up.

The discussions were preceded by presentations by SDG Secretariat sharing the 2021 National Progress Report, panel discussions led by children and presentations by selected Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on models that government is implementing.

The Right Honourable Robinah Nabbanja, Prime Minister representing the President of Uganda, in her welcome remarks reiterated Government's commitment to ensuring that it delivers sustainable development to the people in Uganda and contributes to global solutions towards building a better world. She noted that Government had put in place the necessary institutional and pol-

Thinking in the future but preparing now

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Despite four days of early morning starts and late evening departures, the Amolatar District team seem even more invigorated with the progress made.

'We never had a structured plan for response so we have been gambling with disasters, but now we have direction, precision, uniformity and a high level of commitment from all district stakeholders,' Jerome Anach, the District Planner explains.

The Resident District Commissioner of Amolatar, Patience Nambale agrees, 'we do not know when disasters will happen but we now know what to do.'

Even as the Amolatar delegates headed back home, a smaller four-member working group made plans to meet the following week to refine the contingency plan and then present it to the district council, World Vision, UNICEF and the Office of the Prime Minister for validation. The plan will thereafter be disseminated in the community and simulation exercises held to test understanding, application and effectiveness of the recommended measures.

Jacob Opiyo, the Emergency Specialist at UNICEF Gulu Zonal Office highlights the commitment to continue working with the district officials to ensure that the impact of the training trickles down to the communities, particularly women and children, who usually are the most affected by disasters.

'It is not just about having a contingency plan, but utilising it to enable effective response in keeping children healthy, safe, protected and in school,' Opiyo concludes. 🌍

icy framework to support the SDG implementation. “The Office of the Prime Minister oversees Government business including implementation of the National SDG Roadmap; and the President appointed a focal point Minister for SDGs, Right Honourable Justine Kasule Lumumba. All these efforts are geared toward ensuring that the SDGs are fully localized and domesticated,” she said.

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In her remarks, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo noted that, “it would be beneficial to improve the mechanisms that harmonise the coordination between Government and the diverse range of development actors to jointly identify ways of tackling challenges, share knowledge and channel resources in a harmonized manner, as we all aim towards the national development aspirations.”

In her speech the Right Honorable Anita Among, Speaker of Parliament called on the organisers to take sessions outside of Kampala to the villages and communities where the SDG challenges are. “This will help to ensure stronger connection between the local and national level actors in the delivery of SDGs,” she said. She also called for the documentation of models that work and can support the implementation of SDGs.

His Worship, Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, made the important connection and cross cutting role of SDG 16 and its impact on the attainment of all the other SDGs. He noted that the attainment of SDGs will depend on a strong judicial infrastructure. The appointment of judges and magistrates, the expansion of judicial zones across the country, the elimination of corruption across the country will go a long way in supporting the attainment of SDGs and thereby meeting the NDP and SDG targets for Uganda.

Several models were presented by the participants that could be used in accelerating SDGs including the para-social model in education; the Korean model of development also known as the New Inclusive Development model; the village savings and loans association model; the Commercial Village model; the Bonga youth model; Sustainable and Smart Agriculture models in fishing farming, maggot farming and other types of natural resource-based models were shared.

The Government also presented its own models that included; Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF), the Parish Development Model (PDM), and the Development Response and Displacement Impact Project (DrDIP).

The outcome of the conference contributed to Uganda’s input to High-Level Political Forum in New York in July, and will contribute to Uganda’s Voluntary National Review in 2023.

In her closing remarks, Her Excellency, Vice President Jessica Alupo committed that the outcome document would be further synthesized and presented as a cabinet paper to ensure continued



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo delivering her speech during the First Annual National SDG Conference in Kampala on 16th June 2022 © UN Uganda



Rt. Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba, Minister for General Duties and Focal Point Minister for SDGs speaking during the First Annual National SDG Conference ©SDG Secretariat

tracking the recommendations and taking actions on the key issues raised during the conference. 🌍



CAPACITY BUILDING OF DISTRICT ENGINEERS IN ARUA

By Leticia Wanyagi, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)



District Engineers undergoing capacity building in Arua June 2022 © UNOPS

Since 2019, UNOPS East and Southern Africa has been implementing the "Nyara Bridge Construction Project" in Terego District, funded by the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Works and Transport Uganda (MoWT).

The Nyara bridge is designed to link the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement Ofua Zone and the Rhino Camp Extension Omugo Zone. Currently, the river is impassable when the water levels rise during the rainy season. Host communities, refugees, humanitarian actors and development partners in these settlements must travel a distance of 54 kilometers to access each zone. The project intends to improve logistical efficiency of humanitarian assistance and access to social and protection services by reducing travel time of max 80 min and a travel distance of 54 km.

By enhancing road transport capacity between Omugo Zone and Ofua Zone in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, the project also aims to improve access to more business opportunities and livelihood activities, help grow local economies in host communities and increase the refugee self-reliance for the long term. Approximately 157,000 refugees and 67,470 people in host communities will benefit from the project.

In coordination with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT), UNOPS carried out an 8 day technical training with 8 District Engineers from Arua, Koboko, Madi-Okollo, Maracha and Terego in June 2022 on Bridge inspection, operations and maintenance. Technical capabilities of operations and maintenance are essential to maintain existing bridges in good condition until the end of their design life span as well as for future bridge construction projects. The training included topics about bridge inventory, maintenance planning, bridge structures and elements, inspections, maintenance, repairs, and upgrades for steel, timber and concrete bridges with classroom and practical site sessions. The participants were grateful for the training which has equipped them with new skills and knowledge in bridge inspection and maintenance. The Nyara Bridge will be handed over to the Ministry of Works and Transport in July 2022. 🌍

Working together towards Durable Livelihood Solutions for West Nile Refugees

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more, the centre provides a soft ground for potential areas of convergence from all UN Agencies in the region. However, numerous challenges exist that hinder the centre from operating optimally in support of the refugees and host community. Some of the challenges include inadequacy of raw materials like sunflower and sesame seeds for vegetable oil, milk for yoghurt processing among others.

The UNAC Team therefore recommend involvement of all UN Agencies with WFP and FAO taking lead in promoting sunflower and sesame growing in the region to support the centre, while other Agencies like UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA among others should ensure gender mainstreaming in addition to other supports required by the centre. Enrolment of the trainees to the centre be supported by all agencies; while the UNAC Livelihood and Resilient Technical Team led by UNHCR to support in strategy development and intervention coordination in the refugee settlements.

The UNAC team urges all UN agencies in the region to support scalability, sustainability, and replicability of some of the impacting programmes in the centre as they provide opportunities for improved livelihoods of the refugees and host population in the region.

Present in the mission were UN-RCO, UNHCR (Arua and Moyo), UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNDP, WFP, UNDSS, WHO and partners (GIZ and Comboni brothers etc). UNHCR - Moyo office was the lead Agency on this Mission. 🌍



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