



UNITED NATIONS  
UGANDA



# UN UGANDA BULLETIN

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

## YOUTH COALITION FOR SDGs VISITS KAWUMU PRESIDENTIAL DEMONSTRATION FARM

*By Solomon Odongo, Youth Coalition for SDGs*

## OVERVIEW

- Youth Coalition for SDGs visits Kawumu Presidential Demonstration Farm
- The third New Generation UN Country Team meeting on the theme "Private Sector Partnerships for SDGs"
- President Museveni discusses sustainable development with Youth Coalition for SDGs
- Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda launches the National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas for Uganda
- IOM Uganda hands over more equipment and supplies to support the COVID-19 response
- UN Women implements the "Promoting women's effective participation in peace building in Uganda" project
- Spotlight initiative commemorates FGM Day
- Youth Coalition for SDGs commemorates International Day of Education
- UNCDF and Education Service Commission launch an E-Recruitment system for teachers
- UNICEF supported playgrounds have become a second home for children in refugee settlements in Uganda
- UN Area Coordination Team conducts awareness raising sessions on PSEA and SDGs



Members of the Youth Coalition for SDGs led by UN Resident Coordinator H.E Rosa Malongo visiting Kawumu Presidential Demonstration Farm in Luwero District on 18 February 2021

**The Youth Coalition for SDGs led by UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Rosa Malongo visited Kawumu Presidential Demonstration Farm, Luwero District to learn about commercial farming on small acreage, which is key in Uganda's transformation.**

The youth were accompanied by mentors: Ms. Elsie Attafuah, United Nations Development Plan (UNDP) Representative in Uganda; Dr. Antonio Querido, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative in Uganda; Mr. Deus Tirwakinda, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Support to Agricultural Revitalization & Transformation (START) Facility Manager; Mr. Victor Ochen, UN Global Ambassador for Peace and Executive Director African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET); Mr. Apollo Ssegawa Executive Director, Consortium For Enhancing Universities Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD); Mr. Samuel Otim Rizzo, Chief of Party Avsi and Mr. Martin Akampurira, Director for Youth JB International.

The group of 35 youth and their mentors visited the farm to learn about the community investment approach to shift the mindset of young people to get involved in farming as a business. While at the farm the group visited demonstration sites for fish farming, vegetables, pastures, dairy, poultry, coffee, nursery for seedlings, matooke, passion fruits, pineapple and mushrooms. At the end of the visit to youth committed to put into practice what they had learned and to mobilize fellow youth to replicate the best practices.





## NEW GENERATION UN COUNTRY TEAM MEETING ON PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP FOR SDGS HELD

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



UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Rosa Malango chairing the New Generation UN Country Team meeting on Private Sector Partnership for SDGs, flanked by UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Elsie Attafuaah (left) and Dr. Dmitry Pozhidaev, UNCDF Head of Office, 25 February 2021

### The third New Generation UN Country Team meeting on the theme "Private Sector Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration in Uganda, was held on 25th February 2021. The meeting was attended by over 100 people most of whom joined online.

The meeting was held within the framework of UN reform, mandated by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/279, repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the heart of all UN's work.

As a result of the reform the New Generation UNCT is now a robust team comprised of the Heads of UN Agencies in Uganda, International Banks, Development Partners, National and International Non-Governmental Organisations, Private Sector, Academia, Youth among others.

The meeting was addressed by the Focal Point Minister for SDGs, Hon. Mary Okurut, who highlighted the significant role of the private sector in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde noted that Government recognizes the Private Sector as the driver of the economic growth. She called for focus on addresses the needs of the rural youth.

An overview of proposed Uganda Private Sector Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals was presented by Mr. Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director, Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU). The meeting agreed that the platform will be formally launched in March 2020.

A presentation by Equity Bank on its experience with the UN in the region and new partnership opportunities in Uganda was delivered from Nairobi by Dr. James Mwangi, Group Managing Director and CEO, Equity Group Holdings Plc. and Executive Chairman, Equity Group Foundation. Dr. Mwangi called for the essence of business to be redefined to focus on issues such as climate change and agribusiness. He urged private sector to make the SDGs part of their DNA. Ms. Malango invited Equity Group to join Uganda Private Sector Platform for the SDGs and invited Dr. Mwangi to visit Uganda and hold discussion with the UNCT on collaboration with the SDGs, an invitation Dr. Mwangi accepted. 🌍

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## PRESIDENT MUSEVENI DISCUSSES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH YOUTH COALITION FOR SDGs

*By Earnest Benjamin Kivumbi, Youth Coalition for SDGs*



H.E. President Yoweri Museveni (centre), UN Resident Coordinator H.E. Rosa Malongo (third from right) and members of the Youth Coalition for SDGs after their meeting at State House, Entebbe, 10 February 2021

### The Youth Coalition for SDGs led by UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Rosa Malongo met with H.E. President Yoweri Museveni at State House Entebbe on 10th February and discussed how youth can contribute to sustainable development.

The meeting was attended by Hon. Mary Okurut, Minister for General Duties and Focal Point Minister for SDGs and Dr. Albert Byamugisha, the Head of the National SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister.

The youth were accompanied Dr. Maxime Houinato, UN Women Representative; Ms. Elsie Attafuah, United Nations Development Plan (UNDP) and Mr. Victor Ochen, UN Global Ambassador for Peace and Executive Director African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET).

The meeting focused on the five thematic areas of the Youth Coalition for SDGs: Human Capital Development, Climate Action and Environmental Conservation, Sports for Development, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, and Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The President highlighted the five key areas of wealth creation

as follows: commercial agriculture, industrialisation, services, information communication technology; and public service.

The President invited the youth to two commercial farms, one showcasing sustainable commercial agriculture on a small scale and his farm in Rwakitura. The President called on the Youth Coalition for SDGs to promote commercial agriculture as a means of wealth creation. He also invited the youth to visit the Limoto Wetland Wise Use Demonstration Site in Pallisa District and called on them to promote the sustainable use of wetlands.

He informed that the Government was establishing industrial parks in 18 zones in the country and he committed to provide space to young investors rent free in these industrial parks, young investors would only pay for utilities such as electricity and water. He committed to a tax holiday of 7 years for Youth Led-start ups.

The President noted that the Uganda Development Bank (UDB) borrowing requirements were not appropriate for young investors. He committed to adjustment on the collateral requirements and lowering the minimum borrowing amount for youth borrowers.

The President noted that the dialogue he had with the members of the Youth Coalition for SDGs has been fruitful and he committed to hold annual dialogues with members of the coalition to discuss the involvement of young people in actively contribution to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. 🌍



# RISK AND VULNERABILITY ATLAS LAUNCHED TO BOOST UGANDA EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND MITIGATE DISASTERS

By Michael Mubangizi, UN Development Programme (UNDP)



The Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda assents to the dummy copy of the National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas for Uganda during the launch. Looking on is Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hon. Eng. Hillary Onek

**A document that identifies areas in Uganda that are prone to disasters, the extent of the hazard, the probability and frequency of occurrence and magnitude of their impacts has been launched, to boost the country's preparedness and response to crises and shocks. The Atlas outlines what most at-risk communities should do to reduce vulnerability and strengthen their resilience.**

The National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas of Uganda, with statistics, graphic representation and maps, giving pointers on mitigation measures was launched by Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister of Uganda, at his office on Tuesday 22nd February 2021.

During the launch, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which supported the compilation of the Atlas also formally handed over strategic equipment that will be used to reactivate the National Emergency Coordination and Operation Centre (NECOC) at the national and district levels. In 2014, UNDP supported the establishment of NECOC, a 24-hour hub to provide timely and early warning information on disasters, climate modelling and forecasting, and help coordinate emergency responses. It is the third such centre in Africa with the other two located in Ethiopia and South Africa.

After a nationwide analysis of historical data and research, it was found that Uganda is vulnerable to seven disasters including; flooding, drought, hailstorms, windstorms, landslides, earthquakes and lightning.

## National hazard exposure

The most at the risk/critical facilities were identified as; the general population, health centers, schools, residential areas, roads, warehouses and water supply systems.

According to the findings, drought mostly affects Karamoja and Teso sub-region, West Nile and the cattle corridor areas while floods are dominant in regions of; Elgon, Bukedi, Rwenzori, Teso, Karamoja, Buliisa, Nakasongola, Acholi and West Nile areas.

On the other hand, the hotspots for lightning are the districts of; Bushenyi, Mitooma, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Busia, Namutumba, Bukwo, Kalangala, Buvuma, Adjumani, Nwoya, Amuru and Lamwo. Earthquake occurrence is more likely in the western arm of the Rift Valley, Kagera area and around Lake Victoria basin. Relatedly, hailstorm is common in Elgon, Bukedi, Central and Western areas while windstorms are common in Bukedi, Teso, Ankole, Bunyoro, Rwenzori and South Western Uganda.

Speaking shortly before launching the Atlas, the Prime Minister of Uganda the Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda hailed the National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas of Uganda as, "an important instrument to help in the understanding of risks that we have been exposed to in all their dimensions."

While recognizing the negative effects of hazards and disasters, the PM called for concerted efforts to mitigate them. "Disasters are holding back long-term development endeavors, affecting our macro-economic performance, the achievement of SDGs, the attainment of the Uganda Vision 2040 and its aspiration of 'A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years'; Dr. Rugunda said.

## Ministers calls for dedicated budget to deal with Disasters

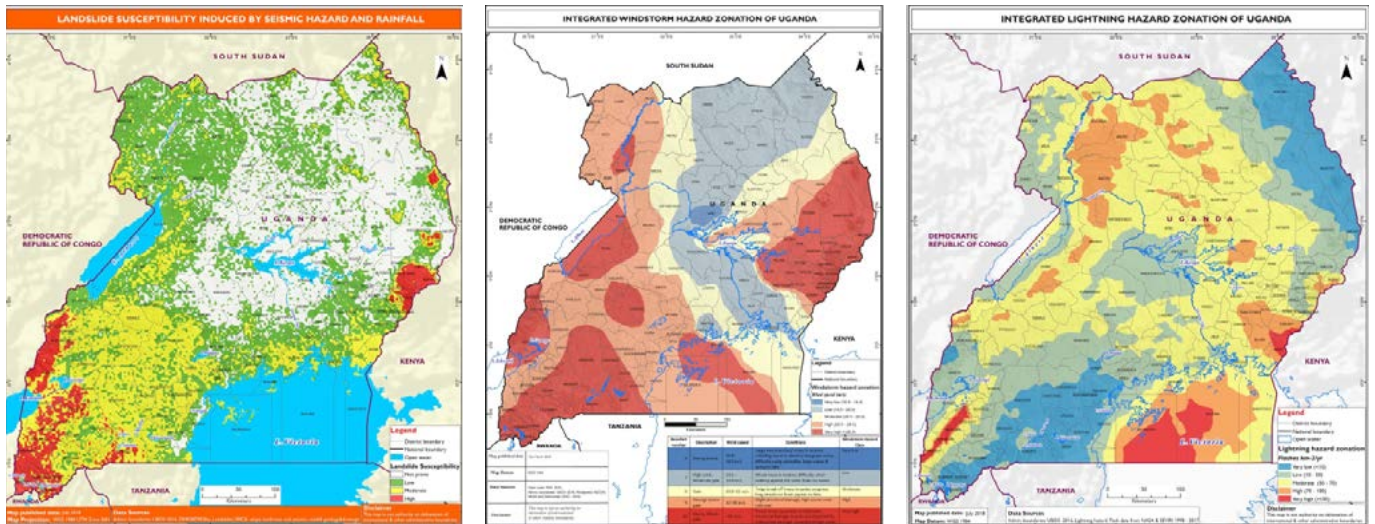
Hon. Eng. Hillary Onek, the Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees expressed delight at the shift to digital analysis of disasters and hazards. "We are moving towards a scientific approach to disasters' management. In the past, crises were emergencies but now we have the capacity to forecast and plan for them in advance," Hon. Onek pointed out.

The Minister also called for a dedicated budget for disasters in national planning frameworks, "Currently we operate on contingency funding which is undefined. Now that we have scientific evidence of disasters, we should have a budget to be able to address the issues identified."

The UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Elsie Attafuaah, said the Atlas provides vital evidence for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals, Uganda's Vision 2040 and the third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2021 – 2025.

Ms. Attafuaah noted, adding that the atlas also supports the development of a National Data Infrastructure (NDI), whilst building community resilience through improved risk information and knowledge generation.





L-R: Maps showing integrated Landslide Hazard Zonation, windstorm zonation and lightning hazard zonation of Uganda

“The National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas is crucial for resilience building, especially now, in the wake of the far reaching impacts of COVID-19 which have exacerbated the impacts of the other disasters the country has recently faced such as; floods, locusts, and landslides. UNDP is delighted to have supported the Government of Uganda to develop the atlas in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.”



The UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Elsie Attafuah hands over equipment that will be used to reactivate the National Emergency Coordination and Operation Centre (NECOC) at the national and district levels to the Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda. Looking on is Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hon. Eng. Hillary Onek

Additionally, she said, the atlas will guide policy and decision-making to enhance coordination of disaster risk reduction and emergency management by contributing to risk-proofing investments, prioritizing resources allocation towards high-risk areas, and pursuing risk-informed development.

UNDP is also supporting the Office of the Prime Minister with in the ongoing Development of a Comprehensive National Disaster Recovery Plan informed by the post-flood disaster risk assessment that UNDP supported in 2020.

### Previous UNDP support

Over the last six years, NECOC established with UNDP’s support has reached several important milestones including the establishment of District Disaster Management Committees, the development of Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability (HRV) Profiles and Maps covering 112 districts. It has also helped to avert over 57 disasters.

UNDP also supported the National Planning Authority (NPA) in the formulation of Uganda’s NDP III and in so doing ensured that disaster risk reduction is explicitly and extensively included in the plan. UNDP is also supporting OPM in the ongoing Development of a Comprehensive National Disaster Recovery Plan informed by the post-flood disaster risk assessment that UNDP supported in 2020.

### EFFECT OF DISASTERS

Uganda’s economic and human development is closely tied to many climate-sensitive resources and sectors such as agriculture, water, environment, tourism, natural resources, health, transport, and housing.

Over the years, disasters in Uganda have been occurring with increasing frequency and intensity, leading to a loss of lives, property, disruption in services, and decreased access to infrastructure. Efforts to contain these hazards have been hampered by the emergence of COVID-19.

During the period 2019-2020 alone, excluding COVID-19 impacts, disaster events reported in over 70 districts affected about 800,000 people, displaced 21,000 families, and resulted in UGX 563.24 billion economic losses according to the 2020 National Disaster Recovery Plan for Uganda.



## IOM EXTENDS MORE SUPPORT TO ENTEBBE AIRPORT

By Richard M Kavuma, International Organization for Migration (IOM) – The UN Migration Agency



Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) Airports Director Ayub Sooma explains a point to IOM Chief of Mission Sanusi Tejan Savage (2nd from right) and UCAA Ag Director General Fred Bamwesigye (right) and IOM Migration Health Coordinator Victoria Kajja (left), at Entebbe Airport, 21 Jan 2021

### With funding from the Government of Denmark, IOM Uganda recently handed over more equipment and supplies to support the COVID-19 response at Entebbe Airport.

IOM Chief of Mission Sanusi Tejan Savage formally presented the consignment to the Ag Director General of the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Fred Bamwesigye.

The event was witnessed by senior officials from UCAA, Ministry of Health and IOM Uganda. It was one of the closing acts of the IOM project to tackle COVID at Uganda's points of entry, which was launched at Entebbe in September 2020. The project has previously handed over various equipment and supplies to UCAA, including a walk-through disinfectant booth.

The consignment included electronic COVID-messaging boards, infrared thermometers and batteries, disposable and heavy-duty gloves, sanitizer, disinfectants, and face shields, among items.

Mr Savage thanked the Government of Denmark for funding the project to help tackle COVID at points of entry, and hailed the strong partnership with UCAA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, and the UN family. 🌍

### PREVIOUS IOM SUPPORT TO THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

IOM supported the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs with solar power installations for 26 border crossing points in July 2020 to support border management. In September 2020 IOM reinforced disease surveillance and prevention activities at points of entry. Priority was given to Entebbe International Airport, as well as landing sites and ground points of entry of Kasensero and Kyotera, which have highly-mobile fishing communities. Entebbe International Airport received 4 Stand-alone Air Conditioners including installation with drainage system, 10 Automated sanitizers Saraya Type, 1 Automatic Computerized Thermoscanner, 1 Automatic walk through booth disinfectant with temperature reading, personal protective equipment including infra thermometers, masks, gloves, hand washing equipment, hand sanitizer and gloves. In October 2020 IOM handed over Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to DCIC including an automatic walk-through booth disinfectant with temperature reading. IOM also provided capacity building of the port health authorities on COVID-19 on screening and infection prevention and control, and provided supported to data management processes.





## WHO TAKES THE COVID-19 MESSAGE TO RWENSHAMA LANDING SITE, ONE OF UGANDA'S HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)



Fahad Barigira (in blue fabric face mask) flanked by his brother helped mobilize their colleagues for the brief interaction with the WHO team.

**At about 4:00 pm, a team from the field support team from the World Health Organization (WHO) meets Fahad Barigira, a 24-year-old man on the shores of Lake Edward. He is getting ready for his next fishing shift which starts at 5:00 pm and ends at 7:00 am the next day.**

Fahad is married with one child and has spent three years as a fisherman on the lake. He is part of a three-man fishing crew which includes his brother and a friend.

There is a noticeable rise in the water level and indeed the WHO team drove a flooded road to reach this place. "Every day for the last three months, the water attacks homes, when it rains, at night, and even when the tide rises. I don't feel safe because it is not healthy when the floods come," says Fahad.

His fears are shared by Ms Safinah Bukenya, a Village Health Team (VHT) member supporting COVID-19 screening at the landing site. "I worry about my children getting malaria or bilharzia, especially now that they are home and not going to school, they play in the water all the time," she says.

Luckily, the District Health Office has commenced vaccination against Bilharzia in the community, but not everyone is covered by the exercise. Majority of the people are yet to receive the vaccines.

Nearby, a restaurant owner, Ms Addy Kyomukunda prepares food on a makeshift raised wooden platform in a shack that used to be her restaurant, customers come in for a quick meal of fish stew.

Unbothered by the knee-high water levels, they hurriedly eat their meals. In an interaction with the WHO team, she says, "this is my only source of income, it's the only thing I know how to do ever since I was a young girl, if I could, I would find other ways to make money."

Worryingly, more customers waded through the water as they enter Addy's restaurant, unbothered by the water and the stale stench of stagnant water and rotting fish.

The heavy rains and a very low water table means that several latrines in the community have since collapsed. In addition, the households cannot dig new latrines so they requested support in the form of eco-san latrines to help in the meantime. The health assistant based at the health centre concurs with this request.

"If you can help us with the improved eco-san latrines, we would be very grateful, people are defecating in the open and in the water near their homes, anytime, cholera or dysentery will break out here," Health Assistant Mr Mukundenta Kenneth.

Served by just four functional latrines, the landing site is in great danger of experiencing yet another cholera outbreak or other diarrheal diseases. This last occurred in 2009 and it claimed many lives as attested by Mr Arinaitwe Muhamadi, the chairman of the local area.

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“The last time we had cholera here, it was very bad and we suffered so much, if we can prevent this from happening again, this would be good, we have the local power but we also need support.”

However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, accessing resources has not been easy yet the water will not recede until June or July when the next cycle of the dry season begins.

For a fishing village with a total population of 2,300, the VHTs remained committed to supporting the community access health services. They continue to man screening points, carry out community sensitization and distributes medicines despite the hardships.

Following the field visit, the WHO team has since sensitized 910 members of the community together with the leaders on the underlying health risks and concerns and COVID-19. Community feedback has been invaluable in these activities.

As a result, the local leaders agreed to form three committees to cater to the health issues, enforcement of guidelines and general community health sensitization in order to address the health concerns in the village.

The WHO team also donated an assortment of Infection Prevention and Control materials.

While briefing the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Elias and the District Health Officer, Dr Akasiima Mucunguzi, they both agree that these are big challenges that need to be addressed soon. Mr Elias has since visited the landing site and assessed the situation. 🌍



New Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, H.E. Fukuzawa Hidemoto paid a courtesy call on the UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Rosa Malango recently, accompanied by their teams.





## EXPANDING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACE BUILDING IN UGANDA

By Allen Ankunda, UN Women Uganda



### Janet Ayoo

With support from the Embassy of Norway, UN Women is partnering with Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC), a women's rights organization, to implement a project titled, "Promoting women's effective participation in peace building in Uganda".

**Through this project, the capacity of 156 women peace mediators from Kotido, Yumbe and Adjumani refugee and host communities to participate in peace building initiatives has been strengthened.**

Ayoo Janet, aged 28 years is a mother to 3 girls who has lived in Maaji Refugee Settlement in Adjumani district since July 2016 after fleeing her home in South Sudan due to conflict. Ayoo, a member of the Women Peace Mediators in Maaji III refugee settlement, shared her experience in mediating a conflict that erupted in Maaji II settlement in 2020 and what it means for women peace mediators.



Participants during Peace Mediation dialogue at Maaji refugee settlement on 22nd May 2020. Photo Credit: WIPC

Before getting the training from Women International Peace Centre on mediation and peace building in December 2019, I used to see conflicts happening in my community, but I was silent because I didn't know I had power to influence change and contribute to peace. The training challenged my complacency and improved my lenses of analysis conflicts. The collective action of fellow peace mediators triggered and improved my spirit to act. Through our safe space as peace mediators, we have been able to share progress in supporting other women in the community and to strengthen our confidence. The February 2020 conference organized by WIPC on "The South Sudan Peace Process: The role of prospects for women," challenged me to do more. I was touched by the stories from peace mediators from Yumbe and Kotido districts, they had mediated bigger conflicts than those I had handled.

In May 2020, when a conflict erupted in Maaji II refugee settlement in Adjumani, I saw an opportunity to participate in peace building. A small disagreement which started among five Nuer and Dinka youth escalated into a violent tribal conflict, leaving 2 male youths' dead women and children fleeing their homes. Together with my fellow women peace mediators we realized that the situation was getting out of hand.

We consulted WIPC for guidance, called the Refugee Settlement Commandant and asked him to urgently call police to intervene.

As women peace mediators we were concerned with the safety of the children in the two families that were at the centre of the conflict. We rescued and kept them in a safe place until the tensions reduced. Together with other leaders in Maaji we continued consoling the families that had lost their sons. We managed to convince them not to get involved in the fight and to keep away from revenge as it would cause more harm.

As a network of Women peace mediators, we identified dark hot spots where the violent youth were hiding and we engaged the district and refugee camp leadership to install solar security lights in such dark corners, which has been done. As a team we were on the alert and always monitoring the situation to identify conflict early warning indicators, which we shared with the leaders. To achieve, sustainable peace in the settlement we continued to engage with the youth and their families by encouraging them to keep calm and sensitizing them about the consequences of violent actions to their lives and families.



I strongly believe that "Peace is possible when women lead". I am now seeing friendship being nurtured again between the Nuer and Dinka youth and they have started having friendly football matches again.

I am thankful for the support we get as women peace mediators from the district and refugee settlement leadership especially the Resident District Commissioner, Refugee Desk Office, and District Police Commander who immediately responded to our distress call and deployed security forces as the situation could only be calmed by uniformed peace keepers at that moment.

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864,000 vaccine doses from COVAX were received at Entebbe International Airport on 5th March 2021 by Uganda's Health Minister, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, accompanied by WHO and UNICEF Representatives, members of the COVAX Facility and ambassadors of the European Union and countries whose funding enabled manufacturing, transport, and distribution.



# SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE COMMEMORATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

By Davinah Nabirye, UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)



Young girls from Karamoja sub-region perform a traditional dance denouncing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) UNICEF/ CNtabadde

**On 6th February 2021, the Spotlight Initiative in Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) under the theme; “No time for global inaction: Unite, Fund and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”. The UN internationally recognizes FGM a violation of human rights, the health and integrity of women and girls.**

More than 200 million girls and women throughout the world have undergone FGM. According to the Uganda Demographic and Healthy Survey (UDHS) 2016 Uganda's prevalence of FGM remains one of the lowest in East Africa at 0.3% among the women aged 15-19 years. FGM affects mostly disadvantaged women from poor households who have low levels of education and reside in rural areas. It does profound physical and psychological damage, can result in life-long pain and sometimes, death.

The Spotlight Initiative participated in the national commemoration virtually held and organized by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The Council of Traditional Leaders in Africa

(Uganda Chapter) with support from UN Women issued statement on FGM and called for; strengthen collaboration; strengthen law enforcement; tailor made sexuality education for FGM practicing districts; strengthening of the multi-sectoral framework for adolescent girls' development and strengthening of the cross-board cooperation and coordinated action. UNICEF published a story that shows innovative efforts to prevent FGM. In the story, Amudat district recognizes 20 men as social ambassadors for marrying women who have not undergone FGM. All implementing agencies (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF) disseminated and promoted messages on elimination of FGM on their social media platforms.

The Initiative continues to prioritize programme aimed at changing social norms, attitudes and behaviours at community and individual level that promote harmful practices including FGM. 🌍

## Read more

[COTLA Statement to end FGM](#)

[Finding creative ways to discourage female genital mutilation in Uganda](#)



## YOUTH COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION WITH THE LAUNCH OF A RECYCLED COMMUNITY LIBRARY

By Maurine Tukahirwa, Youth Coalition for SDGs



UN Resident Coordinator, H.E. Rosa Malango launches the Community Library at Incredible Youth International offices at Kambembe, Mukono District as Mr. Patrick Byakatonda, the Director of Industrial Training at Ministry of Education and Sports looks on 24 January 2021

On 24th January 2021, the UN Resident Coordinator H.E. Rosa Malango was invited as Guest of Honour to the commemoration of the International Day of Education organized by the Youth Coalition for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uganda in conjunction with the National SDG Secretariat.

The Youth Coalition for SDGs comprises young Ugandans who are actively involved in promoting the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda. They do this in partnership with the United Nations in Uganda and the National SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda. The Coalition was created in June 2019 during preparations for the UN and SDGs Awareness Month of October.

Since then, the UN Resident Coordinator mentored the members of the coalition through among others ensuring that representatives from the coalition are involved in key activities of the UN system in Uganda. Representatives from the coalition were involved in the online consultations in the preparation of the UN Emergency Appeal; a response to COVID-19 and its impacts in Uganda in March and April 2020, preparation on the National Voluntary Report on Progress towards the achievement of the SDGs from April to June 2020 and preparation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021 - 2025. She also ensured that whenever she goes on field missions, the youth are part of her delegation and participate on radio and television talk shows to call on youth to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

The Youth Coalition for SDGs has matured into an influential network of youth leaders from civil society and the private sector

in Uganda that have organized several initiatives of their own with one key fundamental goal; to promote SDGs at Community level. The commemoration of the International Day of Education was hosted by Incredible Youth International at their offices at Kabembe Town Mukono District, 36 Km from the capital Kampala.

The host was the Founder and President of Incredible Youth International Brian Ntwatwa, who is an active member of the Youth Coalition for SDGs. The participants in the commemoration included representatives from government, civil society and youth leaders from civil society and the private sector. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic participation was limited to 50 guests who sat outdoors in the beautiful garden observing social distancing and the other standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The commemoration included a panel discussion on the importance of mindset education along with formal education in order to nurture an appropriately educated population equipped to contribute to the achieving the SDGs. The panel was comprised of members of the Youth Coalition for SDGs; Linda Abeja, Founder and CEO of Amariatek; Maurine Tukahirwa, Founder of Girls Must; and Robert Kigongo, Chairman of Bukoto West Youth Foundation. The panelist noted that meaningful education needed to include mindset education to equip learners with necessary life skills. Dr. Kim from the International Youth Fellowship also addressed the commemoration highlighting the importance on mindset education in individual development and success.





The key highlight of the day was the launch of the community library at the Incredible Youth Offices at Kabembe Town. MK Publishers a private sector publisher of educational books made a donation of 1000 books, while I committed to reach out to UN agencies in Uganda to contribute publications and resources to the community library. Charles Dracaabo, UNESCO Senior National Programme Officer, who attended the commemoration committed to contribute resources from UNESCO for the community library. 🌍

## UNCDF AND EDUCATION SERVICE COMMISSION LAUNCH AN E-RECRUITMENT SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS IN UGANDA

By Rachael Kentenyngi, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



UNCDF Uganda Head of Office, Dmitry Pozhidaev hands over a user's manual of the e-recruitment system to the Education Service Commission during the launch at Hotel Africana on 19 February 2021

The education sector is one of the most important sectors in the economy. Apart from promoting knowledge and literacy, eradicating poverty, it employs thousands of Ugandans. With the recent technical progress, Uganda has started to witness major breakthroughs in the sector. As a result, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the Education Service Commission and Cremotin Management Consultants have teamed up to digitalize the recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in Uganda.

The Education Service Commission is responsible for 68 percent of the public service in Uganda. Its mandate is to manage the recruitment, confirmation, promotion and disciplining of personnel. Last year alone, the Commission handled recruitment for 35,000 applicants. For years, the Commission has had to manage these processes manually which evidently slowed down the hiring process. Labor-intensive paper-based methods often resulted into delays, high operational costs, fraud, misplacement of files, redundant data capturing, and feeble data analysis.

The new e-recruitment platform is developed to assist the Education Service Commission in improving their processes and it will in turn benefit all the stakeholders involved. The solution will automate processes like locating and developing the sources of the required number and type of employees (advertising), short-listing and identifying the prospective employee with required characteristics, arranging interviews with the selected candidates, conducting interviews and decision making.

The digitalization of the recruitment process will strengthen data storage and management, reduce fraud and corruption, and minimize manual errors. The platform will also make the application process easier, faster and cost effective for applicants.

UNCDF supports this project as part of its global strategy of 'leaving no one behind in the digital era'. The digitalization of the recruitment process will level the application process for vulnerable groups such as women and people with disabilities for whom it might be hard to travel long distances to hand in their application forms. 🌍

[Read more about this system here](#)

[Visit the platform here](#)

## “THOUGH THE SCHOOL CLOSED, THEY STILL COME”

UNICEF supported playgrounds have become a second home for children in refugee settlements in Uganda *By Hope M.E Muzungu, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)*



Rosette Uwamahoro, lead caregiver at the Busheka ECD Centre, plays with children from the Oruchinga refugee settlement in Isingiro District. The centre is run by Right To Play in partnership with UNICEF to improve learning outcomes and develop critical life skills in children and youth using play-based approaches.

### “Number One, Number One where are you?

Here I am, Here I Am

How do you do?”

Clapping in tune to the song, seven children jump around in a circle, each taking turns to swirl in the middle in response to a corresponding number.

On the adjacent swings, children gently push one another’s seats while on the monkey bars the seemingly older boys and girls propel themselves forward, while reciting a series of numbers and alphabet letters.

The school closed in March 2020 along with all other educational institutions in Uganda at the onset of the corona virus disease (COVID-19), but the one-acre playground at Busheka Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre is still filled with songs and sporadic peals of laughter from children aged 2 to 8 years.

“

“Though the school closed, they still come”, Rosette Uwamahoro the lead caregiver at the ECD centre reveals.

At the time of its closure in March 2020 Busheka ECD centre in Oruchinga Settlement Camp in Isingiro District was home to 86 refugee children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. A few days into the school closure, a few children started showing up at the playground every day just to play. The numbers kept increasing and by February 2021, the playground recorded a daily average of 30 children.

Busheka is one of the 27 ECD centres in four refugee settlements in south-western Uganda benefiting from a UNICEF partnership with Right to Play, a child rights-based organisation, aimed at enhancing integrated early childhood development in refugee settlements and host communities in Isingiro, Kamwenge and Kyegegwa districts. UNICEF funds the provision of indoor and outdoor play materials, capacity building of caregivers, parents and the community, as well as district strengthening in delivery of integrated ECD activities.

### Because they keep coming

The three caregivers at Busheka ECD Centre take turns going to the school to check on and supervise the children who come to the playground. Fondly referred to as ‘teacher’, they cluster the children into play groups of 5 to 10 members each, to ensure social distancing and observance of recommended COVID-19 standard operating procedures.



At the entrance of the centre is a handwashing can with a piece of soap and water. One child vigorously rubs his palms together with soap and water, turns to the back of his hands, between his fingers and under his nails, rinses off with water then he joins his play group at the slide.

## Continued childcare during the COVID-19 lock down

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the caregivers collaborated with village health teams and started a home learning programme that brings together children from three homes into a study group. The caregivers teach parents how to use different items at home such as ropes, sticks and stones for guided learning.

“The community has adopted a positive attitude towards early childhood learning, which was formerly considered a waste.” Paulah Aryatuha, the Right to Play Project Officer for south western region notes, “There is better adherence to key principles of family and childcare, and more parents are more accepting of play as a learning tool.”

Alexis Biganiro, one of the three caregivers at Busheka explains that initially they taught the children as they would teach adults, but after the training they started incorporating daily routines and competency-based teaching. The ECD centre has become so popular in the settlement that although the curriculum covers 3 to 6-year-olds, even older refugee children who never attended school in their home countries request admission to the centre.

A 2021 Right to Play report records 480 home visits conducted and 121 caregivers trained since project inception in 2019.

## School as a second home

During normal school term, classes would run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the rest of the afternoon would be designated for play. After schools were closed in March 2020, the children started arriving in phases at the playground from morning till late afternoon.

Daphne Mugizi, the UNICEF Uganda Programme Officer for Early Childhood Development, South Western Region, reveals that beneath the play encounters, an array of channels and pathways are being built in the child’s brain, which are essential to their optimal growth and development. “Play is an essential vehicle through which children develop their imagination, resilience and social skills.” She says.

After hours of playing at Busheka ECD centre, more children sit at the veranda, their energy seeming to wane until Teacher Rosette calls out;

**“Do you see me?”**

**“Yes we see you.”**

**“Then follow me.”**

A chain of children in their groups, run after Teacher Rosette, echoing her every move on the slides, through to the swings then on to the open playground.

Teacher Alexis smiles as he watches the children, concluding that ‘We have become like a second home.’ 🌍



Children play at the ECD centre in Busheka, Isingiro District. The centre is run by Right to Play, which works to improve learning outcomes and develop critical life skills in disadvantaged children and youth in refugee settlements and host communities using play-based approaches. It has partnered with UNICEF under the framework of the National Integrated Early Childhood Development (NiECD) program to include integration of play-based approaches into early childhood development.

Documentation of Early Childhood Development activities at Busheka ECD Centre, Oruchinga refugee settlement in Isingiro District. The centre is run by Right To Play in partnership with UNICEF to improve learning outcomes and develop critical life skills in children and youth using play-based approaches. © UNICEF/UN0412384/Kabuye



Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, new Country Manager of the African Development Bank in Uganda paid a courtesy call on H.E. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator recently

# UN AREA COORDINATION TEAM CONDUCTS AWARENESS RAISING SESSIONS FOR DISTRICT LEADERS ON PSEA AND SDGs IN SOUTH-WESTERN AND ACHOLI SUB-REGION

By Collins Adubango and Madrine Amuge, UN Area Coordination Team



Robert Basil, PSEA Coordinator at the UN Resident Coordinators Office (RCO) conducting an awareness session on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with district leaders in Acholi sub-region

From 1<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the UN Area Coordination (UNAC) officers from South West and Acholi sub-region together with the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Coordinator at the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, Mr. Robert Basil, embarked on a mission to raise awareness on UN Reform and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the District Local Governments (DLGs) and to orient them on the UN protocol on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) allegation involving implementing partners.

In all the eleven districts visited, the discussion focused mainly on the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals including how to measure SDG progress with the 5 Ps: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. The concept of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) was also explained. The sessions covered UN Reform with the role of the UNAC focal persons in the regions; while on PSEA, the discussion centered around what sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) means, the concepts affiliated to SEA such as the concept of power, Gender Based Violence (GBV), violence and sexual harassment.

The UN Secretary-General bulletin (2003/revised 2019) was used as a resource in defining appropriate conduct for UN personnel and partners including government staff and UN implementing partners (IPs). The sessions addressed the historical timeline of PSEA, the UN policy of zero tolerance on SEA and the UN protocol on SEA when involving implementing partners including government. In addition, the sessions addressed different preventive and reporting actions that implementing partners are expected to undertake, the investigations processes and the need for government to keep the concerned UN agency informed of the investigation process and outcome including relevant details of alleged offender.

Districts visited include Kasese, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kisoro and Kanungu in the South West and Kitgum, Lamwo, Gulu, Adjumani and Moyo in the North, and Palabek refugee settlement in Lamwo District. Participants in the dialogues

included Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and Local Council V (LCVs) Chairpersons as well as the Heads of Departments and implementing partners. A total of 208 participants (67 females and 141 males) were reached: 94 participants (30 females and 64 males) from Acholi sub-region and 114 from South West region.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development which was adopted in 2015 is ambitious in scope. It represents our hopes that we can improve the way in which we live and work to preserve our planet for future generations. Localisation of SDGs means more than just “bringing” the goals to local level. It means making the aspirations of the SDGs become real to communities, households, and individuals, particularly to those who are at risk of being left behind. Local governments are critical in turning Agenda 2030 from a global vision into a local reality. Local communities and stakeholders, who know their individual and collective needs and capacities best, are critical partners in implementing and realizing our global accord. Therefore, to engage meaningfully, people need to know about Agenda 2030, and local actors including civil society, private sector, and elected local councils, need to be engaged and play their role in implementation. 🌍

## UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS COMMEMORATED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021

**24**  
JANUARY Wednesday  
International Day of Education

**24**  
JANUARY Wednesday  
International Day of  
Commemoration in Memory of the  
Victims of the Holocaust

**02**  
FEBRUARY Tuesday  
World Wetlands Day

**04**  
FEBRUARY Thursday  
World Cancer Day

**13**  
FEBRUARY Saturday  
World Radio Day

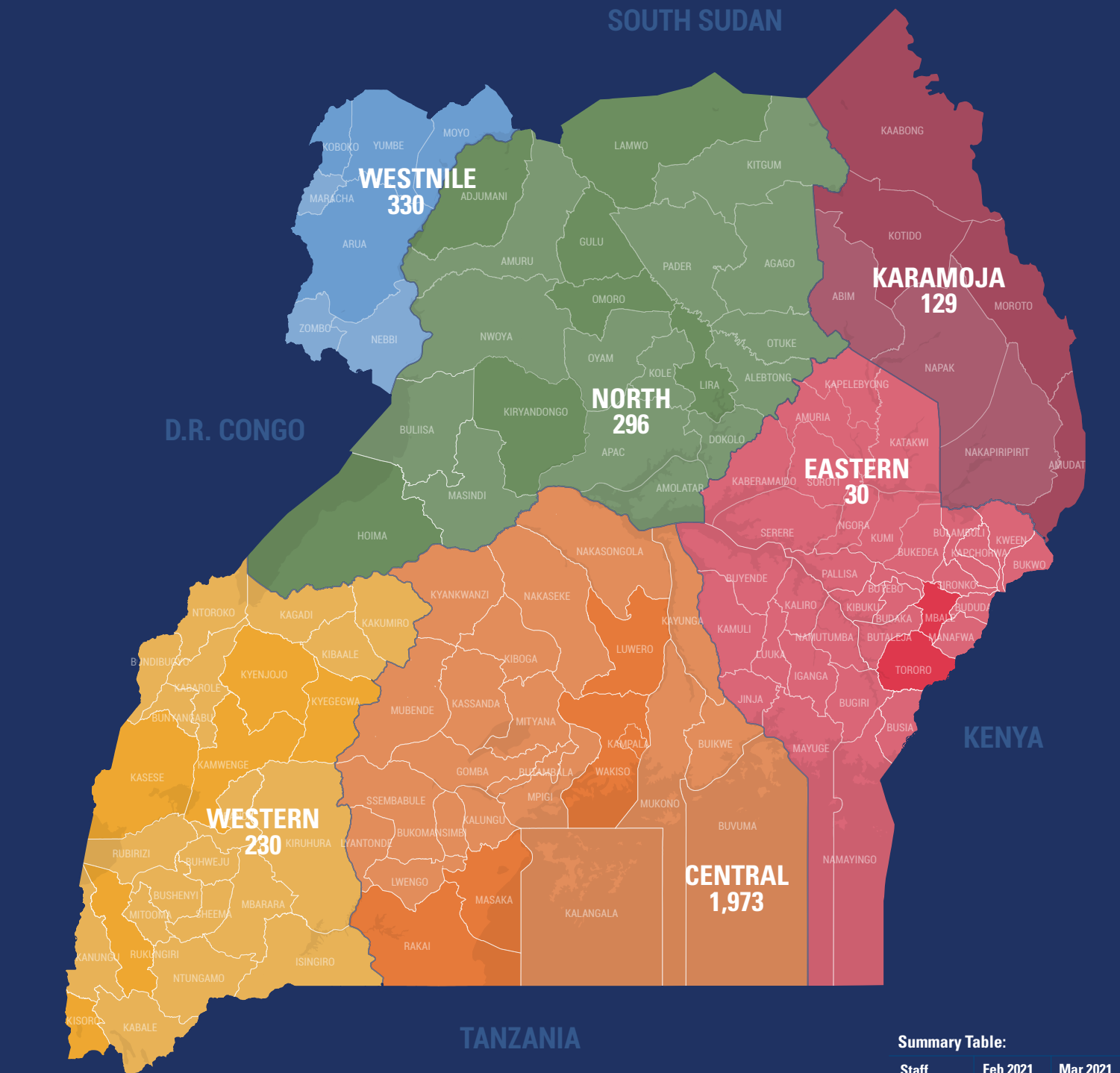
**20**  
FEBRUARY Saturday  
World Day of Social Justice

**21**  
FEBRUARY Sunday  
International Mother Language  
Day



# UN PRESENCE IN UGANDA

MARCH 2021



Summary Table:

Staff	Feb 2021	Mar 2021
Intn'l	605	601
Nat'l	2325	2387
<b>Total</b>	<b>2930</b>	<b>2988</b>

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