OVERVIEW

- The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for Uganda held its monthly meeting in the field for the first time, in Arua on 19th May 2017. Prior to the meeting members of UNCT visited Bidibidi and Imvepi Refugee Settlements. The UNCT also held a working dinner with the leaders of Arua District. The World Bank Country Manager Ms. Christina Malmberg Calvo also attended the working dinner and visit to Imvepi Refugee Settlements.

- On 16th May 2017, Government of Uganda and the UN Country Team met to review the progress in the implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting was chaired by Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and attended by Deputy Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries.

- More than 200 delegates from various parts of the world converged on Kampala as Africa took an important step towards a common position on the Global Compact on Migration. Experts from governments, civil society, business, academia, the United Nations and development partners spent May 15-17 at Speke Resort Munyonyo for the 3rd Pan African Forum on Migration.

- The total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in Uganda was 916,784 and the number of those who arrived after 7th July 2016 was 645,095 according to UNHCR Uganda Operational Emergency Update on South Sudan Refugees 8th - 14th May 2017.

- On 9th May 2017, the UN Family led by the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango visited SOS Children’s Village in Entebbe, and interacted and shared experiences with the children.

- Pupils from host communities and refugee settlements study together and coexist peacefully despite strained resources in Northern Uganda, revealed in a story about at Zoka Primary School located in Nyumanzi refugee settlement, Adjumani District, supported by UNICEF with funding from UKaid.
UN COUNTRY TEAM MEETS IN WEST NILE AND VISIT REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

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

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) held its monthly meeting in the field for the first time, in Arua on 19th May 2017. Prior to the meeting members of UNCT visited Bidibidi and Imvepi Refugee Settlements. The UNCT also met with leaders of Arua District including civilian and security officials. They interacted with Ugandans, refugees and NGOs working in the region. The World Bank Country Manager Ms. Christina Malmberg Calvo also attended and participated actively in the visit.

The purpose of having the meeting in the field was to enable UNCT members to listen to colleagues and partners in the field to inform decision making on modalities to reinforce strategic coordination and improve the delivery of services in accordance with Uganda’s

Left to right – WFP Country Representative, Mr. Elkhidir Daloum; UNDP Country Director, Ms. Almaz Gebru, and UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango at a food distribution point in Imvepì Refugee Settlement, Arua District on 18h May 2017.

The purpose of having the meeting in the field was to enable UNCT members to listen to colleagues and partners in the field to inform decision making on modalities to reinforce strategic coordination and improve the delivery of services in accordance with Uganda’s
comprehensive approach to refugee hosting. The visit also aimed to give UNCT members the opportunity to gain first-hand experience on the work being done in the field by the UN in partnership with the Government, NGOs and local populations to implement the Government’s Settlement Transformative Agenda through the Refugee and Host Community Empowerment approach – which today is a leading example of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework implementation. It also served to prepare for the Uganda Solidarity Summit next month, which will include field visits to refugee hosting districts and settlements in West Nile.

‘We are here to listen and observe to strengthen our partnership,’ said UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango during the dinner with Arua district leaders. The dinner was attended by the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), District Chairperson, Deputy Chief Administrative Office (CAO), heads of departments and senior district officials.

The UNCT undertook field visits in two separate groups to Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Arua District and Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District. The group that visited Yumbe District met with the district leaders there and held discussions regarding durable solutions for refugees and host communities.

The leaders of both Arua and Yumbe districts reaffirmed their commitment to assist the refugees from South Sudan with dignity in the spirit of humanity. However, they highlighted some of the challenges they were facing such as the status of roads, which were being
affected by heavy trucks delivering support to the refugees, inadequate sustainable water supply for refugees and host communities, and environmental degradation. The district leaders called on the UN and partners to assist them in overcoming these challenges.

UNHCR OPENS FACILITIES FOR REFUGEES AND LOCALS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

By Rocco Nuri, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UN Refugee Agency inaugurated a primary school and a community centre on 26th May in Palabek Settlement, Uganda’s Lamwo District, in the presence of local authorities and communities, and partners. “Children must go to school. It is critical that refugees acquire the knowledge and skills to rebuild their nations once peace return in their countries,” said Bornwell Kantande, UNHCR’s Representative in Uganda.

At a public ceremony in Palabek, Kantande highlighted that the new facilities are for both refugees and locals.

*UNHCR’s Representative Bornwell Kantande (4th from left) cuts the ribbon to mark the official inauguration of a primary school in Palabek settlement, Uganda’s Lamwo District*

“Host communities are on the frontline of refugee response and under immense pressure. We work with the government of Uganda at a central and local level to ensure that local
communities benefit from our interventions, but we need more partners to come on board and help.” Opened just over a month ago, Palabek hosts already more than 18,000 South Sudanese refugees. It is one of four settlements that UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister have established since August last year to respond to the unprecedented influx from South Sudan. Uganda currently hosts more than 1.25 million refugees, including some 920,000 from South Sudan.

GOVERNMENT AND UN MEET TO REVIEW UNDAF AND SDGS IMPLEMENTATION IN UGANDA

By Monicah Aturindah Kyeyune, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

On 16th May 2017, Government of Uganda and the UN Country Team met to review the progress in the implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The meeting took place at Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala and was chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda. The meeting was attended by the UN Country Team, Deputy Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries.

Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda (seated second from right) UN Resident Coordinator, Ms, Rosa Malango (seated right) and Second Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Kirunda Kivejinja (seated second from left) with Cabinet Minister, UN Country Team, senior Government and UN Officials at the UNDAF and SDGs Review Meeting on 16th May 2017

“This engagement presents an opportunity for Government to leverage the complementary role of the UN in furtherance of the national transformation agenda for Uganda,” said the Prime Minister in his opening statement at the meeting. He added that Uganda will be in a strong position to achieve most of the SDGs if the results expected under the pillars of the UNDAF are achieved.
Speaking on behalf of the UN Country Team, the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango said that in the face of multiple challenges including regional instability, refugee influx and climate change, the UNDAF, with its focus on supporting efforts to build resilience at national and local level, has provided a strong foundation in responding to emerging crises while safeguarding efforts to pursue sustainable development."

She added that the UN is committed to working with the Government of Uganda to address delivery challenges in 2017 and beyond, recognizing that the UNDAF’s focus on upstream policy support and national capacity building can play a vital role in accelerating progress towards NDPII objectives and the SDGs. The areas raised where the UNDAF and NDPII can provide a strong foundation for accelerated action in 2017 and beyond include youth, SDG localization, cross-border peace and development and the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment Strategy. ReHoPE was piloted through the UNDAF in 2016 and provides a 20-year strategic framework to enhance resilience and self-reliance of both refugees and host communities, in support of the Government’s Settlement Transformative Agenda. ReHOPE and the Settlement Transformative Agenda are key components of Uganda’s evidence of its indigenous approach to the global Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2016 are part of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants.

Since the launch of the UNDAF (2016-2020), the UN has been implementing the development framework in collaboration with government ministries, departments and agencies.

The engagement platform was adopted by the Government of Uganda and UN Uganda two years ago to increase Government’s oversight and national ownership of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and enhance direct engagement between the UN and government of Uganda to ensure alignment to national development objectives and mutual accountably in the delivery of service.

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

UGANDA HOSTS IOM - SUPPORTED PAN AFRICAN FORUM ON MIGRATION

By Richard M Kavuma, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Uganda

More than 200 delegates from various parts of the world converged on Kampala mid May, as Africa took an important step towards a common position on the Global Compact on
Migration. Experts from governments, civil society, business, academic, the United Nations and development partners spent May 15-17 at Speke Resort Munyonyo for the 3rd Pan African Forum on Migration.

The Forum is an initiative of the African Union Commission, with technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN migration agency. It was hosted by the Government of Uganda.

Opened by Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda on May 16, the Forum was meant to generate proposals for the African Union to consider, when it determines Africa’s common position on the Global Compact on Migration next January. Among the key issues that emerged during presentations and discussions were the need for Africa to address the root causes of forced migration, and to ease movement for Africans within the continent.

“Africa has abundance of resources and our people should not be dying on dangerous journeys on the Mediterranean Sea in hope of better opportunities,” said Prime Minister Rugunda, reading a speech on behalf of President Yoweri Museveni. “This means that we
need to create a conducive environment for our people to prosper and live a good and peaceful life.” Rugunda, flanked by IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson, said such a conducive environment would include substantial investment in the continent’s economic, social and physical infrastructure. This would expand opportunities for Africa’s youth, who dominate the perilous sea journeys in a bid to get to Europe.

Uganda was an appropriate host for the PAFoM. With more than 1.25 million, Uganda hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa, and the third-largest in the world. During PAFoM, speakers such as Kristian Schmidt, the EU ambassador in Kampala, congratulated Uganda for its progressive policy on Refugees. For her part, UN Resident Coordinator Rosa Malango was confident Uganda would serve as a global role model on migration management.

**African voice, global compact**

In September 2016 Heads of State and Governments adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. This paved the way for intergovernmental negotiations that will lead to two separate Global Compacts: one on safe, orderly and regular Migration – and another on comprehensive approach to Refugees. The third PAFoM was one of a series of consultations across the world, to shape the positions of various regions for UN negotiations on the Migration compact.

In Kampala, Ms Malango reiterated the importance of key pillars of the New York Declaration: protection of all migrants, support to migrant-hosting countries, strengthening global migration governance, integration of migrants. She also noted that the wide range of participants in Kampala reflected the need for a whole-of-society partnership on migration issues: “Leaders from government, business, civil society, religion, culture and academics need to work together if we are to address migration on this continent and in the world.” Among the highlights of the closing day was the ‘3C’ speech by the Director General of IOM, Ambassador William Lacy Swing who premised his speech on the Context of migration in Africa; Consensus around key issues to have a strong African voice; and the Compact. Ambassador Swing pointed out that the key concerns of the GCM are in line with key African documents such as Agenda 2063.
IOM Director General William Lacy Swing (2nd Left) listens to UN Resident Coordinator Rosa Malango (Left) during a meeting with the UN Country Team at IOM Uganda offices on May 16. Right is IOM Regional Director Jeffrey Labovitz and 2nd Right is IOM Uganda Chief of Mission Ali Abdi. During the meeting, Ambassador Swing congratulated UNCT for the good work they are doing in Uganda and expressed his full support. The IOM chief was in Uganda to attend the Pan African Forum on Migration.

SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

UN FAMILY VISIT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES UGANDA - A LOVING HOME FOR EVERY CHILD

By Monica Aturinda Kyeyune, UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

“I am so grateful to SOS Villages Uganda for the love, education, and care they have given me and my siblings,” said Paul a youth at SOS Villages. Paul is one of the children in this village who was an abandoned baby. He does not know the where about of his biological
parents. This and more stories are what the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango listened to during her half day visit to SOS Villages Uganda on Entebbe Road.

The visit took place on 9th May 2017 and focused on interaction and sharing experiences with the children. The children shared their dream jobs such as becoming doctors, teachers, nurses and in return, Ms. Malango through an interactive session shared with them about the United Nations (UN) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. Malango also shared with the children about her favourite food, colour and hobbies and encouraged the children to work very hard at their studies because it was through hard work that she got where she is today.

“I encourage each one of you to take your studies seriously because they will help you to become what you want to be; doctor, pilot, teacher and many others as most of you have already shared with,” said Ms. Malango, UN Resident Coordinator while interacting with to the children.

The National Coordinator SOS Children’s Villages Uganda, Ms. Olive Lumonya thanked the UN in Uganda for the visit and called on everyone to visit and support the children at the SOS Villages Uganda.
Village. SOS Children's Villages Uganda is a member of the SOS International Federation of 133 countries and is one of the leading child care organization currently directly supporting 13,342 orphans and vulnerable children and young people in the districts of Gulu, Kabarole, Wakiso through its locations of Entebbe, Kakiri, Gulu and Fort Portal. The organisation provides direct services in the areas of care, education and health to children who have lost or at the risk of losing parental care. It also builds the capacity of the children's caregivers, their families and communities to provide adequate care.

SOS Children's Villages started supporting vulnerable children and families in Uganda, in 1988, when the country was recovering from decades of war and political instability. Conditions have improved over the past years; however, 2.7 million children have no parental care and approximately one million children have lost their parents to AIDS.

PUPILS FROM HOST COMMUNITIES AND REFUGEES SETTLEMENTS STUDY TOGETHER AND COEXIST PEACEFULLY DESPITE STRAINED RESOURCES IN NORTHERN UGANDA

By Proscovia Nakibuuka Mbonye, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Pupils Following the insurgency in South Sudan in 2013, Uganda opened her borders to thousands of refugees. Uganda is now host to more than 800,000 refugees from the conflict affected country with an average daily arrival of 2,000 refugees, since July 2017. Majority of the refugees have since started a new life in various settlements in Northern Uganda and are integrated with Uganda host communities, enjoying the same social services – health, education, water, sanitation and protection.

Grace Among, a 17 year old adolescent girl, is among the many refugees that arrived last year, all alone, after losing both parents. “We walked for days in fear but when we arrived here, everyone people were good to us,” Grace narrates. The beginning was hard but a few months later, life got better when I was reunited with my Auntie.” Her focus and passion right now is education and she is happy that she is able to receive an education, despite being away from home.

At Zoka Central Primary School, where Grace is enrolled in Primary seven, refugee children make up the largest number of pupils. Approximately 1,328 refugee children and 232 nationals are studying with Grace in this government aided school. According to Guma John Paul, the Deputy Head Teacher, the number of the pupils has more than doubled since the refugee influx. “We have since taken in more and more refugees but all the pupils regardless of their nationality, enjoy the same services offered.” “All children have a right to an education, that is why we are non-discriminative,” he continues. Guma also adds that when the school receives scholastic materials, they are distributed to every child as long as they are enrolled pupils of the school. The school has also enrolled refugee teachers.
Grace Among, a South Sudanese refugee pupil washing her hands at Zoka Primary School located in Nyumanzi refugee settlement, Adjumani District

In the same school, despite the ever increasing number of pupils, the nationals are happy to share the already crowded classrooms, compound, and sanitation facilities. Grace shares her desk with six other children. As a result of the great hospitality, refugee children like Grace are able to attend and enjoy school. Grace looks forward to attending school every day because her friends treat her well. “My best friend is a national. When I don’t have some necessities like books, pens, she gives me a few and I also give her some items when we receive our rations,” Grace says with a smile. Grace is currently the Head of the School Health club, a position she holds with a lot of confidence and is well respected.

Zoka Primary School located in Nyumanzi refugee settlement, Adjumani District, benefitted from the UNICEF supported solar powered motorised water system designed and installed with funding from UKaid. With a tap stand in the school compound, pupils are assured of safe drinking water, water for handwashing, water to clean their latrines and water for girls to utilise during their menstrual periods. Grace mentions that with the availability of the water in the school compound, her role as the head of the school health club is much easier but quickly mentions that the available latrines are not adequate for the big numbers of pupils and require cleaning all the time. “When you have clean water, the diseases are
reduced. She wants to be a doctor after school. “Many people are dying of diseases, I want to prevent these diseases,” she asserts. The clean water at the school is also accessed by teachers and the neighbouring community.

To further support refugees live a dignified life, in 2016, the United Nations and World Bank developed the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHOPE) strategy that will help refugees and host communities improve their living conditions as well as foster peaceful coexistence. UNICEF through its current Country Programme is contributing to the ReHOPE strategy by providing integrated social services and ensures the support inclusively addresses the rights and protection of refugees and host communities.

For more information, please contact:

Michael Wangusa
michael.wangusa@one.un.org
+256 (0) 771 005 988
UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

Monicah Aturinda
monicah.aturinda@one.un.org
+256 (0) 772 147 505