UN Resident Coordinator presents credentials under new mandate as implementation of the UN Reform in Uganda kicks off

UNIDO secures US $ 3.5 Million from African Development Bank (ADB) to enhance food security and increase household income in districts along the cattle corridor.

UNDP and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) sign a US $9 million (about UGX 33 billion) project to improve the well-being of refugees and host communities in Acholi and West Nile sub-regions.

Dr. Misaki Wayengera, a Ugandan researcher, is a top contender for the WHO Africa Innovation Challenge for his trailblazing invention that rapidly diagnoses hemorrhagic fevers.

UNICEF with funding from UKaid supports Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) to educate communities in Western Uganda on the dangers of Ebola.


IOM supports training of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM) on reliable data to manage complex migration dynamics.

Beauty Queens speak out against teenage pregnancy, share stories of struggles and triumph at UNFPA’s Live Your Dream Moment.

FAO supports validation of Uganda’s Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2018.

UN Women and Uganda Parliamentary Women's Association (UWOPA) meet to plan for the enactment of the pending gender sensitive bills.

WFP changes lives of 600 small holder farmers
UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS UNDER NEW MANDATE

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

UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango presented her letters of credence from the UN Secretary-General to President Yoweri Museveni in her new role as Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Uganda within the context of UN Reform.

Previously from March 2016 to December 2018, Ms. Malango served as both UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. With the new reforms, the two offices have since been separated.

As the highest-ranked representative of the UN in Uganda, Ms. Malango will provide overall team leadership of the UN System in Uganda. She will also lead on efforts to ensure the interlinkage and mutual reinforcement of humanitarian, development, peace and security and human rights through implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016 – 2020 in support of the National Development Plan (NDP II), Vision
During the ceremony at State House Entebbe, Ms. Malango highlighted three issues she would focus on during her tenure; Climate Change and inclusive green growth with focus on wetlands, Youth Initiatives and Civic Education. The President concurred on the importance of the focus areas, particularly on providing alternative livelihoods for people encroaching on wetlands. The President wished the UN Resident Coordinator success in her new role in partnership with Government.

**SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**UNIDO TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT IN DEVELOPING DAIRY SECTOR**

By Judith Atim, UNIDO Uganda

*UNIDO will support market development and trade of Uganda’s Beef and Dairy sector*

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has secured funding to the tune of US $ 3.5 Million from the African Development Bank (ADB) to provide technical support to the Government of Uganda in implementing the Agricultural Value Chain Development Programme Project 1.

The funding will support the enhancement of food security and increase household income by transforming subsistence farms into commercial operations through investing in commodity value chains.
The project also has a strong focus on women’s participation and youth employment in agribusiness skills development.

UNIDO’s technical assistance and implementation support will be directed towards Market development and trade facilitation of the Dairy/Beef value chain.

UNIDO will work jointly with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Dairy Development Authority (DDA) and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS).

The project will be implemented over a five-year period in districts along the cattle corridor from South Western to North Eastern Uganda with the livestock breeding centre in Mbarara district as the springboard.

According to the UNIDO Country Representative, Mr Bruno Otto Tokwiny, UNIDO will build capacities of stakeholders to adopt food safety, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures; quality and standards practices along the value chain to avoid post-harvest losses and contribute to income security. 

More

SDG 17 –PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UNDP AND KOICA SIGN $9 million PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ACHOLI AND WEST NILE SUB REGIONS

By Henry Nsubuga, UNDP Uganda

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), recently signed a $9 million (about Shs. 33 billion) project to improve the well-being of refugees and host communities in Acholi and West Nile sub-regions. KOICA is contributing US $7 million (about Shs. 25.6 billion) while UNDP is co-funding with US $2 million (about Shs. 7.4 billion).

The acting UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Almaz Gebru, and the KOICA Country Director, Ms. Jun Young Suk, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will guide the implementation of the project at the UNDP Country Office in Kampala on 27 February 2019.
On her part, KOICA Country Director Ms. Jun Young Suk said the project is in line with national and global refugee and host communities’ strategic plans and frameworks. “KOICA expects the project to unlock the economic capacities of women in refugee and host communities through livelihood opportunities and building capacity of relevant stakeholders in gender transformative programming. We are also grateful to UNDP and the Government of Uganda for the continued cooperation and we are hopeful that this will be a sustainable and successful project,” Ms. Jun Young Suk remarked. More

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

UGANDAN AMONG TOP CONTENDERS FOR WHO INNOVATION CHALLENGE AWARD

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization

A Ugandan researcher, Dr. Misaki Wayengera, attached to the Department of Pathology at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, is a top contender in the final race for the
WHO Africa Innovation Challenge. This follows his trailblazing invention that diagnoses hemorrhagic fevers.

*Health innovation to address gaps in health service delivery in Africa*

Dr Wayengera’s invention also known as Pan-Filovirus Rapid Diagnostic Test, uses a paper-strip test, like the one used in testing for pregnancy. This, however, will be used in detecting Ebola, Marburg and other hemorrhagic fevers. [More]

**SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION**

**RED CROSS, UNICEF SENSITISE COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS IN WESTERN UGANDA on EBOLA**

By Catherine Ntabadde Makumbi, UNICEF

A group of men and women working in a stone quarry in Kyabwire village in Kabarole district, western Uganda, take time off to listen to Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) volunteers who are conducting house-house sensitization on Ebola. After the sensitization exercise, Mary Munihizi explains that through the sessions, they have learnt about Ebola transmission, how to prevent it, the signs and symptoms of Ebola Virus
Disease. Munihizi demonstrated to his workmates the process of washing hands. “We were told not to eat dead animals. If we come across a suspected case, we were told not to touch the person but instead notify the authorities,” she says.

Volunteers from Uganda Red Cross conduct house-house sensitization on Ebola. Photo credits: UNICEF/Bongyereirwe

Ibrahim Posumbiri, a herbalist in Mirami I village, Kasese district, says he treats about 20-30 people in Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) daily and appreciated the Red Cross for the house-to-house sessions which have equipped them with knowledge on Ebola prevention.

He threw the audience comprising men, women and children into laughter when he requested for a thermometer and very long gloves that cover the entire arm. “I want a thermometer so that I detect the temperatures of all those people that come to me. But even without the thermometer, I am now able to look out for signs and symptoms on my patients because the Red Cross has been teaching us about Ebola,” he says with a smile.

Supported by UNICEF with funding from UKaid, URCS is educating communities and schools in Western Uganda about the dangers of Ebola, how it is transmitted and prevention methods including effective hand washing. This is done through household visits, sessions at schools and entry points, music, dance and drama, and community dialogues. More
UNCDF ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGE FUND

By Giovanni Congi, UNCDF CleanStart

A Seamstress working under the aid of solar powered lamp

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in partnership with the Embassy of Sweden, have announced the eight winners of the Renewable Energy Challenge Fund (RECF): Solar Window. The investment from RECF Solar and Clean Cooking windows will result in 200,000 people benefiting from clean energy solutions with over 7,000 farmers, shop vendors, and schools to benefit financially.

Before launching the RECF Solar Window Call for Expression of Interest, UNCDF’s CleanStart Programme through which the challenge is implemented, actively engaged with the market
by sharing the call with more than 400+ solar companies and stakeholders. In addition, the team consulted more than 25 companies and stakeholders to refine the Solar Window design. UNCDF CleanStart also organized an information session in Kampala attended by over 140 people.

Hee Sung Kim, Programme Analyst with CleanStart stated that “through the RECF Solar Window, we aim to increase adoption of off-grid solar PV solutions across Uganda. We also want to see how solar PV solutions can stimulate economic activity”.

H.E. Per Lindgärde, the Swedish Ambassador to Uganda said, “Sweden has committed to support energy development globally and regionally through several programs. Sweden’s development cooperation strategy for 2018-2023 highlights increased renewable energy and energy efficiency as one of our priority areas for support in Uganda. Our development cooperation can be catalytic in the Renewable Energy sector by de-risking and enabling scaling-up business models that benefit communities. This is the logic behind Sweden’s partnership with UNCDF through the CleanStart Project.”  

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SDG 16 –PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

“RIGOROUSLY-COLLECTED” DATA CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING COMPLEX MIGRATION DYNAMICS

By Richard M. Kavuma IOM Uganda

Reliable data is key to managing migration. With this in mind, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) and Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister organised a training workshop for members of the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration (NCM).

Supported by the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme, the training held in Entebbe on 25-27 February 2019 was aimed at strengthening the capacity of government officials and other stakeholders to collect reliable and comprehensive data on migration, to advance understanding of migration issues and to promote evidence-based policies.
The workshop drew participants from the Office of the Prime Minister (chair) and Government Ministries including Internal Affairs; Foreign Affairs; Education and Sports; Gender, Labour and Social Development. Other participants were from Uganda Bureau of Statistics, academia, UN agencies, and non-governmental organisations.

Established by the Government of Uganda in 2015, the NCM promotes a multi-sectoral-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, CIVIPOL 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. More

SDG 17 – PARTZERO HUNGER

BEAUTY QUEENS SPEAK OUT AGAINST TEENAGE PREGNANCY AT UNFPA’S LIVE YOUR DREAM MOMENT

By Martha Songa, UNFPA,

“Be yourself. Be the best version of yourself you can be. Work hard and use the opportunities that are availed to you,” said Miss Uganda 2018/2019 Quiin Abenakyo, while speaking to young people during UNFPA’s Live Your Dream Moment held in Kampala recently.

Abenakyo, who also holds the title of Miss World Africa, was flanked by Miss Uganda 2016/17 Leah Kagasa and Miss Uganda 2012/13 Phiona Bizzu at the third edition of the Live Your Dream moment.

The Live Your Dream Moment, is one feature of UNFPA’s flagship Live Your Dream campaign. It is a two-hour event during which artistes, entrepreneurs, innovators, and other outstanding personalities tell their stories to young people as a way to encourage and inspire them. The
event also features discussions around issues of Gender Based Violence, HIV/AIDS, child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

Resplendent in their crowns, the Miss Uganda title holders held their audience of about 400 young people captive as they spoke about personal experiences, in a session hosted by journalist Raymond Mujuni.

Abenakyo, Bizzu and Kagasa spoke about their backgrounds; highlighting that none of them was born with the proverbial ‘silver spoon in the mouth’ and emphasized to young people in attendance that they have had to work hard for everything they have.
FAO SUPPORTS VALIDATION OF UGANDA’S FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE BILL

By Agatha Ayebazibwe, FAO

Uganda will soon have a new Fisheries and Aquaculture Law, if the proposed Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2018, is reviewed and approved by Cabinet and the Legislature. The proposed law is a revision of the Fish Act of 2000 Cap 197, which only regulates capture of fish and does not address aquaculture activities such as management of commercial fishing, fish selling, post-harvest handling, fish transportation, surveillance and control monitoring of fisheries units as well as fisheries research.

The proposed Bill is part of efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to provide an enabling policy and regulation framework to the stakeholders engaged in fisheries and aquaculture activities. The fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors contribute significantly to Uganda’s national economic growth, development as well as food and nutrition. In fact, Uganda has one of the largest fresh water resources in the world and almost 20 percent of her surface area is water. This expansive water resource has supported fisheries sector, enabling both capture and farmed fisheries since 1920s.

While fisheries contribute 12 percent of agricultural GDP of Uganda and supplies 50 percent
of animal proteins consumed in the country, several challenges, which seriously affect the economic and social contribution of fisheries and aquaculture, cripple the vibrancy of the sub-sector.

Some of the challenges include over fishing caused by increasing demand due to population growth, use of illegal fishing gear, poor quality of fish seeds, limited access to fish seeds and feeds, as well as continued trade in illegal and unrecorded immature fish hence costing the country about US $ 429million in income lost.

UN WOMEN, UWOPA EXECUTIVE TO ADVOCATE FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE PENDING GENDER SENSITIVE BILLS

By Aidah Nanyonjo, UN Women Uganda

The Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA) Executive members recently visited UN Women offices and discussed how the two organizations can work together to advocate for the enactment and passing of the pending gender sensitive bills. The Bills include, the Sexual Offences Bill 2015, Succession Amendment Bill 2018, Marriage and Divorce Bill, and Employment Amendment Bill.

UN Women Country Representative, Dr. Maxime Houinato committed UN Women’s support to UWOPA to lobby for the passing of the pending bills in parliament including redrafting the sexual offences bill so that it is tabled back to the floor of Parliament as soon as possible.

The UWOPA Vice Chairperson Hon. Catherine Lamwaka said that the committee will prioritize the pending bills and push for their enactment.

“As UWOPA Executive, we are expected to push for gender sensitive laws and policies. We are hopeful that if these laws are passed and implemented, we shall be able to achieve the SDG
agenda of leaving no one behind,” Hon. Catherine Lamwaka said.

Hon. Lamwaka noted that UWOPA needs support from development partners to enable it to continue advocating for the enactment of the said Bills which have direct bearing on the lives of women and girls in Uganda.

“We require support from UN Women and other development partners to ensure that we push for some gender sensitive laws which are priorities to the women of this country,” she added.

The visit was partly to officially introduce the new executive members of UWOPA to UN Women. The team shall steer UWOPA for 2 1/2 Years.

During the 9th Parliament, UNWWomen supported UWOPA under the UN joint program for gender equality, and the MPs were able to advocate for the Gender Equity Certificate provision in the Public Finance and Management Act 2015.

**Feature stories**

**SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER**

**WFP CHANGES LIVES OF 600 SMALLHOLDER FARMERS**

By Lydia Wamala, WFP Uganda

Ten years ago, 54-year-old Binaleta Mbambu and her husband struggled as farmers. They had diversified to maize from cotton because it was expensive to cultivate, and like their neighbours, they sought a crop that could provide both an income and food. But their house was not big enough to store all their harvest.

With each harvest, Binaleta’s family and others in Kabirizi village loaded their crop for transportation to one of two large warehouses that WFP established 32 kilometres away in the western Ugandan town of Kasese. The large warehouse, with a 2,000 metric-ton-capacity, eventually sold the crop on the farmers’ behalf. However, the farmers had little control over pricing.
Binaleta sits outside the bedroom of her new house with her granddaughter Success (centre) and her other grandchildren. Photo: WFP/Lydia Wamala

During a meeting between the Kabirizi co-operative society and WFP, they discussed the possibility of co-financing the construction of a new 300 metric-ton-capacity warehouse across the road from Binaleta’s house. More

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