European Union Ambassador visits Kampala Slums project reiterates support for youth
On 12 February, the Head of the European Union Delegation to Uganda, Ambassador Attilio Pacifici, reiterated the EU’s commitment to support Uganda get the most out of its youthful population. Speaking in Bwaise, a slum area of Kampala, the ambassador said Uganda’s combination of one of the youngest populations in the world and a high unemployment rate raised the risk of challenges such as radicalization and violent extremism.
He was speaking at the AFFCAD Business and Vocational Institute, which is supported by the project Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS), funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa.
The SSCoS project aims to tackle the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism in informal settlements. It is implemented in four city slums by IOM, the UN Migration Agency, working with partners such as the non-governmental organization AFFCAD (Action for Fundamental Change and Development), YARID, KCCA, KiBO Foundation and Uganda Police Force.
The ambassador’s maiden visit to SSCoS also featured a representative of the deputy premier of Buganda traditional kingdom; IOM Uganda Chief of Mission Ali Abdi; Deputy Director of Counter Terrorism Police David Wasswa; the local division mayor and town clerk, as well as AFFCAD officials and project beneficiaries. The visitors inspected an exhibition of products produced by beneficiaries of tailoring, cookery, leather design, electrical installations and cosmetology training. Later, they took a walk through the slums to appreciate the realities of slum life and visited a couple of businesses run by project-supported youths.
About the project attracting the interest of the influential Buganda kingdom, Ambassador Pacifici said: “Social marginalization and violent extremism are our common enemies. They steal youths' minds and bodies, damage families, communities and entire societies, depriving all of us of resources crucial to our advancement.”
The ambassador listed various initiatives specifically on youth skilling and employment that the EU has supported in Uganda since 2012, amounting to more than 17.3 million euros.
According to Counter Terrorism Police Deputy Director David Wasswa, by integrating socio-economic support for business start-ups, the SSCoS project model has boosted the Force’s own efforts to get communities to reject radicalization. Not only does the project encourage people to “get off the streets”, it gives them a viable alternative, for example small business start-up capital. IOM Uganda Chief of Mission thanked the European Union for supporting the project and challenged those present to support the project beneficiaries, for instance by employing them and buying their products. One of the project beneficiaries of graphic design now produces business cards for IOM.

Heart patient supported by IOM Uganda staff recovering well
Maria Alinda, a one-year-old girl whose life staff of IOM Uganda helped to save, is recovering well, after heart surgery in India.
It happens so often in developing countries: parents find that their child has a serious disease or infection and it will die if an expensive surgery is not done. Without health insurance the situation becomes dire. In this case it was a cleaner working for NOREMA services at IOM Uganda. His daughter was
slowly 'dying' because of a heart condition. USD 10,000 was needed for a heart operation in India. An NGO had offered USD 4,000 but where was the balance to come from? On learning of this IOM Uganda staff, backed by senior management, came together with zeal and passion. Maria’s father’s employers chipped in with a loan of USD 2,000, and because of that joint effort, Baby Maria is alive.

In an interview at his home on the outskirts of the Ugandan capital Kampala, Alex Satade Alinaitwe says: “If it wasn’t for the favour of God and people, we alone weren’t going to manage this. Whoever contributed to saving Alinda’s life, we just say ‘thank you and May God help you’.” Read the story of Saving Baby Maria here: [http://tinyurl.com/yyodohyh](http://tinyurl.com/yyodohyh)

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“Rigorously-collected” Data Critical to Understanding Complex Migration Dynamics

Kampala - Reliable data is key to managing migration. With this in mind, the UN Migration Agency IOM, with the support of the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme, collaborated Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister in organizing training workshop in Entebbe on 25-27 February for members of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) on migration data management.

A key objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of government officials and other stakeholders to collect reliable and comprehensive data on migration, as a way to advance understanding of issues and to promote evidence-based policies.

Participants at the Entebbe workshop were members of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM). The NCM includes officials from Office of the Prime Minister (chair) and the Ministries of Internal Affairs; Foreign Affairs; Education and Sports; as well as Gender, Labour and Social Development. Others are from Uganda Bureau of Statistics, academia, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Established by Government of Uganda in 2015, the NCM promotes a whole-of-Government approach to migration by bringing together relevant Government and non-state actors to deliberate on current and emerging migration issues.

The BMM is a regional, multi-year and multi-partner programme funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). IOM is one of the main implementing partners alongside UNODC, GIZ, Expertise France, Italian Department of Public Security, CIVIPOD and the British Council. Apart from Kenya, BMM also covers Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

The BMM has already supported training on international migration law, and in migration and development. It also funded a benchmarking mission by Uganda’s NCM members to their counterparts in Kenya.

“BMM programme has not only built the capacity of NCM members in migration management but has also brought the members together to discuss about migration issues for purposes of policy development”, explained NCM Chairperson Douglas Asiimwe.
The workshop was facilitated by data analysis experts from IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMDAC) as well as experts from Uganda Bureau of Statistics, among others. Speaking on the first day of the workshop IOM Uganda Chief of Mission Ali Abdi said: “Globally, migration flows and their drivers are becoming increasingly fluid and complex. The current situation in Uganda is no exception, as the country is responding to different concurrent inflows and outflows of migrants and refugees.” Abdi added that “rigorously-collected and analyzed migration data” was now imperative for the understanding of multi-faceted challenges and opportunities arising from migration. “The lack of reliable and up-to-date data collection methodologies [would] jeopardize our ability to meet acute humanitarian needs of affected populations in a timely manner,” he said. IOM and the government of Uganda have worked hand on hand to improve migration data through pilot activities such as Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), as well as the establishment of a border migration information system at official points of entry.