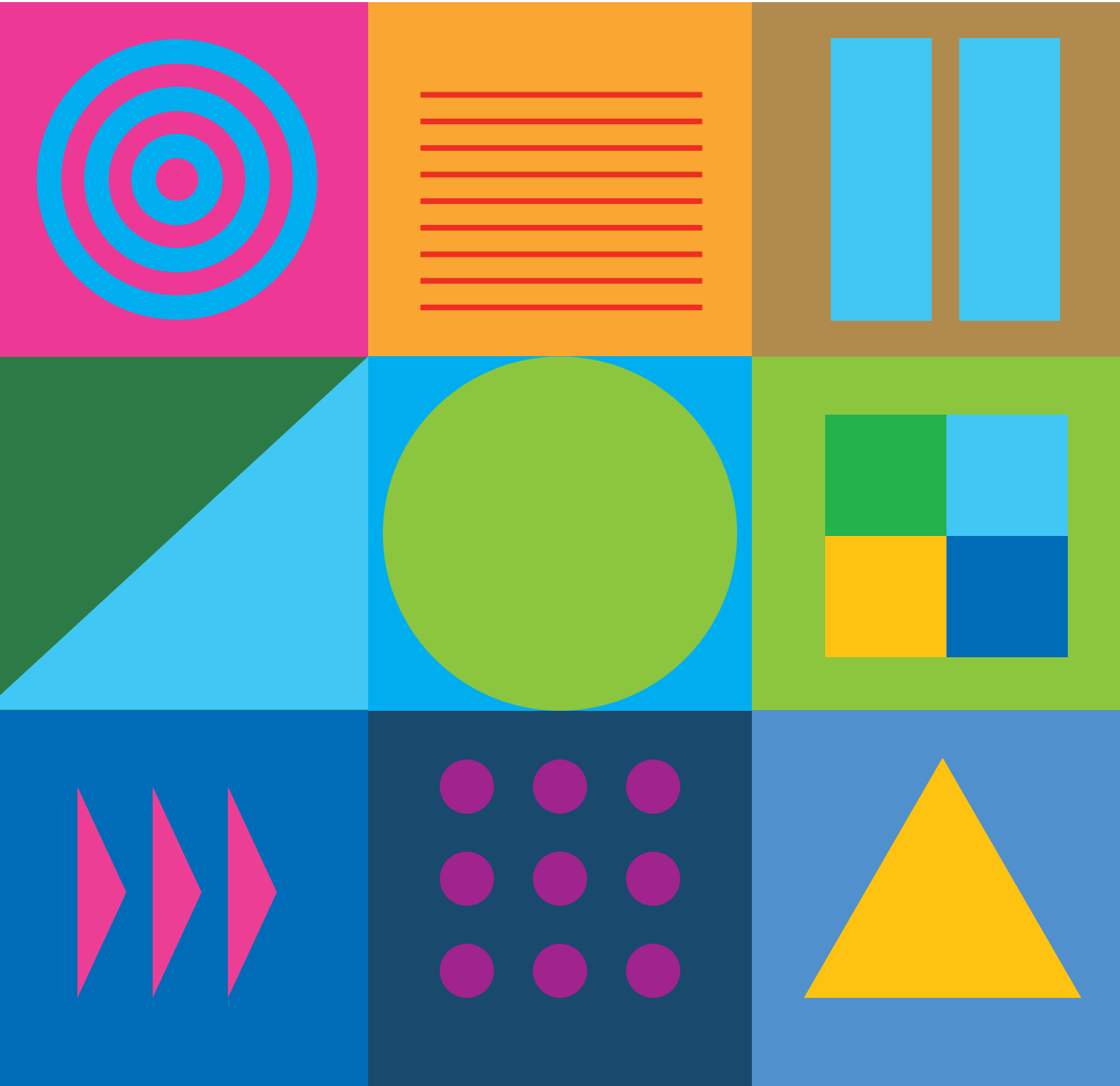


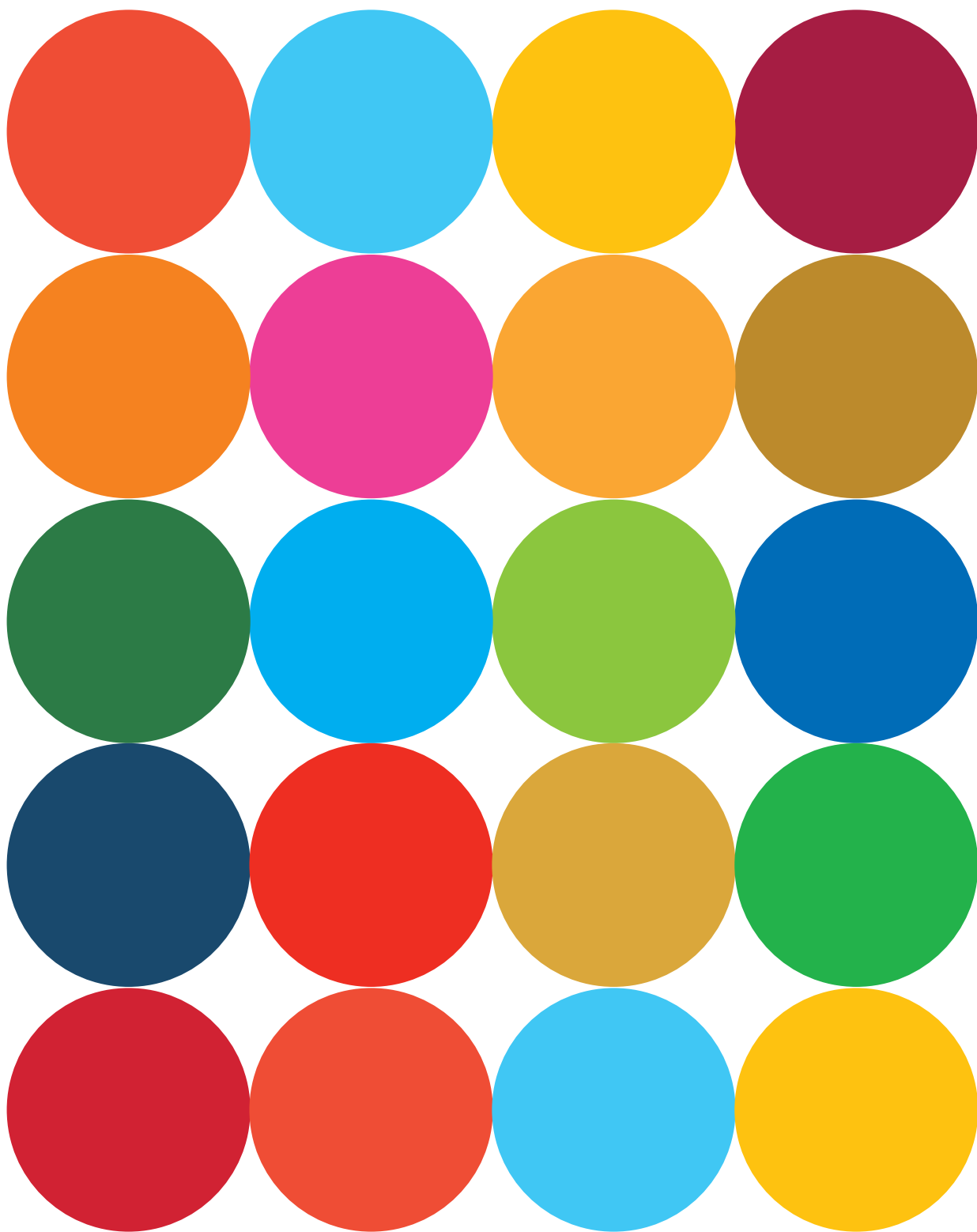


UNITED NATIONS
UGANDA



UN REFORM MILESTONES IN UGANDA





On 1 January 2019, the United Nations pivoted to a new era of UN Reforms for the UN development system, exactly three years after the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development took effect. With these changes the United Nations development system is expected to become stronger, have a better-defined collective identity as a trusted, reliable, accountable and effective partner to countries for achieving the 2030 Agenda and one that Member States can invest in and rely on, because they understand and support what it does, what it can deliver on, and how it functions.

The new dispensation of the UN reform has come with major changes in the roles and responsibilities for the UN and partners including;

- A reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system with an independent and empowered Resident Coordinator at its centre
- Delinking RC's Role from UNDP Resident Representative Role – as of Feb last year (22 February 2019) the RC became the most high-ranking UN personal in the country with clear reporting lines to the UN Secretary-General and the President of Uganda.

- Clear and more robust lines of accountability, from UN country teams to host governments, from the Resident Coordinator to the Secretary-General, as well as between Resident Coordinators and heads of UN entities at the country level.
- United Nations Development Assistance Framework (now renamed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) as "the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."
- A new generation of UN Country Teams, comprised of representatives from Government, Development Partners, Civil Society and the Private sector. The new generation UNCT meets periodically and members of the civil society participate in these meetings including the most recent one held last week.
- A shift in donor funding towards more predictable and flexible resources, that allow, in turn, the UN development system to tailor its support, enhance results delivery, and provide greater transparency, accountability and visibility for resources entrusted to the system.
- More and better communication on what the UN development system does, how it operates, and what Member States get from their investments in the system.
- A new generation UN staff knowledgeable about the UN reform performing their functions effectively.

Uganda has demonstrated its leadership by making bold moves as an early starter in the localization of the UN reform. This booklet highlights key Milestones that the UN Country Team in partnership with Government of Uganda and development partners have achieved in the implementation of the UN Reform.



UN REFORM MILESTONES

I. A NEW GENERATION OF UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAMS



A group photo of New Generation UN Country Team after their first meeting at UNICEF offices in Kampala

i. A NEW GENERATION OF UN COUNTRY TEAM

A New Generation of UN Country Team, comprised of representatives from Government, UN Heads of Agency, Development Partners, Civil Society, Academia and the Private sector has been established in Uganda. The new generation UNCT meets periodically.

New Generation UNCT meetings were held on 7 October 2019 and 3 February 2020 -The international development partners are enthusiastic about implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN reform as shown during the meetings where most of the discussions hinged on 'what is new' with the UN reform. They observed that reform was necessary for increased coherence and effective in delivery by the UN. The partners welcomed UN reform and shared experiences of reforms.



H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda addressing UN Country Team at Mbale State Lodge. Photo credits: State House Uganda

ii. UNCT DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENT

On 4 July 2019 for the first time the President of Uganda met with the UNCT where discussions were made on the strategic interventions of the UN in Uganda to address the bottlenecks to the country's development. This strategic dialogue will become an annual event.





Minister for General Duties and Cabinet Focal Point on the SDGs, Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut relaunches a local campaign dubbed “Tondeka Mabega” – Leave No One Behind Citizen Dialogues.

iii. APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER FOR SDGs

As a result of advocacy from the UN System in Uganda, in October 2018, the Minister for General Duties, Hon Mary Karoro Okurut was appointed Minister responsible for coordinating implementation of the SDGs and since her appointment she has been active in SDG promotional activities, including participation in UN/SDGs Awareness month which culminated on the UN/SDGs Day, which was commemorated with an exhibition of innovations by youth in support of the 17 SDGs.

iv. NATIONAL SDGs SECRETARIAT

A national SDG Secretariat was established in March 2020 at the Office of the Prime Minister and it is responsible for coordinating localization of the SDGs by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Private Sector and Civil Society. The SDG Secretariat and the UNCT will work with youth leaders to undertake dialogues on SDGs at 13 locations across the country as part of UN@75 celebrations.

v. CABINET OF UGANDA ADOPTED THE SDGs AS A PATHWAY FOR DEVELOPMENT

In October 2019 the Cabinet of Uganda adopted the SDGs as a pathway for achievement of the country’s Vision 2040 as a result of advocacy from the UN Country Team. This included the decision to require SDG compliance certificates for Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

vi. UN DAY AS NATIONAL DAY FOR SDGs



A group photo of Key dignitaries from Government, Diplomatic Community, NGOs, Private Sector and UN Heads of Agencies during UN Day Commemoration on 24th October 2019 at Kololo Airstrip, Kampala

The Government of Uganda embarked on the process of observing UN Day as a national holiday in 2019. The national commemoration on 24th October 2019 was organised by a National Organising Committee (NOC) with representatives from government ministries, departments and agencies, private sector, civil society organisations including youth groups and UN agencies. During the celebrations 21 youth innovators were chosen to showcase their solutions to development challenges in the country. For 2020, UN and partners are working on criteria to establish a Uganda SDG Seal that will be given every year starting this one to those chosen to have impactful solutions to national development bottlenecks.



A Youth Panel discussing Youth contribution to the SDGs in Uganda during UN Day 2019 Commemoration at Kololo grounds, Kampala

vii. STATE DINNER IN HONOUR OF UN DAY



Outgoing IOM Chief of Mission in Uganda receiving a plaque from H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda during UN Day State dinner at State House Entebbe

On 26th October 2019, the President of Uganda hosted the UN Country Team and their invited guests to the first ever State Dinner to celebrate the 74th Anniversary of the UN and 57 Anniversary of Uganda's membership to the UN. The invited UN guests at the dinner at State House, Entebbe included cabinet ministers, members of the diplomatic community, civil society and award winning youth innovators involved in the promotion of the SDGs.



viii. FORMULATION OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) roll-out in Uganda is aligned to the National Development Plan III (NDPIII). As we finalize the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and move to the new Cooperation Framework strategic prioritization in the coming weeks, substantive efforts were made by the UNCT to collectively support the Government of Uganda on the SDG Voluntary National Review and the formulation of the NDP III. Our first ever Cooperation Framework will be signed by the President alongside the third National Development Plan in June 2020. The UNCT is working with the Government and the European Union to roll out the Integrated National Financial Framework in support of the new national development plan and our cooperation framework.

II. REINVIGORATING THE ROLE OF THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM



President Yoweri Museveni receiving letters of credence from the UN Secretary-General from Her Excellency, Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda at State House, Entebbe

i. A REINVIGORATED RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM WITH AN INDEPENDENT AND EMPOWERED RESIDENT COORDINATOR AT ITS CENTRE.

On 22 February 2019 the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, presented her credentials to President Yoweri Museveni at ceremony at State House, Entebbe. The Resident Coordinator became the most high-ranking UN personal in the country with clear reporting lines to the UN Secretary-General and the President of Uganda. The government of Uganda immediately made available independent number, registration plates and accorded the ranking of Ambassador to the RC. With this came an increased expectation for the RC to manage and support visits by high ranking UN officials which is being implemented as a service to the system.

ii. DELINKING RC'S ROLE FROM UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ROLE:

In 2019, the Government of Uganda welcomed the first UNDP Resident Representative. UNDP played a key role in supporting the Government in diverse ways on the reflections around the third National Development Plan NDP III 2020 -2025. Given the importance of the UN's support to the NDP III, and by extension, its implications for the Common Country Analysis and the UNSDCF, UNDP's reflection seminars supported NDPIII formulation process.

iii. CLEAR, MATRIXED, DUAL REPORTING MODEL WAS ESTABLISHED WITH UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS THROUGH THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK (MAF).

The MAF provides guidance on accountable and reporting of UNCT to their respective entities on individual mandates, and periodically reporting to the Resident Coordinator on their individual activities and on their respective contributions to the collective results of the United Nations Development System towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda at the country level. In 2019, the Uganda UNCT developed a Joint UN Country Team Work Plan in support of attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development this has helped to informed shared accountability. The SDG Leadership Lab offered by DOCO in 2018 helped the UNCT to work towards a new leadership principles in light of the UN Reform.

iv. ENHANCED AUTHORITY FOR THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT OF BOTH AGENCY PROGRAMMES AND INTER-AGENCY POOLED FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT:

The Resident Coordinator and the Office of the Resident Coordinator has taken a more active and prominent role in enhancing inter-agency coordination in programming, as well as ensuring alignment with government priorities and increased collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and the broader donor community. A notable example is leadership and coordination of the ***EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls in Uganda***. In Uganda, this Initiative includes the European Union, eight UN agencies and entities, and is being implemented through and with 20 different government ministries, departments, and agencies and more than 30 civil society entities, including civil society organizations, religious and cultural organizations, private sector, and academia. It is now in its second year of implementation and has already demonstrates results that would have not otherwise been achieved in the absence of this approach. Through the Resident Coordinator the UNCT has benefitted from various allocations from the CERF to respond to under-funded and sudden emergencies in Uganda. Another example is the PBF allocation for conflict prevention focusing on the youth in Uganda as well as the Joint Electoral Support Program that is currently being finalized.

III. REVAMPING THE REGIONAL APPROACH

i. COLLABORATION WITH UNECA ON POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL GAP ANALYSIS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

The National Planning Authority is commended for having worked with the UN to generate evidence that has informed the ongoing efforts to align the NDPIII to the SDGs. Some of this includes, the policy and institutional gap analysis for implementation of SDGs, the modeling work currently being supported by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNDP and the different levels of consultations and expertise that the UN has provided to NPA. The impressive progress notwithstanding, it is critical to ensure that the alignment cascades downwards, from the national level, to sectors and finally sub-national (local level) development frameworks. Furthermore, efforts are ongoing to develop an SDG Dashboard to monitor and track implementation of SDGs in the country with alignment to Agenda 2030, Uganda's NDP III, Vision 2040, East African Agenda 2050 and Africa Union's agenda 2063. This is an area where NPA is expected to play a leading role and the UN will continue to work collaborate to ensure full localization and implementation of the Agenda. In addition, as the new Plan evolves together with its coordination structure, the coordination structure and roadmap for implementation of SDGs in Uganda will have to be in full alignment.



ii. COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE GREAT LAKES



President Museveni meeting with Mr. Xia Huang, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to the Great Lakes region, 18th February 2020 at State House Entebbe

The UN Country Team in Uganda is collaborating with the Office of Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (OSEGL) in supporting the upcoming Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference (GLITC) scheduled for 18th-20th March 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda. The Conference will focus on: “cross-border investment and trade as a catalyst for regional integration”.



President Museveni Launching the Rwenzori Region Investment Expo Jan 31, 2020 in Fort portal District, south western Uganda

In preparation for the GLITC on 16 January 2020, the UN Country Team in Uganda collaborated with the OSEGL in the launch of the Great Lakes Private Sector Forum for Uganda, which is a key milestone leading to GLITC and linked to the cross-border Agri-Led Initiative in the Rwenzori Sub-region. The UN Resident Coordinator has sought the support of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, the Economic Commission for Africa and UNCDF to develop investment profiles of youth entrepreneurs and priority districts in the Rwenzori region as part of efforts to foster cross-border prosperity, trade and stability. Leveraging the regions vast natural resources while creating jobs and providing skills for the mostly young population stands at the heart of this effort.

iii. COLLABORATION WITH UNCT KENYA, IGAD ON THE CROSS BORDER PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN KARAMOJA, TURKANA AND WEST POKOT



President Yoweri Museveni and President Uhuru Kenyatta, wrapped in Karamojong blankets, with members of the Uganda and Kenya Country Teams during the launch of the Cross-Programme on 12 September 2019 in Moroto

President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya jointly launch of the Karamoja Cross-border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development on 12 September 2019 in in Karamoja, Turkana and West Pokot. The programme is supported by the UN Country Teams of Uganda and Kenya.

The objective of the programme is to accord communities on the Uganda and Kenya sides of the border, opportunities for better co-operation, close coordination and peaceful co-existence as well as bridging isolation gaps to improve their livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions for sustainable peace and development.

The two Governments of Kenya and Uganda will be responsible for resource mobilization and ensuring political leadership and ownership of the programme support for the project. The programme will further leverage partnerships from bi lateral and multinational partners, private sector, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It is an example of a program that places people and planet at the epicenter of planning for sustainable development and peace.

IV. STRATEGIC DIRECTION, OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SYSTEM-WIDE RESULTS

i. INTER-AGENCY ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, in April 2019 an inter-agency task force was formed to support system-wide efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. The task force, comprised of focal points from thirteen agencies, coordinated with and enhanced agency efforts to establish community-based complaints mechanisms and strengthen the capacities of PSEA Networks in all refugee settlements and host communities. Efforts were also initiated to establish CBCMs and PSEA Networks outside of the humanitarian context, which began with the Karamoja sub-region. In 2019, one of the areas where the UN in Uganda invested efforts was strengthening the capacities of private sector partners to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. The UN Operations Management Team incorporated PSEA sessions into financial management training for 300 UN private sector partners. This was followed by engagement with individual private sector partners who requested assisted with the development of PSEA policies and trainings.



The United Nations Reform is an opportunity to bring the UN Charter closer to efforts to save lives, create new economic models, reinvigorate positive values and bring hope to new generations. We can prosper and protect our environment. We must facilitate the identification of solutions from the youth. We have the opportunity to support peace and development without leaving anyone behind. I want to thank everyone who is part of the journey to make the UN Reform a reality in Uganda and bring the Sustainable Development Goals to life.



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