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UN UGANDA BULLETIN

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR AND UN HEADS OF AGENCIES PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF YOUTH DAY

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

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UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (right), with a sign language interpreter, delivers her speech during the National Commemoration of International Youth Day held at Kaunda Grounds, Gulu City on 26 August 2022 ©UN Uganda

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo and several UN Heads of Agencies participated in the National Commemoration of International Youth at Kaunda Grounds, Gulu City on 26th August 2022.

The Chief Guest at the commemoration was President Yoweri Museveni. The event was also attended by Vice President Jessica Alupo, Ministers, Members of Parliament, development partners and representatives from civil society and the leadership of the National Youth Council. The theme was "Intergenerational Solidarity: The Role of Youth in the Implementation of Parish Development Model"

The United Nations delegation to the commemoration led by the UN Resident Coordinator comprised the UNDP Resident Coordinator, Ms. Elsie Attafuah; UN Human Rights Representative; Mr. Robert Kotchani; UN Migration Chief of Mission, Mr. Sanusi Savage; UNFPA Acting Representative, Ms. Abigail Msemburi; UN Women Deputy Representative, Ms. Adekemi Ndieli, WHO Head of Disease Control, Dr. Bayo Fatunmbi; ILO Chief Technical Adviser, Mr. Stephen Opio, UNAIDS Community Mobilisation and Networking Advisor, Ms. Sarah Nakku; WFP Head of Gulu Office, Mr. Tom Ahimbisibwe; UNHCR Youth Focal Point, Mr. Tonny Kasiita. The delegation also included members of the United Nations Area





Left to right - UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo; President Yoweri Museveni; UNDP Resident Coordinator, Ms. Elsie Attafua; and Minister for Gender and Social Development, Hon. Betty Amongi after launching YouthConnekt Uganda ©UN Uganda

Coordination (UNAC) Team in Gulu led by the Acting Head of the UNAC and UNDP Gulu Head of Office, Ms. Florence Ochola, members of the UN Youth Flagship Area Technical Team and UN Communication Sub-group.

In her speech, the UN Resident Coordinator applauded Government for the regulatory measures and innovative initiatives that had recently been implemented to stimulate and promote the social and economic transformation of the young people, which had played a significant role in enabling young people to make meaningful contributions to solving Uganda's development challenges and create livelihoods for themselves. She noted the Parish Development Model as a potential vehicle for accelerating wealth and job creation among the youth, including through social protection mechanisms and mindset change.

She observed that while the government and development actors had combined efforts to support youth, which were encouraging, there was still so much more that needed to be done to address the issues affecting youth. The efforts were still scattered and the scale small compared to the challenge. Therefore, there was need to link these efforts better on a much bigger scale, through better structures for development actors to come together to support enabling policies that better nourish an ecosystem in Uganda that

enables young people to create their own jobs, an ecosystem that encourages entrepreneurship more than it presently does. She called on all development stake holders to invest in developing an ecosystem that can better support young people to make their own jobs.

In his address, President Museveni highlighted four sectors in which youth must engage to create their own jobs and wealth: the agricultural sector with a focus on producing for the market but not only for subsistence; the industrial sector; the service sector, and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

During the commemoration, President Museveni launched YouthConnekt Uganda, a UNDP supported initiative promoting youth innovation and entrepreneurship, that will have a hub housed within the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. YouthConnekt Initiative provides a context-specific approach to what works in addressing issues of youth unemployment and inclusion in socio-economic and political processes.

Prior to the commemoration, the UN Resident Coordinator and UN Heads of Agencies met with the United Nations Area Coordination (UNAC) Team in Gulu comprised of the Heads of UN agency offices in Gulu City. 🌍

ILO BUILDS RESILIENCE OF MICRO BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

By Grace Rwomushana, International Labour Organization (ILO)



Maryan Hassan standing in her shop in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District ©ILO Uganda

Ms. Maryan Hassan is a refugee from Somalia, living in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District in Western Uganda. The 48-year-old widow who came to Uganda in 2011, runs a grocery shop to complement the dwindling relief support. With her little earnings, she takes care of her family of seven, including a three-old grand-child.

But Hassan's business, which has an annual turnover of about USD 1,900 could have closed permanently in 2020 during the lock down to control COVID-19 pandemic, had it not been for a grant from International Labour Organization (ILO), through the PROSPECTS Programme.

"During the lockdown, my shop remained open since I sell groceries. But when my stock sold out, I couldn't re-stock because there was no transport. I used all the money I had, including the business capital, to take care of the family," Hassan told me during my recent visit to Nakivale.

Unlike Hassan's grocery shop, another business, God is Good Studio which offers secretarial services, was not allowed to operate during the lockdown. It's owner, 29-year-old Munguakonkwa Mufungizi, a refugee from Democratic Republic of Congo and one other person instantly became jobless.

"I closed my business premises and shifted the printing machine to my house but very few people knew where I live. My income dropped suddenly. It became hard for me to take care of my wife and our three children," he recalls.

At the easing of the lockdown in September 2020, the ILO PROSPECTS Programme provided business grants to 200 micro enterprises owned by refugees and host community members to resuscitate these businesses. Each of the beneficiary micro businesses in Rhino Camp, West Nile and Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Isingiro District received a cash grant of US\$ 200. Hassan's shop and God is Good Studio were among the beneficiaries.

The business grants were extended through the Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (FSME) Uganda, a member-based organisation, whose members had reported severe distress because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Most of the micro enterprises used the business grant to cover losses incurred during the duration of the lockdown, meet any short-term cash flow needs of the business to get back in operation or buy assets.

Hassan bought a refrigerator, which helped her to kick-start her business after the lockdown.

"The fridge helped to get my business back to life when the lockdown was lifted. Cold drinks sell quickly in Nakivale because of the hot weather. When someone comes to buy cold water from my shop, they can buy something else as well," she explains. "If it was not for the rising commodity prices now, my business would have been on the road to recovery," she added.

For Mufungizi, the grant helped him to hire new business premises where he could access more clients, buy a printer and add one more person to his pre-lockdown workforce of two people.

"I rented a new place that is located closer to the Base Camp where there are many people who need my services," he said. "Although my weekly sales have increased from an average of UGX 350,000 (USD 92) in 2021 to the current UGX 600,000 (USD 157) the profit is being eaten up by the increasing cost of materials," he added.

Businesses in refugee hosting districts, like many others in Uganda, are operating under unprecedented hard economic times – from experiencing the impact of Covid-19 to the rising commodity prices. According to FSME Executive Director, John Walugembe, the business grant has supported their most vulnerable members to remain in operation.

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CENTE-TECH, UNCDF IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO CREATE DIGITAL MARKETPLACE FOR FARMERS

By Rachael Kentenyangi, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



The Permanent Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Dr Aminah Zawedde (centre) with Cente-Tech and UNCDF representatives at the partnership framework signing event ©UNCDF Uganda

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and Centenary Technology Services (Cente-Tech) recently announced a strategic partnership to improve farmers' livelihoods by digitalizing agribusinesses through a single digital agri-based marketplace.

Over the next two years, the two organisations will implement a single platform named the 'Farmer Hub' as a public good designed to provide access to digital services for farmers in their day-to-day lives.

Speaking at the signing of the partnership framework, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Dr Aminah Zawedde, said: "Digital technologies have the capability to enable farmers to understand the interdependence of the factors that affect their farm productivity. They play a key role in optimizing the use of seeds, pesticides and animal management, thus contributing to a more efficient use of resources."

"I congratulate UNCDF and Cente-Tech upon this landmark initiative. The Government of Uganda shall support this private sector led technology intervention," she added.

The partnership will harness the two organisation's expertise in enabling digital and financial inclusion of underserved communities to improve the lives and livelihoods of farmers in rural Uganda. To the partnership, UNCDF brings its extensive technical expertise in making digital work for rural, low-income segments alongside its suit of financing tools (grants, loans, guarantees) to ensure that relevant and impactful digital solutions are accessed and used by rural Ugandans through this platform. Centenary's countrywide network and consumer-base, particularly in rural communities, will allow the solution-providers access to a large customer base that includes savings and credit associations that reach the most underserved communities. "The Farmer Hub will offer convenient,

one-stop access to quality farm inputs at discounted prices, input loans, learning content on farming, and access to markets. An excellent addition to these already incredible features is the presence of digital services, namely, eHealth, eCommerce, and eEducation, among other services," said Peter Kahiigi, Cente-Tech's Chief Technology Officer. "Our objective is simple, to make small farmers big and big farmers better," Kahiigi added.

UNCDF has been working to integrate digitalization into day-to-day services that meet the everyday needs of rural communities in the agriculture, finance, health, education and energy sectors with a specific focus on ensuring that traditionally marginalized populations like smallholder farmers, women, youth, and refugees can fully reap the benefits of an inclusive digital economy.

"UNCDF has made tremendous progress working with private sector partners to pilot and scale viable business models that improve access to and usage of digital products and services for underserved communities to improve their productivity and efficiency. Now in partnering with Cente-Tech, UNCDF hopes to pioneer a new model that drives mass-adoption and scale among rural farming communities for digital products and service offerings – fostering strategic partnerships in the process for better service-delivery to the target communities," said Chris Lukolyo, Digital Country Lead, UNCDF.

Following the signing of the partnership framework, the two organizations will embark on building the Farmer Hub through collaboration with development stakeholders, including government entities, application developers, and solution providers, to ensure that more farmers access various digital services on the platform.

In addition to the Farmer Hub, UNCDF & Cente-Tech will provide financial and digital literacy training to users of the platform within the targeted districts, offer advisory services to solution providers, and create avenues for knowledge exchange among actors in the agricultural and digital ecosystems. 🌍

LESSONS FROM UGANDA: SCALING UP, SCALING OUT, SCALING DEEP

By Berna Mugema, Hadijah Nabbale, and Ashley Prigent, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab team introduces partners to the Accelerator Lab methodology ©UNDP Uganda

The Accelerator Lab network is the world's fastest learning network on development challenges

In 2019 the UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab, alongside counterparts in 59 other countries worldwide, embarked on a mission to introduce new methods of working throughout UNDP. This unique set of methods included strategies for engagement that would eventually allow us to build fit for purpose and scalable solutions to development challenges.

A few months into our journey, we began to curate a 100-day scaling plan encompassing several "lighthouse experiments" and together with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) the Strategy to Scale Innovation for Development was designed to focus on three primary means of scaling:

Scaling Up: Achieving greater numbers through adoption of the innovation.

Scaling Out: Institutional and policy changes through adoption of the innovation.

Scaling Deep: Impacting culture through innovation that alters behaviors and norms.

As we collectively set out to deploy some of these strategies, we discovered some interesting learnings along the way.

Scaling with the Mothership

Many members of the 1st Accelerator Lab cohort of 60 labs (which has since expanded to 91 labs supporting 115 countries) will remember engaging with a particular piece of literature – Accelerator Labs: the challenge of engaging the mothership – before we even understood what the "mothership" was or where she was going.

Our first task was to make sense of pressing development challenges alongside UNDP's Nature Climate Energy and Resilience (NCER) team in a bid to contextualize the Accelerator Lab's new methodologies, insights, and learnings within the frontier challenge of deforestation. Our initial thought was that walking this journey together, right from the process of sensemaking to experimentation, would be a great strategy to scale. What we did not fully comprehend was how these methods would align with preconceived and preplanned project activities, finding ourselves in possession of experiments ready to scale and with resources mobilized, but also finding that handing over these experiments to technical specialists would not be as seamless as initially thought.

ILO BUILDS RESILIENCE OF MICRO BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

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Jackline Mbabazi in her shop in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Isingiro District ©ILO Uganda

"We know that businesses are operating in difficult conditions and need to build resilience. The business grant from ILO has helped our most vulnerable members to stay in business, which is a big achievement at such a time," he explained. "Beyond survival, the training that these entrepreneurs are getting will help them grow their businesses," he added.

In addition to the grant, the PROSPECTS Programme has provided business management training to 197 FSME members, using the GET Ahead tool, a gender-sensitive entrepreneurship training programme designed for women and men with basic numeracy and literacy skills. The training, which was the first one for most of the participants, also includes sessions on the benefits of business formalisation.

"I have learned how to keep business records and how to separate business money from personal money," reports 23-year-old Jackline Mbabazi, a host community member in Isingiro district. "I have also learned to diversify my products and grow my business. For example, I will start producing fruit juice to add to the bottled drinks that I sell," she elaborates.

The PROSPECTS Programme works to bridge the humanitarian to development nexus in the refugee response. With funding by the Government of the Netherlands, PROSPECTS brings together five agencies; namely (IFC, ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR and World Bank) to devise collaborative and innovative approaches for inclusive job creation and education in contexts characterized by forced displacement. 🌍



Informal market vendors at Nakasero market operating under limited capacity during COVID-19 ©UNDP Uganda



UNDP and Uganda Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) staff inspect the newly installed electrical system at Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit in Uganda's National Referral (Mulago) Hospital ©UNDP Uganda

Introducing projects for scale into an environment already at full capacity would prove challenging, so we decided to accompany a lengthened handover process to ensure that UNDP's Nature Climate Energy and Resilience (NCER) team could ably introduce this into the thematic annual work planning.

Scaling with Government

Walking directly with Uganda's Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) on our Biomass to Electricity Project to convert the kitchens of Mulago Hospital's Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit to electricity allowed this national institution to quickly comprehend some of the major barriers to institutional conversion to electric cooking. In addition, ERA would adopt these methodologies and introduce an electric cooking tariff, not only for large institutions such as hospitals and schools, but also for household use. We found that, in terms of scaling up, the turnaround time when working with government was quite short.

Through this process, we have observed that working closely with a government institution on such experiments has allowed us to achieve much more in terms of outcomes but also in terms of making the scaling process much more seamless, allowing the Accelerator Lab team to take a step back and the ERA team to take ownership of the project. Here, as the UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab, we almost find ourselves, in a position where we have departed the mothership and are sailing on our own independent vessel.

Scaling with the Private Sector

The value addition provided in working with private sector partners is evident in their agility. We have witnessed this with our partner Jumia Uganda while working on our E-Commerce Platform to connect informal market vendors to consumers online. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, this pilot project was launched in 3 of Kampala's food markets and was soon scaled to 7 markets with over 3,500 vendors registered on the platform. Working with Jumia allowed us to quickly observe how this experiment could scale out. With nationwide COVID-19 lockdowns easing, there was a risk of people moving back to their old way of physically heading to congested city markets which would hinder the scaling deep of this pilot. This meant that the UNDP Uganda Accelerator Lab worked alongside Jumia to design sustainable models beyond the initial response. Today, Jumia has adopted these learnings to expand this initiative to markets in other districts of Uganda and have expressed interest to champion the advocacy of UNDP's ongoing support to the Government of Uganda to develop a National E-Commerce Strategy.

While sailing the open seas can prove unpredictable and at times perilous, we remain aboard the mothership and we continue to constantly experiment with different methods and strategies to navigate successfully through this unique journey of scaling up, scaling out and scaling deep to implement innovative solutions to development challenges. 🌈



SECOND CHANCE: ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND OTHER SKILLS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN UGANDA

By Edmond Mwebembezi, UN Women



Ateeme Salami at her workplace at an electric shop in Soroti City ©FAWE - Uganda

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), with support from the Swedish government, is implementing the "Promoting Second Chance Education" Programme in Uganda for vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls and young women.

In Uganda, UN Women is providing skills for life to teenage mothers, girls and young women living with HIV, women in sex work, people with disabilities, and survivors of sexual gender-based violence and child brides through its "Promoting Second Chance Education" Programme. The programme, supported by the Swedish Government targets vulnerable and marginalized adolescent girls and young women a six-month hands-on course in electrical installation was one of the vocations available for girls' second chance at education.

One such recipient of the program is Ateeme Salami, originally from Amuria District in Eastern Uganda but now residing and working in Soroti District in an Electronic Installations shop.

"In 2019, after my Senior Two, my parents were stuck and did not have enough funds to further my education," she explains.

As a result, she was forced to drop out of high school in 2019. The third child in a family of seven was upset and stressed because her future prospects had come to a halt due to a lack of funds to further her education.

"Life was difficult until UN Women came along with the Promoting Second Chance Education programme and I got a chance of joining school again," Salami says, smiling.

Salami enrolled in and completed a certificate course in Electrical Installation from Wera Technical Institute in Amuria district, before moving to Soroti where she interned and later landed a job as a salesperson in an Electrical Installations shop in Soroti city. Salami

points out that at Wera, she acquired critical skills in electrical installation, including domestic and commercial installation, which enabled her to find a job.



I was extremely fortunate to be given this opportunity at the electronics workshop. During my internship, a district engineer recognized me and asked me to work for him. In addition to running the shop, I occasionally assist with electric installation and termination when needed," she says.

She goes on to say that thanks to the Promoting Second Chance Education programme, she didn't have to return to the village where there was no work and has been able to earn a living. "I now support my family with basic groceries like soap and sugar, which my parents couldn't afford," says Salami.

According to Elizabeth Mushabe, Leaving No One Behind Program Specialist, UN Women Uganda, implementing the Promoting Second Chance Education programme, the effects of COVID-19 on many financially disadvantaged families were adverse affecting all members in unequal proportions.

She further mentions that most families opted to tradeoff their girl children in exchange for food, many women were trapped with violent partners while others separated due to harassment by partners and the extended family, and many girls could not return to school because they were pregnant and or nursing babies.

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WHO AND THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TRAIN 29 REGIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS IN THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS

By Elise Tcheutchoua Yonkeu, World Health Organization (WHO)



Ms. Judith Komuhendo, facilitator for the RRT Advanced Learning Program training, taking participants through donning and doffing session, Jinja, 2022 ©WHO Uganda

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Uganda's Ministry of Health, has conducted a five-day training for 29 emergency responders from five African countries.

The training scheduled for 15th to 19th August 2022 at the Commonwealth Resort Hotel Munyonyo was intended to build regional capacity to respond to the unpredictable nature of outbreaks of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers in the region.

Funded by WHO, participants were from Uganda, Zambia, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Tanzania and they were trained through the newly updated manual on the management of Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers, which includes the use of approved drugs.

During the launch of the training, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng Acero, the Uganda's Minister of Health recognized the importance of such initiative for Uganda. "It is essential that health workers are well informed on the revised management of viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF) for future epidemics, to save lives and appropriately reduce transmission through adequate and appropriate infection control."

In his opening remarks, the WHO Representative to Uganda Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam said that "effective preparedness for unpredictable outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic fevers is crucial for a rapid response to these diseases, which have caused catastrophic loss of life and other resources in the region."

One of the recent viral hemorrhagic fevers in the region was the Ebola outbreak declared in the Democratic Republic of Congo on April 23, 2022, which ended three months later with four confirmed cases and one probable case, all of whom died.

Operational preparedness for imminent risk is part of the broader context of emergency preparedness and the need for countries to build longer-term capacity to manage public health events, including viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs). The Member States, with support from WHO and its partners, are seeking to invest

more in long-term emergency preparedness capacity so that they are better prepared to manage future epidemics and other public health emergencies. Along with case management preparedness, there is a need to protect frontline health workers in the most at-risk districts in the country through vaccination against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), an initiative that WHO is also pursuing.

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Proactive operational preparedness pays off by reducing the public health impact of emergencies, reducing the cost of response and recovery, and serves as a long-term investment in the health system's capacity to manage health emergencies as per the International Health Regulations 2005.” Dr. Yonas stressed.

In addition, the establishment of temporary and permanent treatment centers is essential to meet the highly required safety criteria for health care workers and the community. Uganda, which has long been one of the epicenters of the Ebola epidemic, is well positioned, given its existing structures for Ebola and other viral hemorrhagic fevers, to provide training for health care professionals.

This training is part of WHO's existing support to countries to prevent and combat endemic diseases and health emergencies such as yellow fever, malaria, monkeypox, and disasters including floods, famine, and drought. 🌍



Ms. Judith Komuhendo, facilitator for the RRT Advanced Learning Program training, showing participants how to properly wear their medical masks, Jinja, 2022 ©WHO Uganda

OBSTETRIC FISTULA SURGEONS IN UGANDA, THE UNSUNG HEROES

By Prossy Jonker Nakanjako, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



Dr. Emintone Ayella Odong getting ready for his afternoon round of obstetric fistula repair ©UNFPA Uganda

Dr. Emintone Ayella Adong, Senior Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Gulu Regional Referral Hospital in Northern Uganda, Dr. Emanuel Odar, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Arua Regional Referral Hospital in the West Nile region of Uganda, and Dr. Innocent Waromu, a trainee on fistula repair based in Warr Health Centre IV, Zombo District are some of the unsung heroes in the fight against obstetric fistula.

We met this trio at Warr Health Center IV in Zombo District, West Nile Sub-region of Uganda. They were just concluding their lunch break, about to set off for their afternoon fistula repair session on the fourth day of the five-day fistula camp. That afternoon, they were setting up for their twenty-first and twenty-second repair sessions.

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We reviewed 35 cases and 28 were listed for repair,” said Dr. Odong. “We have repaired 20 women so far, and hope by close of the camp we shall have repaired all of them.”

Dr. Odong explained that obstetric fistula is a hole between the birth canal and bladder or rectum, often caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without access to timely, high-quality medical treatment.

“Fistula takes away the dignity of a woman. For example, when she walks, there is a footmark wherever she passes,” said Dr. Odong. “Some of us have developed a passion to restore this dignity. Unfortunately, while about 30 fistula repair surgeons are trained only half are operating. We are only two fistula surgeons in the West Nile and Northern sub-regions of Uganda,” Dr. Odong added.

Mobilizing women for repair

The women who came for the surgical camp were mobilized by the Village Health Teams (VHTs) and came from Zombo District and beyond.

Seventeen-year-old Hope* had gotten her repair a couple of days earlier. She narrated that she got pregnant at age 14. Unfortunately, at the time of birth, she could not push the baby. The midwife had to use a vacuum extraction to deliver the baby boy, who did not survive. Days later, she realized that she could not control the flow of urine; her partner abandoned her.

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COVAX MECHANISM INJECTS NEW ENERGY INTO COVID-19 VACCINATION OF REFUGEES

By Joachim Buwembo, United Nations Children's Fund



UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Health with support from the Government of Switzerland and the European Commission, launched the third accelerated mass vaccination exercise in 13 districts across Uganda at Parolinya Refugee Settlement ©UNICEF Uganda

Uganda's central location in the heart of Africa makes in a perpetual destination for refugees streaming in from all directions on the continent. The over 1.5million refugees constitute 3.3 percent of Uganda's population, so vaccinating them is essential for everyone's safety.

Faced with the resurging COVID-19 infections, Uganda's Ministry of Health and its partners led by UNICEF with funding from the Swedish Government and European Commission have gone the extra mile to ensure timely vaccination of the people in the refugee hosting areas. UNHCR supported the exercise in the various refugee hosting districts.

Kyegegwa District Health Officer Dr. Tedson Kandole recalls how the first COVID-19 outbreak affected health service delivery, to the extent that overzealous police officers enforcing the lockdown were barring women in labor from going to hospital. He laments that after the lockdown, it was back to business as usual and COVID-19 vaccination was virtually abandoned despite availability of vaccines.

Kyegegwa District which hosts Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, set a

target to vaccinate 56,612 adults and 17,369 of the 12–17-year-olds under the Humanitarian Buffer programme. The Humanitarian Buffer is a mechanism established within the COVAX Facility to act as a measure of 'last resort' to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for high-risk and vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings.

Senior Nursing Officer Daphne Namusoke, who is the Kyegegwa District Immunization Focal Person says getting people to respond has its challenges and cites the sticky point of vaccine side effects, explaining how they dealt with it:

"To simplify and compress the science of vaccination for our people, I devised an illustration of a stranger suddenly entering your house and you react by fighting him, until you realize he came to train you how to fight a big real enemy who is coming to your village," Namusoke says. "Then you become friends and learn how to fight off the real enemy – by building antibodies. The Village Health Teams used the example."

The VHTs also registered all persons eligible for the jab and kept reminding them to turn up. So, the vaccination exercise which spanned the third week of June was close hitting the target at most vaccination centres.

According to Dr. Eva Kabwongera, the Team Leader for Immunization at UNICEF Uganda, the humanitarian buffer programme was conceived to ensure that the whole country

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benefits from the accelerated COVID-19 mass vaccination exercise. Because of the refugees' mobile nature, experts prefer giving the single dose Johnson & Johnson to first timers.

Many refugees want to do what it takes to preserve life. In Itambabiniga Refugee Settlement, Neema Kabirigi, a 31-year-old pregnant refugee mother of four has just taken her second jab.



I didn't fear to take my first jab, but for the second one, I was afraid as I had got pregnant and thought the vaccine could affect my baby," she says. "But then I saw another woman with a pregnancy bigger than mine being vaccinated and not getting affected, I went and had mine yesterday (14th June 2022). I am okay, waiting for my baby."

Community leaders too have been effectively used. Congolese refugee Nginari Kahiro is volunteer who uses a megaphone to mobilize in the Kakoni Outreach. "People were suspicious because of myths and anti-vaccine propaganda," Kahiro says. "I show them photos of top leaders taking the jab, so they know it is safe."

While convincing the people to be vaccinated is one thing, ensuring that the vaccines are available and safe everywhere in the country is another. A team of supply chain officers and cold chain technicians ensures that 136 cold storage district units are supplied and working, supplying vaccines to health units and outreach posts all the time.

We found Christine Lanyero, a supply chain officer from Ministry of Health headquarters conducting a maintenance support and inspection tour in Isingiro. The District Cold Chain Technician, Deus Asimwe was showing Christine his array of ten refrigerators, their contents of different vaccines and his distribution records. Asimwe also manages the dry supplies which include liquefied gas, injection materials, cold boxes and data tools. He also runs the small fleet of motorcycles.

Lanyero explains that their biggest challenge is unstable electricity supply. But she says UNICEF with Japanese Government funding is working steadily to ensure that all district units have solar power to protect different vaccines from the electricity grid issues. 🌞



UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Health with support from the Government of Switzerland and the European Commission, launched the third accelerated mass vaccination exercise in 13 districts across Uganda at Parolinya Refugee Settlement ©UNICEF Uganda

OBSTETRIC FISTULA SURGEONS IN UGANDA, THE UNSUNG HEROES

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A nurse at Warr Health Center IV sets up for the obstetric fistula repair ©UNFPA Uganda

According to UNFPA young girls are particularly vulnerable because their bodies may not be ready for childbirth.

What will it take to eliminate obstetric fistula?

Obstetric fistula has all but disappeared in developed countries. Yet, UNFPA statistics show that an estimated 500,000 women and girls in more than 55 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean are estimated to be living with fistula.

In Uganda, Ministry of Health statistics show that more than 1500 fistula repair surgeries are conducted annually. However, there is a backlog of more than 75,000 women awaiting repair.

Dr. Mary Otieno, UNFPA Representative in Uganda recommends strengthening the prevention aspect in addition to repair: "Women should have access to quality and timely health care before pregnancy, including family planning, as well as during pregnancy including, all antenatal care visits. Childbirth should be supported by skilled health workers who will ensure a safe birth and the well-being of mother and baby. Lastly, ensuring prevention of teenage pregnancy as bodies of young girls have not matured to go through the trauma of childbirth." 🌍

* name of survivor concealed to protect her privacy

THOUSANDS TAKE PART IN THE KABAKA BIRTHDAY RUN TO SUPPORT THE HIV RESPONSE IN BUGANDA

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



Left to Right - The UNAIDS Country Director, Regional Director, Executive Director, the King of Buganda, Queen and Prime Minister having a photo moment during the Kabaka Birthday Run ©UNAIDS Uganda

An estimated 80 000 people took part in the Kabaka Birthday Run, an annual event that forms part of the celebrations to mark the birthday of Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II of Buganda. For the last three years, the run's theme has been "Men for Good Health and Ending AIDS by 2030."

The run is part of the Kabaka's five-year campaign to increase the uptake of HIV testing and treatment services, with a particular focus on men and boys. It has yielded remarkable results in the Buganda region, with new HIV infections down more than in any other region of Uganda over the last few years.

The campaign is called "Men are Stars - Abaami Munyeenye" and connects men and boys aged 15—49 years old to HIV testing, treatment and care services, especially in the areas most affected by the pandemic. Through events such as the Kabaka Birthday Run, the Masaza football cup, the royal boat regatta, traditional campfire centres, school camps, radio and television shows, men and boys learn about the importance of going for regular health check-ups, including for HIV testing.

UNAIDS Executive Director, Ms. Winnie Byanyima, who attended the run in Mengo paid tribute to the Kabaka's contribution to reducing the impact of HIV in Buganda.

"His Majesty, under your leadership and through your messages to men and boys, Buganda has made remarkable progress against the AIDS pandemic in the last five years," said Ms. Byanyima,



Participants during the Kabaka Birthday Run ©UNAIDS Uganda

"UNAIDS looks forward to strengthening our partnership to reach other vulnerable groups such as young women and adolescent girls and to get Africa on track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030."

The run was also attended by other UN in Uganda colleagues from UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO and UNDSS in the spirit of Delivering as One.

In recognition of his significant contribution to the AIDS response, Ms. Byanyima confirmed the Kabaka in his role as UNAIDS Africa Goodwill Ambassador. 🌍



UPDF OFFICERS URGED TO GUARANTEE THE INVIOABILITY OF RIGHTS OF ALL UGANDANS

By Sandra Kanagwa Nyangoma, UN Human Rights



Seated left to right in civilian attire are Mr. Byoonabye Kamadi, Director of Regional Operations at Uganda Human Rights Commission; Ms. Grace Perry, Deputy Country Representative OHCHR; Ms. Mariam Wangadya, Chairperson Uganda Human Rights Commission; and Mr. Emmanuel Momoh, Team Leader at OHCHR with a team of UPDF Senior Officers after the 4-Day training at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre (URDCC) in Jinja ©OHCHR Uganda

UN Human Rights Office in Uganda, in partnership with the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), facilitated a 4-day high-level human rights training at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre (URDCC) in Jinja for 46 (7 females and 39 males) senior officers of the Uganda Defence Forces (UPDF).

The training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of the senior officers with human rights knowledge and concepts applicable in security and law enforcement operations. This training introduced the senior officers to international, regional, and national human rights instruments, and equipped them with skills on the human rights standards applicable to the use of force in security. They were briefed on the applicable human rights standards relevant to elections including the Women's Council / Committee elections. The training also focused on women, peace and security, the right to life and the obligations of the UPDF under their Code of Conduct.

Ms Grace Pelly, the Deputy Country Representative, in her opening remarks, stressed it is vital for UPDF soldiers to remember that respect of human rights provides the moral and ethical fabric of their profession and that the failure to treat all Ugandans with

respect and dignity greatly undermines public trust and endangers democracy. "The aim of the training is to deepen UPDF personnel's understanding and appreciation of human rights issues and their impact on military duties." Ms Grace said.

Ms. Mariam Wangadya, the Chairperson of Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) said that the Commission anticipates that with the human rights training, there will be a significant reduction of human rights violations by UPDF officers.



The role of UPDF is critical for national security, peace, law, and democracy in Uganda. We acknowledge that protecting national interests at home and abroad, in providing a safe and secure environment for all citizens to live and prosper is not a walk in the park. We must empower our officers, to act and respond with reasonable force and respect for all Ugandans," Ms. Mariam said.

Speaking on behalf of the UPDF, Colonel Deo Karikona, the Director of Human Rights at UPDF noted that the training for

senior officers organized by the UN Human Rights Office demonstrated synergies in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Colonel tasked participants to continuously sensitize their junior soldiers to ensure conscious discipline as they carry out their military duties. He also emphasized the UPDF Code of Conduct that is people-centred which has stood the test of time. He reiterated that the Code of Conduct states that members of the Defence Forces shall not abuse, insult, provoke, beat or steal property and obtain goods from the public without paying for them or through false pretence. Trespassing on any person's property by law enforcement officers is illegal. He emphasized that as a security institute, the UPDF works for the inviolability of human rights. "We need to jointly guarantee the inviolability of the human rights of all Ugandans." He concluded.

Other speakers during the training included Brigadier General Felix Kulayigye, the UPDF spokesperson, Ms. Noowe Monalisa, the Head Human Rights Officer at CMI/UPDF, and human rights officers of Uganda Human Rights Commission, and facilitators from UN Human Rights Office.

Brigadier General Kulayigye underscored the watchdog role of the media without which, "the world would be in 'darkness', un-informed and miserable." He cautioned that public agencies and media need each other embedded with mutual respect and not mutual conspiracy to conceal malpractices because they promote public service delivery. He clarified on the position of the spokesperson of the UPDF and explained that any "military officer in UPDF uniform automatically becomes the spokesperson, therefore officers should be mindful of their behaviour, especially while in uniform as it reflects negatively or positively on the UPDF as an institution," Brig. General Felix said.

Ms. Noowe Monalisa, the Head Human Rights Office at CMI/UPDF said that CMI/UPDFs' long-standing partnership with the UN Human Rights office since 2012 had significantly facilitated the building of the capacity of security officers on human rights. She added that it had contributed to a reduction of human rights violations and improved the public image of the UPDF. "The military courts have started implementing the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act in their proceedings and rulings to eradicate torture within the UPDF. In partnership with UHRC, UPDF referral systems have also been established to handle cases of human rights violations reported against the army for timely redress." She noted. 🌍



Emmanuel Momoh, OHCHR Human Rights Officer interacts with the UPDF Senior Officers at a training on human rights at the Uganda Rapid Deployment Capability Centre (URDCC) in Jinja ©OHCHR Uganda

SECOND CHANCE: ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND OTHER SKILLS FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN UGANDA

“With the help of the Swedish Government, UN Women, working with the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) – Uganda identified and supported a total of more than 1,200 young women to return to and complete various vocations, while close to 100 learners were supported to complete their UCE and UACE certification courses,” Elizabeth articulates.

She further highlights the common vocations, which include plumbing, carpentry, electrical and solar installations, motor vehicle and auto engine mechanics, catering, auto mobile phone repairs, tailoring, agriculture and extension services, driving, metal welding and fabrication, building and concrete practice.

Until 2021, the project was implemented in 14 districts selected from Karamoja, Acholi, Bukedi, Teso, and Ruwenzori sub-regions of Uganda. These include Napak, Nakapiripirit, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Moroto, Gulu, Amudat, Pader, Amuria, Kitgum, Kaberamaido, Tororo and Kasese based on prevalence of HIV, teenage pregnancy and GBV among the beneficiary populations.

In 2022, the project was further extended to eight other districts of the Rwenzori Sub-region including Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Fort Portal City and Kitagwenda.

Despite her achievements, Salami believes she has more potential. "My dream is to acquire more knowledge in electrical engineering so that I can find the bigger opportunities because they are very many," she says. 🌍

REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE IN ENTEBBE SUPPORTING PEACE IN AFRICA

By Mark Kaheru, United Nations Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE)



United Nations Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE) Senior Management plant fruit trees on the Entebbe Support Base to mark World Environment Day ©RSCE

The United Nations Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE) is a shared service centre for peace operations in Africa.

The Centre was established in 2010 through General Assembly resolution 64/269 as part of the Global Field Support Strategy (GFSS) to transform service delivery to field missions through a fundamental shift in the existing division of labour and relocation of functions to improve responsiveness and address the needs of the field missions.

The RSCE consolidates Administrative, Logistical, and Information technology support functions previously located in various field missions in a less volatile, more family-friendly regional location. It provides efficient, client-orientated, and scalable services while reducing the missions' footprints to UN field missions across Africa.

Since its inception, the RSCE has managed non-location-dependent functions for up to 19 peacekeeping and small political missions in Africa, which make up over 77% of all global peace operations.

The Administrative and Logistics Services of RSCE include recruitment and onboarding of UN personnel, staff contract renewals, separation management, payroll processing and payment

for national and international staff, UN volunteers and uniformed personnel, travel, vendor management, and procurement, education grant processing and disbursement, freight and logistical support and regional stock deployments among others.

With little over 400 staff in Uganda, the RSCE supports \$6.3BN of UN operations rendering service to over 17,000 UN personnel monthly. This support translates to more than 400,000 transactions annually and an average of over 1,000 transactions daily.

Managing a very diverse and geographically disbursed UN clientele across Africa can sometimes be a herculean task, given the high numbers of individual transactions.

Thanks to a dedicated Client Services Section (CSS) and the Client Service Delivery Model (CSDM) launched in 2019, the RSCE has streamlined, enhanced, and standardized client service delivery across the RSCE client missions.

With the CSDM, the RSCE introduced a hub and spoke model for handling client queries. With the RSCE in the Centre as the hub and all client entities as the spokes, the CSS is a one-stop shop for all client queries, allowing the various RSCE Service Lines time to focus on transactions while the CSS takes on client engagement and communication.

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GOVERNMENT COMMITTS TO MAKING ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT A TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FREE ZONE

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



Left – Right) Hon. Musa Echweru, Uganda’s Minister of State for Works and Col. Geoffrey Kambere, the Commissioner for Immigration at the Ministry of Internal Affairs append their signatures on the commitment to make Entebbe Airport, a trafficking in persons free zone ©UNODC Uganda

The Government of Uganda has committed to make Entebbe International Airport a “trafficking in persons free zone.”

The pledge made by the two key ministries in charge of immigration; the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Works and Transport, together with the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA), signaled a renewed effort to curb the growing crime of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Representatives of UN agencies, development partners and the representatives of the membership of the Uganda Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP), joined the government officials in committing their signatures on a plaque.



Trafficking in persons is real! It’s not just a story... There are people who can testify that, ‘I was a victim and I am here because some kind people rescued me.’ I thank all those who stand up to fight it,” Uganda’s Minister of State for Works, Hon. Musa Echweru, said.

The minister who also held a closed-door meeting with seven girls who were trafficked to the Middle East but were repatriated by a United States charity, said getting information from the victims is going to be a game changer at policy level.

“From what I have listened to today, and the chilling stories of the victims, I have come to the conclusion that Government needs to review the exercise of externalization of labour,” Minister Echweru stated. “We must review it [labour export] objectively with the view of filtering organisations that purport to be externalizing labour but they are agents of exploitation,” he added.

The minister made the remarks during an event organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Eastern Africa, in partnership with the Government of Uganda, IOM, GIZ and CATIP-U, to commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons – marked every 30th July. The remembrance was symbolically hosted at the Entebbe Airport’s new departure lounge.

On his part, Col. Geoffrey Kambere, the Commissioner for Immigration at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said Uganda remains a source, transit and destination for human trafficking. “This is a transnational challenge which required concerted efforts,” he said. “Entebbe International Airport, one of the main exits and entry points by travelers, has been used by traffickers to transport the unsuspecting victims,” Col. Kambere observed.

According to the national report for countering trafficking in persons 2021, Entebbe Airport police registered 64 cases of trafficking in persons involving 727 victims from various areas of Uganda. A total of 297 persons had been trafficked to Dubai, 175 to Saudi Arabia, 110 to Qatar, 50 to United Arab Emirates.

“It should be made extremely risky for anyone to engage in human trafficking,” Mr. Fred Bamwesigye, the Managing Director of the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, commented.



Members of the Uganda Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP) with Hon. Musa Echweru, Uganda's Minister of State for Works (wearing a tie) commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons ©UNODC Uganda

In 2009, Uganda's Parliament passed the "Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act" which prohibits the trafficking in persons, provides for investigation of all types of trafficking, offences, prosecution of perpetrators, rescue, protection and rehabilitation of victims.

In 2013, the UN General Assembly designated 30th July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to, "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights

The 2022 commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons was marked under the theme: "Use and abuse of technology," to shine a bright light on the role of technology as a tool that can both enable and impede human trafficking.

Speaking on behalf of UNODC, Mr. Solomon Wasia Masitsa, observed that whereas human trafficking has conquered the cyberspace, hence presenting new challenges, governments can harness and deploy technology to translate into an advantage in terms of detection, rescue and support for victims. He also noted that technology can effectively enhance investigations to support prosecution of criminals involved in trafficking in persons.

UNODC is the guardian of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Protocol (Palermo Protocol). As such, UNODC provides technical assistance to member states to ratify and implement the UNTOC and TiP Protocols. 🌍

REGIONAL SERVICE CENTRE IN ENTEBBE SUPPORTING PEACE IN AFRICA

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Service Line Manager for the Cashiers Service Line serving a client ©RSCE

The Regional Field Technology Service (RFTS) is the heart of Information Technology service provision for all RSCE client missions. It comprises six operational units handling telecommunications, networks and servers, ICT infrastructure, technical maintenance, Video teleconferencing services, and digital solutions.

The RFTS provides support using centralized solutions through shared services and regional cooperation networks. RFTS, through the Geographic Information Services (GIS) coordinates with other UN entities in Uganda and in regional missions on all geospatial matters including trainings, data collection and exchange.

The RFTS Regional Telephone Billing Unit was set up to standardize and streamline the telephone billing processes for peacekeeping missions in the region, and the unit reconciles an average of 8,739 telephone bills per month.

The RSCE is also the home of the Regional Training and Conference Centre. This state-of-the-art facility host over 200 events and over 4,000 participants a year. The facility serves as a training hub for UN field operations. It accommodates a cafeteria, 4 plenary rooms, 3 medium-sized rooms, 5 break-out rooms, 2 computer labs, 1 large conference hall each fitted with internet access, phone access, projector with large screens, laptops, and all spaces are covid19 compliant. RTCC also provides VTC connectivity, audio equipment, and stationery on request.

Visitors to the RSCE also have access to 2 banks with ATMs, 2 cafeterias, a level 2 medical facility, duty-free shopping, and a gym allocated just a stone's throw from the Lake Victoria and the Entebbe International Airport. 🌍



FAO GRADUATES THE THIRD COHORT OF FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINEES TO SERVE AS FRONT-LINE FIGHTERS AGAINST ANIMAL DISEASES

By Agatha Ayebazibwe, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



ISAVET Cohort 3 Trainees pose for a photo with the Chief Veterinary Officer, MAAIF, Dr Anna Rose Ademun and FAO Deputy Country Representative, Ms Priya Gujadhur, at Uganda National Civil Service College in Jinja ©FAO Uganda

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently graduated the third cohort of veterinarians who successfully completed the In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (ISAVET). The forty graduates in the third cohort brings the total of ISAVET Trainees to 87.

The four-month training programme, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was developed by FAO in collaboration with and Texas A&M University and in collaboration with African universities including Makerere University, Uganda and Inter-State School of Veterinary Science and Medicine (EISMV), Senegal, and in 2018 piloted in Uganda through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), in addition to other five countries across the Africa region.

The third cohort graduation ceremony of the training of veterinary professionals in field epidemiology was presided over by Dr. Anna Rose Ademun Okurut on behalf of Maj. Gen. David Kasura Kyomukama, MAAIF Permanent Secretary, who stated that training was directly contributing to the Ministry's mission by building capacity of the animal health workforce to effectively contribute to animal production and productivity, animal and public health and welfare through prevention and control of animal diseases.

"ISAVET programme has far trained 87 personnel in the three cohorts conducted. The need remains huge, with about 2100 sub-counties in Uganda. To meet the Country's need for at least one ISAVET trainee in each sub-county across the country requires advocacy, more funding and strategic plans to cover the gaps," Okurut said. She reaffirmed MAAIF's commitment towards the institutionalisation of the ISAVET programme in the country.

FAO Deputy Representative in Uganda, Ms. Priya Gujadhur, while speaking to ISAVET Cohort 3 graduates at the Civil Service Training Institute in Jinja, said that strengthening capacity for disease control especially zoonotic diseases is critical to reducing human disease, safeguarding lives and livelihoods, and fostering food security for all – all at the core of FAO's work.

"Through the ISAVET program, we have registered achievements in the area of improved skills and knowledge in epidemiology, increased understanding of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases, Emerging and Re-emerging infectious diseases and zoonotic threats at a local levels, and enhanced disease surveillance, reporting and early response in areas where ISAVET trainees are deployed," she noted.

The importance of the ISAVET training is clear when the alternative is considered. Direct cost of zoonotic diseases at global level, over the last decade, has been estimated to be more than \$20 billion with over \$200 billion indirect losses to affected economies as a whole. The impact of disease is even much greater due to loss of lives, reduced opportunities, livelihoods and social welfare. Lack of appropriate or timely action can amplify loss of life and costs of control, especially zoonotic diseases.

Ms. Gujadhur appealed to the Government of Uganda to extend ISAVET Training to every district given the high demand and impact that the course has generated, adding that, "It is our hope that the graduates will form part of the much needed positive change makers committed to improving the performance of the animal health delivery system in the country."

USAID's Global Health Security Agenda Advisor in Uganda, Dr Sarah Peige congratulated the trainees and appealed to them to make use your training right away, and maintaining the professional connections that they may have built through the program.



It is an honor for USAID to support the third, and largest, cohort of trainees in the ISAVET program. Uganda is looking to these trainees to lead One Health activities in your districts to prepare for, prevent, detect, and respond to zoonotic disease threats," said Dr Paige. 🌍

THE FARMERS AND TRADERS THAT ARE FEEDING KOBOKO DISTRICT

By Melissa Kyeyune and Agriculture and Market Support Programme, World Food Programme (WFP)



The WFP Country Director Abdurahman Meygag visits Yambura Women and Men Group in Koboko District © WFP Uganda

In 2017 in Koboko District, a group of women realized that in order to fend for their families, they needed to start collectively saving their money, as a group.

They called themselves ‘Yambura Women Group’- seventeen women who had some agricultural knowledge, but little to no capital to take advantage of the land around them.

They were eventually supported by the World Food Programme (through implementing partner ACAV), and received trainings in group dynamics, post-harvest handling, financial literacy and record-keeping. They also received agricultural inputs including a maize crib and pallets, all of which have helped them to harvest more. The group members were supported to open individual bank accounts, and were linked to markets where they could sell their produce.

The group later admitted male members, although women still make up the majority of the now 45 farmers. The group is now known as ‘Yambura Women and Men Group’.

Aruna Sanya usually buys maize grain, beans, cassava chips and cassava flour from farmer groups such as Yambura, to sell to contractors.

He began this business in 2018, when WFP introduced cash-based food assistance in Lobule Refugee Settlement. He was then linked to farmer groups that were being supported by WFP, in order to buy their produce. He bought 1,421 kg of maize grain in



Aruna Sanya buys from local farmer groups to supply millers © WFP Uganda

the first season of 2021 and second season of 2020, paying a total of Ugx 7,092,400 to the groups.

He was also linked to a processing plant, Power Source Millers, in Koboko town, whom he directly supplies with the maize grain, who then process it as maize flour. The maize flour is then packaged and sold to wholesalers.

Aruna hopes to continue linking with farmer groups such as Yambura, to keep his business going. 🌍



NEW BRIDGE INCREASES ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, SOCIAL AND PROTECTION SERVICES FOR REFUGEES

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



(L-R) Commissioner Roads and Bridges Eng. Stephen Kitonsa; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Works and Transport Uganda (MoWT) Mr. Bageya Waiswa; and Ambassador of Japan to Uganda H.E. Fukuzawa Hidemoto commission the Nyara Bridge in Terego District, Uganda ©UNOPS Uganda

On the 29th July 2022, UNOPS in collaboration with the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Works and Transport in Uganda commissioned the Nyara Bridge in Terego District, Uganda. In attendance were more than 350 people including representatives from the Embassy of Japan, Terego District, Arua District, Ministry of Works and Transport Uganda (MoWT), Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, UNHCR, WFP, the MoWT Permanent Secretary and Host community members and refugees.

Since March 2019, UNOPS Kenya Multi-Country Office (KEMC) has been implementing the 'Nyara Bridge Construction Project' in Terego District, with a project budget of \$2.4 million co-financed by the Government of Japan and the Ministry of Works and Transport in Uganda.

The 48m Nyara Bridge is designed to link the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement Ofua Zone and the Rhino Camp Extension Omugo Zone in Terego, Uganda. Host communities, refugees, humanitarian actors and development partners in these settlements had to travel 54 kilometres to access the two sides of the Nyara River. During the rainy season, members of the community lost their lives trying to cross the river.

The bridge will improve the efficiency of humanitarian assistance and increase access to social and protection services by reducing travel time from 80 minutes to less than 15 minutes and reducing the travel distance from 54 kilometres to 10 kilometres between Omugo and Ofua zones.

The Bridge was constructed by a local contractor "Dynaco Limited" and the project is commended for promoting the local construction industry development, which is in line with the government policy of Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU). By enhancing



Nyara Bridge in Terego District, West Nile Sub-region ©UNOPS Uganda

road transport capacity between Omugo Zone and Ofua Zone in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, the project will improve access to more business opportunities and livelihood activities, help grow local economies in host communities and increase the long-term self-reliance of refugees.

In coordination with the Ministry of Works and Transport Uganda, UNOPS Uganda also carried out an 8-day technical training session with Engineers from five districts on bridge inspection, operations and maintenance. Technical capabilities of operations and maintenance are essential to maintain the good condition of the bridge and the technical knowledge will be vital for future bridge construction projects.

Approximately 157,000 refugees and more than 67,000 people in host communities will benefit from the newly constructed bridge. The bridge will be used to transport goods and allow the communities to access education and health facilities as well as enable the promotion of peaceful coexistence by connecting different cultures between the two refugee settlement zones. 🌍

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING AND APPLIANCES (EELA) PROJECT IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA *By United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*



An Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) Project official explaining to partners ©UNIDO Uganda

The East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions face very low electrification rates with regional averages of 22% and 48% respectively. Lighting accounts for approximately 15% of global power consumption and 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

And without meaningful market and technology changes, the demand for cooling services with the commensurate electricity requirements is set to more than double in the next decades.

Efficient electricity usage promotes energy security, which lies at the heart of the economic and human development goals and also underpins many of the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

The Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) project was launched in 2019 to support the EAC and SADC member states in the transition to a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economies. Implemented by UNIDO, with the East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) and the Southern African Development Community Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) as key executing partners and regional platforms, the project is funded by the Swedish International Development Corporation. Technical support is provided by the Swedish Energy Agency and CLASP.

“The EELA project, with the support of its partners, aims to implement a broad range of activities to promote energy efficient lighting and appliances in key areas across the two regions. Significant progress has been made over the past three years, and we are looking forward to further increase the reach and impact of the project, with the support of additional partners and donors,” says UNIDO’s EELA Project coordinator, Ms. Karin Reiss-Haimbala.

A recent example of the impact of the project was the adoption of the Minimum Energy Performance Standard (MEPS) for lighting products by the EAC Standards Committee on 1st July 2022 (given reference EAS 1064-1&2:2022). This is a crucial step to end the influx of low-quality and inefficient products lighting products into EAC member states and its production in these states. It follows on the adoption of MEPS for lighting products by the SADC Cooperation in Standardisation (SADCSTAN) Committee early last year (given reference SADC HT 109:2021).

The crucial next step will now be for the EAC partner states to adopt this standard, and ensure its implementation, enforcement and monitoring in member countries. The EELA project has developed a Regional Compliance Framework to assist EAC and SADC member countries in the implementation of EELA standards and policies. In line with the Framework, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards – along with similar institutions in the other 21 member states in EAC and SADC regions received the portable lighting testing equipment. The EELA Project is procuring state of art lighting testing equipment for hand over to UNBS for testing different lighting technologies. UNBS was selected by the EELA Project Steering Committee to be the regional reference laboratory for the EAC, it will service the testing requirements in the region and assume an integral role in the collaborative network of knowledge sharing with other national test laboratories.

Some of the other achievements of the project to date include the following:

- Launch of the EELA e-Learning platform, in collaboration with the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre in Zambia.
- Support for the development of a regional energy efficiency policy for the EAC (currently under way)
- Launch of the EELA Technical Assistance and Co-financing Facility to support private sector companies and public institutions. 8 entities from EAC and SADC have already been selected for support.
- The development and distribution of a private sector engagement strategy for EELA and guidelines for energy service business models
- The launch of the EELA webinar series for knowledge sharing among member states.
- The development of Green Procurement Guidelines for EELA.

All the activities of the EELA project have a strong focus on the inclusion and empowerment of women and youth. 🌍



IOM, UNFCCC SUPPORT UGANDA TO HOST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

By Richard Kavuma, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



President Museveni, arriving for the closing session of the conference, is greeted by Ministers and officials from Ministry of Water and Environment, IOM and UNFCCC ©IOM Uganda

From 27th to 29th July 2022, the Government of Uganda hosted a regional high-level inter-ministerial conference that culminated into the “Kampala Declaration” on climate change-induced migration and displacement.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda and Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan witnessed as ministers and high representatives from 16 countries signed the declaration at Speke Resort Munyonyo.

The Conference was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Kampala-based Regional Collaboration Centre of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and East African Development Bank (EADB). A key objective was to get a united regional voice for a discussion on climate change-induced displacement during the next Conference of Parties to the Paris Agreement (COP27) in November. Signatories to the declaration – from the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) – were Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, South Sudan and Uganda. Others were Algeria, Zambia, Senegal (holding presidency of the African Union), and Egypt (COP27 host).

The Declaration aims to bring regional states together to prioritize, respond to, and galvanize global support to help deal with the harsh effects of climate change on human mobility.

“

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The commitment we have made today is our first landmark strengthening our cooperation in relation to climate change induced mobility and its associated effects.” President Museveni said.

Millions of people across the region have been displaced and are on the move due to climate change induced disasters. More than 18 million people in the EHOA region are at risk of famine and hunger.

President Salva Kiir spoke about the plight of poor nations like his, which are set to be worst hit by global warming.

“Despite the urgency of climate change, we are yet to receive the 100 billion dollars pledged by the developed world to the developing world in 2020. While this amount is below the target, we have not received it yet and we hear that it will be raised in 2023. By then it may be too late”

The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uganda, Ms Susan Ngongi-Namondo, highlighted the UN’s support to the Government of Uganda in developing a plan that provides an overall guiding framework to address climate change. In response to the ever-increasing intensity and frequency of climate shocks,

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UNESCO-EU SUPPORT TO BOLSTER LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY IN UGANDA CELEBRATED

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



From (left to right) Mr. Charles Draecabo, UNESCO National Projects Officer; Mr. Ngandeu Ngatta Hugue, UNESCO Regional Head of Social and Human Sciences; and Ag. Head of Culture; Mr. Lennart Deridder, Ag. Head of Corporation at European Union in Uganda; Hon. Peace Mutuuzo, Minister of State for Gender and Culture; Ms. Rosie Agoi, Secretary General UNATCOM and Ms. Aisha Namatovu, President General, Pearlwood @UNESCO Uganda

Uganda has benefitted from a EU/UNESCO Expert Facility on the Governance of Culture in Developing Countries which focuses on supporting regulatory frameworks to strengthen the cultural and creative industries (CCI) and promote South-South cooperation through a project titled *“Creating Measures to provide tax incentives and encourage formation of and coordination among professional associations aimed at supporting the local content development and professionalization of the film sector in Uganda,”* the end of project visibility event of which was organized at Imperial Royal Hotel, Kampala, Uganda, on 27 July 2022.

This four-year project reaffirmed UNESCO’s role as lead UN entity for culture, and the Organization’s commitment to support the emergence of the creative economy for the economic development, social well-being and sustainable development of its Member States.

Indeed, it contributed to the domestication of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression (2005), by supporting the Government in its obligations to establish a conducive regulatory environment to facilitate the development of strong and dynamic cultural and creative industry (CCI) through developing national cultural policy environment that places CCI and related economy at the heart of development.

The presentation on the project’s final report by the National Expert, Mr. Polly Kamukama, was one of the highlights of this visibility event that brought together different stakeholders involved in the film industry, from actors to producers as well as technicians, but also production houses, corporate bodies, distributors, including

representatives from TV channels. Private sector was also represented through financial institutions and other companies. Supportive institutions such as the British Council and Alliance Française were also presents.

In his presentation, the National Expert enlightened the audience with project’s major achievements, including the development of a digital platform known as Kibanda Express; a database to provide real time statistics for planning purposes, a policy paper on measures to address challenges in the sector, and a Five-Year Action Plan with key policy recommendations to address the major challenges identified.



The film industry in Uganda is still hampered by limited access to funding, limited market for Ugandan films, inadequate skills and limited access to modern filmmaking equipment,” he highlighted.

The event was officiated by the Minister of State for Gender, Hon. Peace Mutuuzo. In her address, she highlighted the important role that film industry continues to play towards the socio-economic transformation of the country, when she affirmed: “culture plays a central role in the attainment of the socio-economic development, and it capacitates creativity, innovation and access to knowledge.” Hon. Mutuuzo further reaffirmed commitment of the Government, consistent with its National Development Plan III, to make the film industry of Uganda one of the sectors that contribute significantly



Film Industry players keenly follow the proceedings of the event ©UNESCO Uganda

to the increase of households' income, the sector being a major employer of youths, the largest segment of the Ugandan population.

Ambassador Attilio Pacifici, Head of the EU Delegation to Uganda, represented by Mr. Lennart Deridder, Ag. Head of Corporation acknowledged the collaboration that led to the successful implementation of the project: "This dialogue would not have been so fruitful without the technical support and the expertise of UNESCO, which is recognized as a long-term partner of the European Union. I hope that this "mustard seed" planted by this EU/UNESCO film project will blossom and we will all eventually have the opportunity to watch Ugandan movies on international screens."

The UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda, Ms. Susan Namondo Ngongi, was represented on the occasion by Mr. Charles Draecabo, UNESCO National Projects Officer. He commended the creative industry in Uganda and specifically the film sector and highlighted its potential for addressing employment challenges that the country is grappling with, hence its contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Agenda in Uganda.



The Secretary General UNESCO National Commission (UNATCOM) Ms. Rosie Agoi recognized the contribution of the European Union and UNESCO through funding the project until its logical conclusion, stating that "I would like to thank the EU and UNESCO for providing the resources which sustained the implementation process for the project in Uganda."

The occasion was also used to unveil the Five-Year Strategic Plan for the film industry in Uganda, as well as the presentation of a promotional video documenting the achievements of the project.

The EU/UNESCO expert facility, through this project in Uganda implemented from May 2020 to November 2021 effectively bolstered the role and importance of cultural and creative industries, critical as both enabler and accelerator for sustainable development and stimulating the film industry contribution to sustainable economic growth in Uganda. 🌍

13 CLIMATE ACTION

IOM, UNFCCC support Uganda to host regional Conference on Migration, Environment and Climate Change

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Ministers and high-level representatives from 16 countries with copies of the Kampala Declaration shortly after signing them ©IOM Uganda

she recommended more financial aid for community adaptation.



"The most vulnerable suffer the most, while having contributed the least to climate change," Ms Ngongi-Namondo said.

Among high-level UN officials in attendance included IOM Deputy Director General Ugochi Daniels, UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary Ovais Sarmad, IOM Special Envoy on Climate Change Caroline Dumas and regional directors of IOM, UN Women and FAO, among others.

The conference included active participation by the youth, including a youth panel discussion, and with Ugandan climate advocate Rose Kobusinge addressing the closing session. In his remarks on the opening day, the IOM Uganda Chief of Mission, Mr Sanusi Tejan Savage, had encouraged youth in the region to rise above the tag of "leaders of tomorrow" and offer leadership today on key global issues.

Government of Uganda, IOM, and UNFCCC will work together to reach millions of Africans through outreach, advocacy, and political engagement, so that COP27 reflects the hopes and aspirations of the continent on migration, environment, and climate change, as stated in the Declaration. 🌍



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