



UNITED NATIONS  
UGANDA



# UN UGANDA BULLETIN

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

## NATIONAL LAUNCH OF UGANDA'S 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE HELD IN OYAM DISTRICT

By Eva Sibanda, UN Women

### OVERVIEW

- Government launches 'Protect the Girl, Save the Nation' campaign
- Fourteen-year-old girl rejects her mother's demands to marry a 35-year-old man
- Acholi Cultural Leaders commit to take Action against Gender Based Violence
- UN Resident Coordinator visits Karamoja sub-region
- Driving vaccine demand in Uganda's hard-to-reach communities
- Envisioning an empowered community of people who use and inject drugs
- Three Pilot Teacher Training Institutions in Uganda equipped with ICT Equipment
- UNDP supports Uganda to bring the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to life
- IOM Uganda launches Disaster Risk Reduction Project
- New members of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) oriented
- UNODC strengthens efforts to address Violent Extremism



A local dance group provides edutainment through a dramatic skit and dance at the 16 Days National Launch in Oyam District © UN Women/Eva Sibanda

The National Launch for Uganda's 16 Days of Activism Campaign took place in Kamdini Sub-county, Oyam District on 26 November 2021. This launch was organised following multiple consultative National Organising Committee (NOC) meetings, led by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).

*"Launching 16 Days of Activism in Oyam District and in Northern Uganda in particular, ignited collective voices and call to action to end violence against women and girls in all its form. The launch heightened a growing concern among leaders in the region and stakeholders on increased teenage pregnancies, forced marriages that are demonstrated with increased statistics in the region."* - Jolly Acen, UN Women Programme Specialist and Head of Sub Office Gulu

Oyam District was selected as the location for this year's 16 Days Launch due to concerns arising in the district. The COVID-19 pandemic spelled bad news for women and girls in Uganda. The 16 days launch is taking place in Oyam District because data and statistics have shown a very high prevalence of teenage pregnancies in this district. This has been recorded over the year 2020-2021, indicative of a clear link between girls out of schools (due to lock-down measures) and conception.

The event aimed at raising awareness at the local and national levels about violence against women and its impact on national development, while advocating for strategic actions by Government, Development Partners, Civil Society, Religious and Cultural Leaders and the Private Sector for increased resource allocations towards positive social norm change in the prevention and response to violence.





UN Women Uganda Deputy Country Representative Adekemi Ndieli donates reusable sanitary pads to the young mothers who attended the event © UN Women/Eva Sibanda



Honourable Betty Amongi, Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development (left) was Chief Guest and joined the panel discussion, during the commemoration of this important occasion for women and girls, and all society © UN Women/Eva Sibanda

In the intervals between remarks and commitments, local arts groups provided edutainment, in the local language Langi, as they called for respect for women in the household. On site is a “Women At Work” fair, where women entrepreneurs showcase their wares. The women entrepreneurs are benefiting from the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme. UN Women contributed to the capacity building of women on financial literacy, training on value addition, group dynamics and other skills.

The Guest of Honour at the launch was Honourable Betty Amongi, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development accompanied by the Honourable Peace Mutuuzo, State Minister of Gender and Culture. The high table featured an all female representation including Acting Director for Gender and Community Development, Juliana Akoryo; the Chairperson for National Women’s Council, Hajjat Faridah; and the UN Women Deputy Country Representative. The Guests of Honour, led by Hon. Amongi took the opportunity to visit the fair on site, and support the women entrepreneurs by buying and donating reusable sanitary pads to the young women in the community.

*“The UN Women collaboration with Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development in Uganda has greatly yielded positive outcomes. In light of 16 Days of Activism, this collaboration provided a platform for all other key players and institutions to showcase tangible success stories in efforts towards Ending violence against women. The UNW Representative called upon all stakeholders at community and national level to take action*

*and recommended all families to recruit girls in to second chance education so that they can realise their potential and have better lives. On the other hand, the Honourable Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development called upon key actors to create economic opportunities for women and urged all to create conducive environment free of violence for women. This collective effort is definitely needed to create Change in Uganda” - Barbara Namirembe*

Welcome remarks were led by the Local Council V Chairperson, Oyam District, who noted that “11,460 cases of teenage pregnancy make Oyam one of the districts measured with the highest number in the region. As a district we have mobilized teenage mothers to go back to school. This is an initiative being backed by Members of Parliament!”

The National Chairperson of the Women’s Council of Uganda also appreciated that the National Council is being supported by Members of Parliament to train 160 women leaders in the District on GBV prevention and referral. UN Women Deputy Country Representative Adekemi Ndieli shared a testimony highlighting the prevalent fear of violence, perceived and actual, for women and girls all over the world.

*“Strengthening national commitment and action towards improving women and girls’ access to formal and informal education, should be strongly supported as part of overall anti-violence efforts. This should be accompanied with challenging the widespread tolerance and acceptance of many forms of violence against women.” - Adekemi Ndieli*

In attendance were district local government representatives, survivors, elders, UN agency representatives as well as religious and cultural leaders. There was an understanding and agreement that violence against women can be stopped and prevented. Stories were shared that centred on women’s voices, those of survivors and Civil Society Organisations working to end violence. Stories highlighted challenges, including that of COVID-19 and the recent terror crises in the country.

Success stories of transformative work that UN Women does on the ground were shared. Namely, Nancy Achan shared her story as a young mother who dropped out of school. Nancy was given a second chance at education through FAWE Uganda’s Second Chance Education (SCE) Programme, supported by UN Women.

*“I am sponsored by Forum for African Women Educationalist Uganda Chapter (FAWE-U). Here today are my fellow child mothers, many of them are breast feeding and others are pregnant. FAWE has taken us back to school so that we can be good mothers in future. I want to take this opportunity to appreciate FAWE (U) and UN Women for what they have done in our life.” - Nancy Achan*

**“**  
**In concluding the launch, the Guest of Honour, Honourable Amongi shared: “Women should not stick in homes with violence, that’s why we are partnering with cultural leaders so they can guide both men and women.”**  
**”**

Women and girls, men and boys, religious and cultural leaders. We all have a role to play in ending violence. The Guest of Honour officially launched 16 Days of Activism with a handover of 500 ‘Mama Kits’ to the Chief Administrative Officer and District Health Officer. The kits will be distributed to young mothers and they consist of cotton, antiseptic and other products to aid delivery for teenage mothers. 🌍

# GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 'PROTECT THE GIRL, SAVE THE NATION' CAMPAIGN Vows to address increasing cases of defilement, teenage pregnancies, child marriage due to COVID

By Proscovia Nakibuuka and Catherine Ntabadde, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Health Minister Dr. Ruth Aceng who represented the First Lady signs a dummy launch after Rt. Hon. Nabbanja committing themselves to the campaign © UNICEF/Nkoola



Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja (Centre, front row), poses with other dignitaries – Ministers, ambassadors, development partners after the campaign launch. The partners committed to supporting the roll out the campaign that began in December 2021 © UNICEF/Nkoola

**It's been one year and eight months since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared. Nations continue to grapple with the disease and its impact. Unfortunately, children continue to bear the brunt of the impact of the pandemic.**

As scientists, leaders, politicians promote efforts to slow the pandemic, the global pandemic threatens to become a child rights crisis – robbing children of many of their rights including education and protection.

In Uganda education institutions were closed since March 2020, denying children their right to learn and benefit from the additional support and safety nets that come with staying in school. The prolonged school closures resulted into increased vulnerabilities of children especially the girl child, exposing many to early marriages, sexual abuse, defilement, and teenage pregnancies. The numbers of those affected continues to grow, robbing the affected adolescents from their childhood.

To create safe environments for adolescent girls and boys to grow and thrive, the Government of Uganda with support from UNFPA and UNICEF launched a nationwide campaign to address defilement, child marriage, teenage pregnancy as well as promote positive parenting. The yearlong campaign dubbed 'Protect the Girl, Save the Nation' is spearheaded by Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, the First Lady, Minister of Education and Sports and adolescent girls' champion, supported by various stakeholders. The Vice President H.E. Jessica Alupo and Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja are co-champions of the campaign.

In her remarks read by the Minister of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Mrs. Museveni applauded UNICEF and UNFPA for holding hands with the Government to save the lives of young people adding that

as a mother and minister responsible for the education of children in Uganda, she feels the current situation of increased cases of defilement, child marriages, teenage pregnancies and failed parenthood in the last two years is alarming.

While delivering her remarks, Hon. Robinah Nabbanja the Prime Minister of Uganda and Co-champion of the national campaign, reiterated government support towards the campaign and rallied all government structures to contribute to ending the harmful practices. She singled out the religious leaders, judiciary and all leaders – ministers, members of parliament, district leaders, resident district commissioners, police, local council leaders and reminded them that it is their duty and responsibility together with government to protect and save 'our girls' and to create an environment in which they can grow and explore their full potential.

**“It takes a village to raise a child” is a well-known proverb. But, why does it take a village to raise a child? It takes a village to raise a child because raising a child is a huge task and a big responsibility that requires a collaborative effort,” Dr. Munir Safieldin, UNICEF Representative in Uganda.**

The campaign that will utilize a multisectoral approach that will involve various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and these were represented at the launch. A dialogue was held prior to the launch on the same day to discuss ways of how Government working with partners can forge a way forward to end teenage pregnancy, early marriage and promote positive parenting. 🌍

## FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL REJECTS HER MOTHER’S DEMANDS TO MARRY A 35 YEAR-OLD MAN

By Samuel Okiror, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Abim District, Northern Uganda – Fourteen-year-old Ruth\* said no to child marriage. She rejected her mother’s demands to get married to a man twice her age.**

A primary five pupil and a member of Agile Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescent (ELA) club in Agile Village, Morulem Parish, Abim District in North Eastern Uganda, Ruth aspires to become a pilot. However, early this year, she found out about her mother’s plan to marry her off.



I was at home reading my books when a certain man came, and my mother welcomed him. Then she told me that ‘this is your husband’. She wanted two goats and some little money from him. But I refused,” Ruth narrated.

“I told her I am just 14-years-old and so young to get married. I didn’t want to get married nor pregnant and risk suffering complications of teenage pregnancies like fistula. Besides, I needed to continue with my education.”

Ruth narrated that her mother got so furious and could not believe that her daughter would disobey her. She sent her away from home. Ruth found solace at the home of Medesta Adero, a mentor at the Agile ELA club, automatically joining the club.



Girls attending one of the ELA club meetings in Abim District ©UNFPA/ Samuel Okiror

Just like many ELA clubs across Uganda, Agile club empowers adolescent girls by providing life skills, including sexual reproductive health information, with topics such as prevention of teenage pregnancy, child marriage, menstrual hygiene, family planning, and prevention of gender-based violence. The clubs also provide economic livelihood skills with modules including financial literacy and support with business start-ups.

In 2021, a total of 300 clubs were formed, hosting 11,000 vulnerable girls in Karamoja sub-region, with some starting on various livelihood projects such as tailoring, selling household items, selling food, among others.

In December, a total of 1,750 adolescent girls, aged 14-24 graduated from 70 clubs across Uganda, following a 12-months empowerment programme.

The clubs are facilitated by BRAC Uganda, with support from UNFPA and funding from the Austrian Development Agency, European Union Spotlight Initiative, and Embassy of Sweden under United Nations Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence.

According to Pamella Alanyo, the Programme Officer at BRAC Karamoja sub-regional office, the girls are holistically empowered, including equipping them with leadership skills.

“It is from this kind of participation that the girls build self-esteem. They are mentored to become more confident, to stand out and strongly resist, and to speak to fellow peers, parents, and the community on the challenges that girls face when not protected from abuse,” she says.

At Agile club, Ruth works to create awareness among her peers in the community. “We create awareness about the dangers of child marriage, teach other girls on how to make sanitary pads, among other livelihood skills,” she says.

“My dream is to become a pilot. I am going to study hard and become a pilot. I will be a powerful and great woman in future to fight child marriages, defilement, teenage pregnancies and gender-based violence,” Ruth says, full of hope. 🌈

## ACHOLI CULTURAL LEADERS COMMIT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

By Collins Aduango, United Nations Area Coordination (UNAC) Office, West Nile and Northern Uganda sub-regions



A representative of the Paramount chief making a contribution during the cultural dialogue in Kitgum ©UN Uganda



Acholi cultural leaders together with representatives from the UN after the Cultural leaders dialogue in Kitgum ©UN Women

Every year, from 25th November to 10th December, 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence are commemorated. The 2021, 16 Days of Activism (16DoA) Campaign with the global theme: “Orange the world: end violence against women now,” aimed at raising awareness, influencing behavioural change, and securing high level political and social commitments to end impunity and escalating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).



The campaign which began with a National Launch in Kamdini Sub-county, Oyam District heightened a growing concern among leaders and stakeholders on increased teenage pregnancies, forced marriages that are demonstrated with increased statistics in the region,” said Jolly Acen, UN Women Programme Specialist and Head of UN Women Sub Office in Gulu.

In Northern Uganda and West Nile, the launch preceded with several activities including district specific launch, COVID-19 Vaccination drives, “NutriCash” programme launch, media and community engagements, dialogues with various stakeholders including teenage girls, UNAC Team and Acholi Cultural Institutions among others, in various locations across Northern and West Nile regions. These activities ignited collective voices and call to action to end violence against women and girls in all its form.

The focus on collective action by all stakeholders stemmed from the fact that interventions to address VAWG are multi-sectoral in nature and require stakeholders to execute their various responsibilities to prevent and respond to VAWG at all levels. To further this move, Acholi Cultural leaders during a dialogue in Kitgum, made a pronouncement to have additional 10 women to be part of the full council of chiefs in Acholi and the move to Launch and disseminate the Marriage Principles by the “Ker Kwaro” Acholi. All aiming at increasing the voices of women in the fight against Gender Based Violence and entrenching gender Agenda in the institution.

The representative of the cultural leader noted that most of the actions that promote Gender Bases Violence were not part of the culture of Acholi. Acholi culture respects women and trains them to be responsible women and girls who are respected in a society. The culture promotes the traditional practice of mentorship of children at fireplace in the evening by their parents, aunties, and uncles so that they grow up as responsible children.

While in Yumbe District (West Nile), during a dialogue with teenage girls at Mchangano cell, Arunga Ward, the girls identified key drivers of escalating teenage pregnancy, which includes among others cultural and religious norms that encourage girls to get married at an early age. They (girls) however promised to stand for themselves, sail through these challenges and report back to school when schools re-open.

The 16 DoA campaign brought to the attention of the various stakeholders that a world without violence is possible; but it requires unparalleled courage and joint action to make it a reality. 🌍



## UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR VISITS KARAMOJA SUB-REGION

By Sophie Akera, United Nations Area Coordination (UNAC) Office, Karamoja sub-region



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (second from right) visiting the COVID Centre at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital, 2nd December 2021  
©UN Uganda

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo visited Karamoja region from 2nd to 3rd December 2021 and interacted with various stakeholders including officials of Moroto District Local Government, staff of UN Agencies (FAO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO) and staff of partner organisations implementing projects in range of areas including Cross Boarder Peace and Development, Human Rights, Food Security and Nutrition, Education, Gender Equality to change lives positively and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the visit, the UN Resident Coordinator had a courtesy visit to Moroto District Local Government, Moroto Regional Referral Hospital and had field visit to the community to interact with the different stakeholders and project beneficiaries.

While meeting with Moroto District Local Government, the district authorities welcomed the Resident Coordinator and the UN family. The district leadership expressed gratitude to United Nations for complementing Government programmes. They also highlighted challenges they faced including insecurity which was being addressed through ongoing disarmament encouraging the community to surrender guns and concentrate on development. They informed the Resident Coordinator that radio programmes, community dialogues and sensitization were ongoing to as part of the disarmament process, and human rights were being upheld.

The Resident Coordinator visited Moroto Regional Referral Hospital where UN agencies offer several services including:

- Nutrition supplies support of therapeutic feeds for treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition, and capacity building of personnel by UNICEF and WFP
- Support to COVID Response Centre by WHO and UNICEF

- Family planning services support through training of health workers to provide adolescent and reproductive health services by UNFPA and their implementing partners.

Other projects visited included:

- In Nam Nam village where she interacted with a group of out of school girls being supported by UNFPA through training in life skills, menstrual health, business and savings skills to empower the girls and their families economically. During her interaction with the girls, she advised the girls to put whatever they learn from the group into practice and teach other girls that were not in the group too.
- She visited WFP supported Nachele outreach, attached to a health centre that reaches 6 villages with nutrition and health care services. WFP is joined by the government health facilities to provide health care components like immunization, deworming, malaria. WFP promotes food production through water conservation by harvesting the used water for irrigation and community members have put up 76 vegetable towers. Community members informed the Resident Coordinator that the vegetable towers had improved the nutrition and health of their children.
- While in Moroto the Resident Coordinator also visited the Gender Based Violence (GBV) shelter, which was started by UNICEF in 2017. At the time of the visit there were 08 teenage survivors and 06 cases of defilement.
- The shelter receives to a tune of 14 survivors daily, but there are limited funds to facilitate the survivors while at the GBV shelter. The GBV shelter is supported by UN Women through their implementing partners MIFUMI and the District Community Development Office.

*Continued on page 11*



## DRIVING VACCINE DEMAND IN UGANDA'S HARD-TO-REACH COMMUNITIES

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)



A health worker administers the COVID-19 vaccine in Uganda ©WHO

### Drones, street preachers and district and community leaders are helping reach some of Uganda's most vulnerable groups with crucial messaging on COVID-19 and the need for vaccination.

Recent surveys show that around 20% of Uganda's population rely on word-of-mouth as their main source of information on COVID-19. Many people who get their news this way work in the informal sector and live in informal, overcrowded settlements. They are semi-literate and are at risk of believing misinformation or being left behind as the country's vaccine rollout ramps up.

"Getting out into the communities is a crucial part of ensuring everyone helps stop the spread of the virus, but also to build up trust and boost demand for vaccines," says Dr Annet Kisakye, Immunization Officer for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Uganda.



We recruited and trained 80 community mobilizers and partnered with village health teams in three districts to ensure access to people's homes when the second lockdown started," she adds.

The campaign, launched in July by Uganda's Ministry of Health with support from WHO and UNICEF, was run by the Dreamline Products. It targeted people aged between 15 and 49 who work in the informal sector in the Wakiso and Mukono districts, and in and around the capital, Kampala.

As Uganda's second lockdown came into force, the team made use of 70 community-based audio towers and drones with speakers to ensure the COVID-19 prevention and vaccination messages could be heard by people inside their homes.

"The drones fascinate and intrigue people. When they hover over communities, people want to see them, and they want to hear the messages they are sharing," says Kenneth Mulondo, from DreamLine Products.

The campaign also used traditional and social media, engaging with regional leaders and media personalities, and leveraging widespread chat apps like Whatsapp.

A rapid assessment of the impact of the campaign was run in September, surveying around 700 people. About 60% of respondents reported seeing a serious illness or death from COVID-19, with the majority indicating they believed they were at very high risk for contracting the virus.

While most people had heard of COVID-19 vaccines, the survey highlighted significant remaining challenges in terms of building trust and boosting vaccine demand. Despite a high-risk perception of COVID-19 infection, just 25% of respondents in Mukono said they would get vaccinated, while numbers were higher in Kampala (34%) and Wakiso (41%). Many health care workers were uninformed about the vaccine at the onset of the campaign and so could not address clients' concerns, and this was coupled with misinformation in the community and on social media.

Uganda has vaccinated more than 2.4 million people to date, after receiving almost 5.7 million doses through the COVAX Facility, the African Union's Vaccine Acquisition Trust, and bilateral deals.



Delivering vaccines is a complex process with many moving parts, so strategic communications is key. I cannot stress enough just how important it is to work with, in and for communities. Our methods must be adaptable in response to public needs, wants, feedback and the progress of the pandemic," says Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam, WHO Representative in Uganda. 🌍

## ENVISIONING AN EMPOWERED COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO USE AND INJECT DRUGS

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

The hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have magnified the challenges people who use drugs face when it comes to their socio-economic status and health outcomes.

Due to the lockdown, there was limited access to HIV treatment and other health services, including access to Medically Assisted Therapy which provides daily doses of methadone to people who use drugs. Access to support systems such as drop-in centres and peer client buddies were affected.



During the COVID-19 lockdown, access to the Medically Assisted Therapy for a daily dose was really hard for me since movement was restricted and we required permission from the area Local Council (LC). However, due to the myths and misconceptions about people who use drugs, seeking permission for a travel permit from the LC was very hard and took time. So, it became challenging to sustain without access to these crucial services," says Nsereko\*, who is currently undergoing Medically Assisted Therapy (MAT).

A COVID-19 situation analysis conducted by the Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN) in July 2020 indicated that there was a decline in access to condoms, PrEP services, counseling and psychosocial support, HIV testing, SRH services and legal aid services. It also highlighted a 25% increase in human rights violations reported among people who inject drugs during COVID-19 lockdown. Issues included an increase in arrests and detentions, gender-



Nsereko and his colleagues at their shoe craft workshop in Kasokoso ©UNAIDS

based violence and eviction from their houses by the police at night. This made people who inject drugs more susceptible to assault, sexual and gender-based violence.

### An Empowered Community

When the UNAIDS Solidarity Fund for key populations was announced, Mr. Twaibu Wamala, the Founder and Chairperson of the Eastern Africa Harm Reduction Network and UHRN, saw it as an opportunity to empower people who inject drugs. He envisioned a transformed community that could support one another when in need, managing their own income sources.

"I was an injecting drug user for more than 7 years, and I know what a drug user goes through daily. My aspiration is to improve the health, human rights and socio-economic well-being of people who use drugs," says Mr. Wamala.

Mr. Wamala noted that injecting drug use and drug dependence often have long-term impacts on the individual's socio-economic status and health outcomes. The lack of employable job skills, past criminal histories, stigma and discrimination, criminalization of drug use, are some of the main issues that people who inject drugs are faced with regularly.

UHRN applied for the UNAIDS Solidarity Fund grant to kickstart the Empowered Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) Initiative for Transformation project, which was awarded in 2021.

Through the Empowered PWID Initiative for Transformation (EPIT) project, community members currently on medically assisted therapy will be equipped with skills in craft making for a sustained livelihood. Mr. Wamala notes that knowledge and skills for PWIDs in small scale business management will form the core of this project.

About 80 people who inject drugs on MAT are engaged in the EPIT initiative - clustered in 16 cohorts with five members in each cohort and with at least 6 women led cohorts across the five divisions of Kawempe, Kampala Central, Nakawa, Makindye, and Rubaga.

To ensure the sustainability of the initiative, a "Save Take and Return" (STR) approach will be used. This strategy encourages beneficiaries to save an amount from the profits of the social enterprises every day which they can then obtain after a few months for their use.

*Continued on page 15*



## TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN UGANDA EQUIPPED WITH ICT EQUIPMENT TO SERVE AS TMIS HUB

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



Mr. Max Okiror the Assistant Commissioner, Secondary Teacher Education (blue suit) officially launch TMIS Hub at Arua Core PTC. Looking on is Mr. Ismael Banduga (right) together with the Institution's administrators (left) ©UNESCO



Ms. Gloria Ajiduru of the Ministry of Education and Sports hands over a set of projectors to the Administrator of Mubende National Teachers College, Mr. Francis Katerega (2nd Right) ©UNESCO

UNESCO with support from the Capacity Building in Education (CapED) Project has over the last ten year provided support to the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports, Teacher Instructors, Education and Training (TIET) department to strengthen the capacity of the teachers to address the challenges that face teaching profession. Some of the interventions realized to date addresses key areas of teacher welfare, quality teaching, teacher motivation and competencies. The Teacher Management Information System (TMIS) which was developed with support from UNESCO and anchors on the Teacher Policy and is one of the most notable achievements realized under this intervention. As follow up, UNESCO has equipped 3 Pilot Teacher Training Institutions (TTIs) in Uganda with an assortment of ICT equipment aimed at supporting the enrolment of pre-service and In-service teachers on the TMIS online system.

While receiving the equipment and officially launching a TMIS center at Arua Core Primary Teacher College (PTC), one of the beneficiary Institutions, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Mr. Max Okiror, the Assistant Commissioner Secondary Teacher Education (STE) commended UNESCO for the generous support rendered through the donations and challenged the institutions to be a center of excellence in as far as teacher enrolment and registration in Uganda is concerned. He added urged the teachers in the West Nile region to embrace change which is currently sweeping through the education sector in the country.



Change is better, there has been a lot of irregularities associated with teachers' registration and the new system (TMIS) in place has come to address this." Mr. Okiror added.

Okiror encouraged the teachers and tutors in the West Nile region to make efforts to upgrade their levels of education in order to stand a better chance in remaining in the system. He added that a number of teacher training institutions in the country will be phased out and at least 3 others upgraded to Instructor College levels to complement on the only existing institution, Abilonino National Instructors College.

Teacher Training Institutions in Uganda play an important role not only in training and modelling pre-service teachers to provide the much-needed teaching workforce in Uganda, but they also do offer training opportunity for the in-service capacity building for continuous Professional Development in emerging competence areas such as ICT.

The 3 TTIs selected to benefit from this initiative include, Arua Core PTC; National Teachers College, Mubende; and Kibuli Core PTC. The Institutions will now serve as hub to train teachers and mentor them to upload their bio data into TMIS and continuously update the information for use as and when required.

The overall goal of this intervention is in line with improving the teacher programmes in Uganda through efficient and effective teacher data storage, management and utilization. To realize this objective, 15 tutors in the beneficiary institutions were effectively trained to act as mentors to support other teacher registration into TMIS.

Among the ICT toolkits handed out to the institutions included; Desktop computers, monitors and projectors. The equipment will act as basic tracking tools to the 3 teacher training institutions to enable documentation and reporting of teachers that will have accessed the TTI facilities for registration into TMIS online system. 🌐



## UNDP SUPPORTS UGANDA TO BRING THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA) TO LIFE

By Michael Mubangizi, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Panelists from Government and the private sector during the AfCFTA dialogue © UNDP



Hon. David Bahati, Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (Industry) © UNDP



Ms. Elsie Attafuah, UNDP Resident Representative during the dialogue © UNDP

**The Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held a three-day dialogue with key stakeholders to discuss opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and how Government, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders can collaborate to position the country as a fast mover in harnessing opportunities presented by the agreement.**

Under the theme 'Unlocking the Potential of AfCFTA in Uganda', the dialogue held at the Kampala Serena hotel as part of the AfCFTA Week activities between 10-12 November 2021, UNDP and partners sought to increase awareness of AfCFTA opportunities for Uganda and identify opportunities for partnership.

The dialogue was graced by Hon. David Bahati Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (Industry); Hon. Harriet Ntabazi, State Minister for Trade, Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (Trade); Ms. Geraldine Ssali, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives; Mr. Wamkele Mene, AfCFTA Secretary General; Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo, UN Resident Coordinator; Ms. Elsie Attafuah, UNDP Resident Representative; and private sector stakeholders.

### **AfCFTA's Potential to drive Africa's growth and industrialisation**

The Minister described the AfCFTA as one of the drivers of Africa's growth and industrialisation agenda. "With a population of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of US\$3.4 trillion, the AfCFTA offers the continent, and Uganda, a solid base for a speedy industrialization," he said.

The AfCFTA is projected to raise Africa's income by 7 percent, lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty, and lift 68 million people out of moderate poverty by 2035. It is also projected to boost intra-African trade by 52.3 percent when import duties and

non-tariff barriers are eliminated. Though, there are several challenges and opportunities that Uganda needs to address to harness the potential of the AfCFTA.

### **Fostering recovery from COVID-19**

The Minister noted that implementation of the AfCFTA is timely especially in light of the economic challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely impacted global economic growth projections. "The African Continental Free Trade Area provides us an opportunity to further consolidate our resilience and should catalyse our recovery from the impact of COVID-19," he said.

### **Unlocking AfCFTA Potential in Uganda**

Ms. Attafuah noted that the AfCFTA is an opportunity Uganda cannot afford to lose. "The successful implementation of AfCFTA in Uganda will put us at a new inclusive and sustainable development path by building an industrial value chain and specialization structure based on Uganda's comparative advantages," she said.

UNDP's offer is supporting the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives to accelerate Uganda's implementation of the AfCFTA, focusing on awareness raising, enhancing market access opportunities, preparing a National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy, and establishing a catalytic Trade Finance Facility with special focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The support is also geared towards building local and regional partnerships, both technical and financial, for ensuring more efficient implementation of AfCFTA in Uganda.

This is being done in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives and with support from key private sector business support organisations such as the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA), Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI), Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (PSFU), Federation of Small and Medium Enterprises of Uganda (FSMEU), the Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA), among others. 🌍



## IOM UGANDA LAUNCHES DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT

By Richard Mulindwa Kavuma, International Organization for Migration (IOM)



Leaders from Ngora district at the end of a five-day training in December 2021 ©IOM

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has launched a project in 20 districts in Uganda to strengthen the national and local governments' capacity to respond to natural disasters.

The project, *"Strengthening National and Local Disaster Preparedness and Response Capacities in Uganda"* is funded by the European Union Humanitarian Aid with 400,000 euros. It is being implemented over 15 months in districts most at-risk of experiencing all type of disasters.

It will bolster the government's capacity at national, district and local levels to collect, analyze and report data on disasters, as well as disaster response planning and management. The intervention comes against a backdrop of a rising tide of extreme weather events, including floods, waterlogging, landslides/mudslides, prolonged periods of drought, combined with epidemics and forced displacement experienced in Uganda.

Recent disasters caused by natural hazards have claimed lives and destroyed livelihoods as well as family, community, and public

assets. Yet existing mechanisms for preparedness and response coordination remain inadequate; national and local coordination groups lack tools for timely collection and exchange of information and identification of the needs of affected populations. Moreover, several disaster-prone districts lack effective disaster preparedness and response plans to effectively mitigate and cope with the devastating effects of disasters in the country.

Through the project, an estimated 1.7 million people are expected to benefit from the improvements in the availability of reliable data and heightened preparedness in case of disasters.

The project will directly train national, district and local technical staff on data and information management, ensuring effective tracking of disaster and prompt dissemination of information to all concerned stakeholders. This will result in informed decision-making and timely and effective assistance to the most vulnerable disaster-affected populations. 🌍

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

### National UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR VISITS KARAMOJA SUB-REGION

Continued from page 6

In her debrief meeting with all the United Nations staff in at Moroto UN Compound, the Resident Coordinator expressed gratitude for the programmes being implemented in the region and the good relationship between the district local government and the UN Family in the region. She called for greater synergies across agencies particularly in the UN Uganda flag ship areas of Data for SDGs, Youth, Gender Based Violence, and Cross Border Peace and Security. 🌍



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Susan Namondo (far right) listening to women from the community explaining how vegetable tower gardens introduced by WFP had improved their families nutrition in Nachele, Moroto District, 3rd December 2021 ©UN Uganda

## UN JOINT ORIENTATION WORKSHOP HELD FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (UHRC)

By Bernard Amwine, UN Human Rights



Seated Left to right – Mr. Robert Kotchani, UN Human Rights Representative; Ms. Mariam Wangadya, Chairperson Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC); Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, former Chairperson UHRC; and Ms. Shifra Lukwago, Commissioner UHRC ©OHCHR

In line with the commitment of the United Nations System in Uganda to promote human rights and interagency coordination and capacity building, and monitoring fulfilment of United Nations’ institutional commitments on human rights and gender equality, the UN Human Rights and Gender Advisory Group (HRGAG) under the leadership of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) also known as UN Human Rights, conducted a joint orientation workshop on general human rights principles, gender and SGBV issues, children’s rights, and on the functions of international and regional human rights mechanisms, among other subjects for new members of the Uganda Human Rights Commission. The orientation was part of OHCHR’s engagement with the Uganda Human Rights Commission, to strengthen the capacity of the members of the Commission and its technical staff, to effectively engage with the United Nations in Uganda and with international and regional human rights mechanisms. It took place 14th to 16th December 2021 at Lake Victoria Serena Kigo, Entebbe.

The workshop aimed at identifying key areas of cooperation between the UHRC and respective United Nations Agencies in Uganda and various sessions were facilitated by technical staff of UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNODC, UNFPA, OHCHR and UNAIDS. The meeting also saw the interventions of two former members of the UHRC who facilitated sessions on ethics and integrity, experience sharing on how to deal with donors, Government and media. Two members of Civil Society Organisations also attended and shared their perspectives on engagement with the UHRC on human rights promotion and protection.

In her remarks, Ms. Mariam Wangadya, Chairperson Uganda Human Rights Commission, expressed the Commission’s appreciation to all key UN partner agencies for the co-operation and financial support extended to the Commission. She specifically thanked the UN Human Rights Office Country Representative for the financial support offered to the Commission and for the coordination of UN efforts toward the institution.

In his remarks, Ambassador Godfery Kwoba, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs, thanked UN Human Rights for organising the workshop and for all the support granted to the Commission to enable them to monitor the human rights situation in Uganda. He noted challenges faced by Government while upholding human rights, as; limited capacities among enforcement officers, limited resources due to competing Government development areas, and cultural practices among others. He pledged to work closely with UN agencies and UHRC to implement reporting obligations on International treaties and conventions to enhance the face of Uganda’s human rights abroad through public diplomacy.

A representative of the Attorney General (AG), Ms. Allen Muchana, highlighted that human rights are universal and therefore the state must uphold, protect all human rights hence the existence of the partnership of the office of the AG with the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC). She added that the AG is aware of the challenges reported by UHRC which the AG pledged to solve progressively in order to help the Commission realize its mandate. 🌍

## UNODC, UGANDA PRISON SERVICE (UPS) STRENGTHEN SUPPORT TOWARDS THE MANAGEMENT OF VIOLENT EXTREMIST PRISONERS AND THE PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION TO VIOLENCE IN PRISONS

*By Hajara Nabatanzi, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC)*



Left to right – Ms. Sharon Nyambe, UNODC Uganda Head of Office; Dr Johnson Byabashaija, Commissioner General of Prisons; and Ms. Vera Tkachenko, the UNODC Global Coordinator for the Global Joint Initiative @UNODC



Right: Uganda Prisons Service Officers and UNODC staff during the launch of the publications ©UNODC

Led by Ms. Vera Tkachenko, the UNODC Global Coordinator for the Global Joint Initiative, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) in Uganda officially handed over three newly developed publications on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Prison context to the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), during a high-level meeting between UNODC and the Uganda Prisons Service. The high-level meeting was convened on 1st December 2021 to update Senior Management of the Uganda Prisons Service on key achievements in the implementation of the ongoing Global Joint Initiative *"Supporting the management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons"* in Uganda.

While officiating at the event, Dr Johnson Byabashaija, the Commissioner General of Prisons, thanked officials of the Uganda Prisons Service for partnering with UNODC in the development of the three publications namely; The Basic Training Module on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Prison Settings; The Bespoke Course on "Essentials in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Prison Settings"; and The Prisoner Classification Framework. The Commissioner General said the tools developed over the past one year are already contributing to the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners, including their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

The three publications contribute to a whole of agency approach in the management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and strengthen security and safety mechanisms and capacities in prison and amongst in-serving staff prison staff in Uganda. The modules developed have been integrated within the training curriculum of the Prison Academy and Training School of the Uganda Prisons Service. In 2021 over 1000 new recruits of the Uganda Prison Service received training Basic Training Module on Preventing

and Countering Violent Extremism in Prison Settings and this will continue in 2022.

The prisoner assessment and classification tools will support and aid prisoner assessment and classification within the prison service. Currently the tools are being piloted in six facilities, namely; Luzira Upper Maximum, Luzira Female Maximum, Jinja Main, Kitalya Mini Max, Kakyiika Main and Masaka Main Prisons.

To further promote an Integrated Approach to Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners, UPS high ranking officials in charge of social rehabilitation and reintegration services, representatives from the academia, civil society organizations, the private sector and UNODC identified promising practices in integrating rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners, including Violent Extremist Prisoners. These include community-based reintegration practices by civil society organizations, the role of the private sector in reintegration of former extremist violent prisoners, use of assessment to establish and address the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of violent extremist prisoners, and why and how to address violent extremism ideology. The stakeholders have developed a detailed roadmap for an integrated approach to rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners, including violent extremist ones to be implemented in 2022.

UNODC Prison Reform agenda is aimed at enhancing Prison Management, promoting humane custody of prisoners and rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. Poor prisons conditions, overcrowding, understaffing and lack of financial and human resources increases challenges in the effective management of violent extremist prisoners. In Uganda UNODC had partnered with various stakeholders to address these challenges and strengthen the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons. 🌐

## SHIFTING FROM RE-ACTIVE TO PRO-ACTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

### FAO, Government of Uganda and partners convene to plan and increase resilience to multiple hazards

By Agatha Ayebazibwe, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Some of the motorcycles handed over to the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to support Surveillance and Control of Desert Locusts, as well as other migratory pests. Other items include five heavy duty trucks to transport, and 300 surveillance kits (smart phones and solar-powered charging system) © FAO

According to the Office of the Prime Minister, in 2020, Uganda was ranked 15<sup>th</sup> globally and 1<sup>st</sup> in Africa, among countries most affected by natural disasters, including floods, landslides, droughts, desert locusts, windstorm, hailstorm and lightning. Floods and landslides have affected all regions in Uganda over the last five years. Natural disasters like drought and man-made crises like conflict can destroy lives and wipe out years of development in a matter of hours or seconds. Multilateral support is therefore critical in empowering national governments to increase the resilience of people and their livelihoods to these disasters.

It is against this background that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Government of Uganda, convened a National Preparedness Dialogue from 17-18 November 2021. The dialogue provided a platform to build on lessons from recent disasters to identify concrete actions to enhance preparedness and manage future disaster risk.

During the dialogue, which was attended by development agencies, district local governments, legislators, donor agencies and officials

from different Government ministries, agencies and departments, participants underscored the multiple hazards that threaten Uganda and critical actions to increase national preparedness to future shocks. The dialogue was supported through the USAID-funded Desert Locust Livelihoods Impact Assessment project in the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management in the Office of the Prime Minister, supported by the European Union, World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO.



This event marks a distinct milestone in Government efforts to shift from re-active disaster management to pro-active disaster management”, said Honourable Esther Anyakun, Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, while officiating at the event.

She noted that the Office of the Prime Minister is currently undertaking a number of disaster preparedness measures such as stock piling essential relief and non-food items in anticipation of a long drought in the next few months.

The country is also developing a National Disaster Risk Management plan in line with the current and future priorities, commitments and policies of the Government of Uganda. Uganda is a disaster-prone country, exposed to multiple-types of hazards. The country is signatory of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, committing to achieve and track progress towards its four priorities during the 2015-2030 period.

FAO Representative in Uganda, Dr. Antonio Querido, reiterated FAO's commitment to enhancing resilience and preparedness to natural and man-made hazards such as the desert locust invasion and food shortages. He stressed the importance of planning by learning from past events, to enhance timely response.

"We need to institutionalize preparedness across all levels of society, considering issues of coordination, information management and adequate financing. This will ensure that the development gains which we are all working towards, are not lost in the wake of these disasters," he said.



We are facing a reality where the frequency and impact of hazards in Uganda are rising. And if we proceed with business as usual, that means the number of people in need will also increase," said Ryan Anderson, the WFP Deputy Country Director.

Grace Tusiime-the Under Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister revealed the Government of Uganda lost over USD 140million to disasters, which mainly affected transportation, housing and agriculture, which are critical to most communities in Uganda. "The nature of hazards is changing and our approach ought to evolve as well", she said.

Her remarks were reiterated by the Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Uganda- Caroline Adriaenssen. She emphasized the importance of adequate disaster risk financing and resources, partnership and a "whole-of-society" approach to enhanced national preparedness.

"Coordination saves lives. And we must strengthen our cooperation, partnerships and responses to take action together", she said.

The National Preparedness Dialogue was a result of an extensive and inclusive consultation process that began in April 2021 between the Office of the Prime Minister and FAO. Since the initial discussions, the scope of the dialogue expanded to enable learning from recent hazards, to underscore the importance of enhancing preparedness with a whole of society approach. FAO and its partners seek to develop the capacities of families, communities and institutions to protect people and their livelihoods, through measures to avoid (prevention) or limit (mitigation and preparedness) the adverse effects of hazards and to provide timely and reliable hazard forecasts.

#### Most common hazards affecting Uganda in past years

- Public health outbreaks: cholera, Ebola, zoonotic disease outbreaks like anthrax, avian influenza, rabies and other viral hemorrhagic fevers
- Floods, the worst occurring in 1961, 1997, 2007 & 2020 – 2021
- Desert locusts invasion, 2019-2021



Stakeholders at the National Preparedness Dialogue hosted by FAO and OPM in November. They include development partners, government technocrats, the UN system in Uganda, Civil Society, among others.

## CONGOLESE REFUGEES TORN BETWEEN RETURNING HOME OR REMAINING IN EXILE

By Wendy Kasujja, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

**Mongera Bahiira, 60, sits in a small patch of shade at the Nyakabande Transit Centre in Kisoro, Uganda, surrounded by his wife and six of his 13 children. The rest are young adults who remained in eastern democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with their own families.**

“I am worried about them. I don’t know if I will see them again,” said Mongera.

He and his family were forced to flee with whatever belongings they could carry after their village in Masisi, in North Kivu province’s Rutshuru Territory was attacked by armed militia in early October 2021.

They hitched a ride on a truck that took them to Bunagana town, near the border with Uganda, where they stayed with relatives for about a month.

But when fighting between the armed groups and Congolese armed forces broke out in the villages surrounding the town on 8 November 2021, the Ugandan government opened the border – which has been closed due to COVID-19 restrictions – and allowed those fleeing the violence to enter.

“It’s the first time I am seeking refuge in Uganda and I hope we will be helped,” said Mongera.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, Ugandan authorities and partners provided assistance to 11,000 Congolese who crossed into the country in November 2021, relocating over 1,000 of them – including Mongera’s family – to Nyakabande transit centre.

A few days later, some 10,000 people crossed back into the DRC after Ugandan and Congolese security officials informed them that it was safe to return.

Among them was Enoch Twaza, 50, who decided to return to his home in Bunagana, despite his wife Jennifer’s initial reluctance.



Mongera Bahiira rests in Nyakabande Transit Centre, Kisoro, having just arrived after fleeing violence in DRC ©UNHCR



Enoch Twaza leads his family as they walk back towards their home in the DRC ©UNHCR

“We left a lot of property behind, and we have been assured it is safe to return. If the situation escalates, we shall come back to Uganda,” the father of eight explained before his departure.

Jennifer was not convinced that it was safe for them to go home and was in favour of waiting a couple more weeks, but finally agreed and helped lead the family's livestock back across the border.

Joel Boutroue, UNHCR's Representative in Uganda said the sudden movement of Congolese asylum seekers into Uganda is an indicator of "how volatile and unpredictable the situation is in eastern DR Congo."

The unstable situation has left Alivera Nyamakabambelle torn between staying and returning home. The 84-year-old fled with her family of seven at night, leaving the sound of bombs and gunshots behind.



If I had my way, I would go back, but my family wants to stay and as I have no one back home to take care of me, I have to stay too," she said dolefully.

Her granddaughter, Tusenge Wema, nodded firmly.

"Going back home any time soon is not an option. We shall stay in Uganda and start a life here," said the 23-year-old, who is among the 1,000 or so of the recent arrivals from the DRC who have decided to remain for now.

Many of those who returned told UNHCR staff in DRC that their property was looted while they were gone, including food supplies and livestock, leaving them in a precarious situation and in need of humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR's Boutroue said more resources are also needed to support Uganda, which is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa with over 1.5 million refugees.

"We need more support to expand our emergency preparedness and capacity to receive new arrivals, as the likelihood of renewed violence and forced displacement is very high," he said, noting that the capacity of Nyakabande transit centre will be increased to accommodate up to 10,000 people.

He added that those who choose to stay will be assisted until they are ready to return home. 🌍



Alivera Nyamakabambelle rests under a tree at Nyakabande transit centre in Kisoro having fled violence in the DRC ©UNHCR

## Envisioning an empowered community of people who use and inject drugs



This fund looks at the social economic empowerment of key populations, led by the affected community. That is the catch. Community ownership of the initiative is important because nothing for us without us," says Mr. Wamala. "Change is possible when we support each other without discrimination and stigma. I wish to see a transformed and empowered PWID community that can support one another when in need," he adds.

### Looking beyond COVID-19

Upon observing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic so far, Mr. Wamala worries that the anticipated third wave of COVID-19 might affect the functionality of this social enterprise. However, he quickly interjects that he envisions a fully established and functional craft making PWID in the five divisions of Kampala and scale up to other regions where UNRN works.

Now that he is a part of the EPIT project, Nsereko\* expresses hope for a brighter future. "I yearn to have a complete recovery from drug addiction, and I believe that MAT will do this miracle for me," says Nsereko "And I believe the EPIT program will give me an opportunity to develop and demonstrate my readiness for my recovery with the ability to earn something for my survival and transport to seek my treatment. I think even after this programme, the skills will help me to sustain my family and myself as well." 🌍

