OVERVIEW

- The total amount of pledges received so far, as a result of the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees convened and jointly hosted by President Yoweri Museveni and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in Kampala on 23rd June 2017 for refugees and communities hosting them in Uganda is **USD 351.3 million** (as at 14th August 2017). To keep up to date with the pledges visit [http://pulselabkampala.ug/pulselabkampala/pledge_sys/pledge_tracker/](http://pulselabkampala.ug/pulselabkampala/pledge_sys/pledge_tracker/)

- South Sudan refugees in Uganda passed the 1 million mark, UNHCR announced 17th August. Over the past 12 months, an average of 1,800 South Sudanese have been arriving in Uganda every day. More than 85 per cent of the refugees who have arrived here are women and children below 18 years in age.

- Uganda, working together with partners, can ensure that its youthful population contributes innovatively to sustainable peace and development, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango said at the National Commemoration of International Youth Day (IYD) in Bundibugyo District on 12th August 2017.

- IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, successfully hosted the organization’s third global training workshop on health assessment data validation and statistical reporting from 31st July to 4th August 2017.

- On 3rd August, the new UNAIDS Country Director Dr. Karusa Kiragu presented her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Sam Kutesa.

- President Museveni has asked all Ugandans to join him fight teenage pregnancy. Addressing a crowd of over 10,000 people during World Population Day celebrations at Madibira Primary School grounds in Busia District, the President said that teenage pregnancy is claiming the lives of young girls.

- East African governments have been asked to consider working with the private sector to address the challenges of e-waste through building strong and sustainable infrastructure to facilitate an environmentally friendly e-waste management system. The call was made by the UNIDO Uganda Country Representative Mr. Bruno Otto Tokwinya in the keynote speech at the 2nd East African Communications Organisation (EACO) Regional Workshop on Sustainable e-waste Management in the East African Region.
UN Pulse Lab Kampala held the Third Africa Data Summer School and Workshop in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Makerere University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and Sheffield University from 17 - 21 July in Arusha, Tanzania.

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

YOUTH CAN BE PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE, DEVELOPMENT SAYS UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR AT INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY EVENT

By Henry Mukasa, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

Uganda, working together with partners, can ensure that its youthful population contributes innovatively to sustainable peace and development, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango has said.

President Yoweri Museveni (second from right) greets Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator (second from left) the National Commemoration of International Youth Day (IYD) in Bundibugyo District on 12th August 2017
She was speaking at the National Commemoration of International Youth Day (IYD) on theme “Youth Building Peace” held in Bundibugyo District on 12th August 2017. President Yoweri Museveni was the chief guest at the event, which was also attended by ministers, Members of Parliament, local leaders, youth and students.

In 1999 the United Nations General Assembly designated 12th August as the day to reflect on youth issues worldwide every year. According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics, about 78% of the population is currently below 30 years of age. Bundibugyo District, where the IYD event was commemorated, witnessed post-election and tribal violence in 2016.

“We cannot achieve sustainable development, job creation, environment protection and stability without the active participation of the youth,” Ms. Malango, who is also the UNDP Resident Representative noted.

“We can work together to make sure that these youth are part of the solutions in the country,” Ms. Malango said. “I call upon the youth to remember that you are the champions of Uganda’s peace, prosperity and sustainable development. Use your knowledge, skills and talents to
contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring that Uganda reaches middle income status. You are Uganda’s present and future,” she added.

President Museveni promised that most of the challenges that the youth face will be solved with proper budgeting. “So many groups insist on spending on consumption and not production,” Mr. Museveni said.

He promised to meet with the youth leaders under the National Youth Council (NYC) to discuss challenges facing the youth. NYC chairperson, Lilian Aber said they need shs 4.5billion to support operations of the district youth leadership and 5% of the locally generated revenue to support youth programmes.

Mr. Museveni asked the youth movement to champion the protection of the environment, especially forests and wetlands. “The youth movement should decampaign those who are shallow and do not see far, destroying the environment,” Mr. Museveni said.

At the event several youth groups used drama to convey messages of peace and appeal for tolerance and co-existence to development the area jointly. Ms. Malango reiterated the commitment of the UN family to partner with the Government and people of Uganda to advance the empowerment of youth. She disclosed that the UN system in Uganda has developed the Adolescents and Youth Strategy 2017-2020 to support Government efforts. It recognizes the role of adolescents and youth as contributors to the growth and transformation of Uganda.

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

IOM UGANDA HOSTS GLOBAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

By Richard M Kavuma, IOM

IOM, the United Nations Migration Agency, successfully hosted the organization’s third global training workshop on health assessment data validation and statistical reporting. The workshop, at Kabira Country Club in Kampala, attracted 38 health assessment experts and data managers from IOM missions in 16 countries across the world.

IOM Uganda Chief of Mission Ali Abdi, who opened the five-day workshop on 31 July, said Migration health professionals had a duty to get everything right. This would not only
maintain the organization’s reputation, but it would also help restore some of the world’s flagging faith in the migration system.

“Health Assessment is one of the core services that IOM provides to its beneficiaries, and it is a requirement prior to granting visas for major migrant-recipient countries,” Mr Abdi said. “I believe this workshop provides a great platform for you to share your technical expertise and experiences and best practices, and help further streamline our processes.”

A participant speaks during the workshop

At the request receiving States (mostly USA, Canada, Australia, UK and New Zealand), IOM missions - provide health assessment services to immigrants and refugees before their departure to destination countries. The system helps to improve the health of migrants through detection and treatment of conditions, ease their migrants’ integration into new locations, and manage the public health impact of migration on destination countries.

Last year, for instance, IOM Uganda conducted at least 14,570 health assessments and resettled nearly 9,000 refugees into third countries. But at a time when traditional migrant-accepting countries are becoming ever more wary of new arrivals, IOM is keen to ensure that its health assessment teams across the world remain on top of their game. Hence the Kabira workshop was the third, after the first one in Philippines, in 2015, and the second in Jordan last year.

According to Dr Mukunda Singh Basnet, the IOM Uganda Chief Medical Officer, IOM believes that if migration is well-managed, it works in the ultimate interest of both migrants and the
countries that take them in. And proper health assessment of people on the move is part of a long checklist of proper management of migration.

During the workshop facilitated by senior IOM experts from the Philippines, USA and Switzerland, participants discussed problems and lessons pertaining to migration health data and information management. They also shared their experiences on using IOM health assessment tools such as MIMOSA (Migration Management and Operation System Application) and UKTB (United Kingdom Tuberculosis Detection Program) Application. Participants toured IOM Uganda’s MHAC, which they praised for having a quality-enhancing structure and procedures.

“Your division here is doing a very good job, and it looks really well structured,” said Ivan Froes from Ukraine, during a visit to MHAC at Plot 47, Bukoto Crescent. “I am thinking of taking some ideas back home; I like the setup very much.”
NEW UNAIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

By Caroline Magambo, UNAIDS

On 3rd August, the new UNAIDS Country Director Dr. Karusa Kiragu presented her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Sam Kutesa. Dr. Kiragu, who replaces Ms. Amakobe Sande, pointed out that her focus will be on working with the government and other partners towards achieving the 5 point plan outlined in the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative. Dr. Kiragu is a trained public health specialist and epidemiologist with over 25 years post-doctoral experience.
experience. She has been based at UNAIDS Geneva as a Senior Advisor since 2008. She has extensive experience from working in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zambia. She obtained a PhD from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Hygiene and MPH from the University of South Carolina. She is married and has a teenage son.

Speaking to the media after being accredited, Dr. Kiragu commended the Government of Uganda and the President’s leadership for the exceptional initiative he has made to refocus the HIV response in Uganda. She commended the President for the five-point plan christened the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative on Ending AIDS as a Public Health Threat in Uganda, which was launched on the 6th June in Kampala outlining key areas in revitalising HIV prevention and closing the tap of new infections particularly among girls, young women and men; consolidating progress on elimination of mother to child transmission; accelerating implementation of “test and treat” which is expected to rapidly scale-up coverage of HIV treatment services in the country; ensuring domestic financing sustainability for the HIV response and finally strengthening institutional effectiveness for a multi-sectoral response.

“The success Uganda has recorded in reducing the HIV transmission from mothers to babies is commendable. In particular, I congratulate the First Lady for her commitment to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV” she added. According to the UNAIDS report that was recently released, by the end of 2016, more than 95% of pregnant women living with HIV were receiving ART to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Uganda has registered a reduction of the number of new infections among adults and children, which have declined by 47% between 2010 and 2016, with an estimated 52,000 [42,000-64,000] new HIV infections in 2016. This means that 1,000 Ugandans acquire HIV every week, and we should work to reduce this number to zero. While young people (15-24 years) constitute about 20% of total population in Uganda, they contributed 42% of the new infections. Of particular concern is that two-thirds of new infections among young people occurred among adolescent girls and young women.

She noted that while the country registered a 56% decline in AIDS related deaths between 2010 and 2016, the major concern is high deaths among men. Of 23,000 adult’s deaths recorded in 2016, 15,300 were males and 7,700 were females. During the launch of the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative, the President urged men to voluntarily go for counselling and testing to access treatment if diagnosed with HIV, so that they can suppress the virus before it impairs their immune system.

“With the men still lagging behind, I appeal to the government and partners in the fight against AIDS to accelerate the campaign to reach them. Campaigns can encourage men to seek HIV counseling, testing and treatment, so they can benefit from the services available in Uganda” she said.
PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ENDORSES ‘LET GIRLS BE GIRLS’ CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEENAGE PREGNANCY

By Prossy Nakanjako, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

Busia, President Museveni has asked all Ugandans to join him fight teenage pregnancy. Addressing a crowd of over 10,000 people during World Population Day celebrations at Madibira Primary School grounds in Busia District, the President said that teenage pregnancy is claiming the lives of young girls. “One out of every four teenage girls has had a baby before they reach 19 years old,” President Museveni said. “This is not acceptable because it leads to high maternal mortality, cancer and fistula – a tear of the birth canal because the body is not ready for childbirth. I ask all Ugandans to join me in ending this shameful problem in our country,” he added.

President Museveni made this call following a request from UNFPA Representative, Mr. Alain Sibenaler, to re-launch the ‘Let Girls be Girls’ campaign to end teenage pregnancy. Mr. Sibenaler was making remarks during the World Population Day commemoration under the national theme, “strengthening youth competitiveness for sustainable development.”

“Uganda’s youth cannot be competitive with a high and stagnant teenage pregnancy where cultural, social and at times policy barriers hinder their access to accurate, age-appropriate information regarding their sexuality,” said Mr. Sibenaler.
President Museveni speaks with Crystal Tagoola, a pupil of Aga Khan Primary School. Also in photo is Mr. Alain Sibenaler, UNFPA Representative and Ms. Prossy Nakanjako, Communications, Media and External Relations Officer at UNFPA Photo by Martha Songa/UNFPA

“We therefore humbly request Your Excellency and the First Lady of Uganda to launch a National Campaign that will Let Uganda’s Girls be Girls. A campaign that will have Uganda rally around the importance of preventing teenage pregnancies, of preventing all forms of violence and of preventing infection from HIV.” The ‘Let Girls be Girls,’ campaign was first launched in 2014 in Butaleja by the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga who advised parents not to surrender the rights of their teenage girls for the small price of paraffin, sugar or salt.

Throughout the 12-month period of the campaign, the issue of teenage pregnancy featured prominently on national agenda. But the problem still persists. According to the recently released Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS, 2016), 25 per cent of teenage girls between age 15 and 18 have already had a baby or are pregnant with their first child.
The request to re-launch the campaign was supported by the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda, H.E. Henk Jan Bakker who cautioned young people to live a healthy life and resist to be put at risk by unplanned pregnancy.

Making reference to a message he had read on a T-shirt: “First Things First, Books Before Babies!” Mr. Bakker said, “Young women have the right to decide when they are ready to marry, have children and the number of children they want to have.”

President Museveni said that he was in agreement with the Ambassador, “young girls should not produce babies before finishing school.”

World Population Day is commemorated every 11th of July. The global theme for this year was, Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations. In Uganda, the national commemoration was preceded by a series of build-up events including a youth dialogue on sexual and reproductive health; a national dialogue on family planning; the launch of two innovative applications - The Zone and SafePal –to support young people’s access to sexual and reproductive information and services; cancer screening and family planning surgical camps; as well as a workshop for local leaders that was held in Busia, the host district.

UNIDO URGES REGIONAL LEADERS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES OF E-WASTE

By Judith Atim, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

East African governments have been asked to consider working with the private sector to address the challenges of e-waste through building strong and sustainable infrastructure to facilitate an environmentally friendly e-waste management system.
The call was made by the UNIDO Uganda Country Representative Mr Bruno Otto Tokwiny in the keynote speech at the 2nd East African Communications Organisation (EACO) Regional Workshop on Sustainable e-waste Management in the East African Region. “Addressing the challenges of E-waste will require governments working with the Private sector through Public-Private Partnerships to build robust and sustainable infrastructure to facilitate an environmentally friendly e-waste management system and provide incentives for consumers to dispose their e-waste, ” Mr Otto told the participants from the five East African Community member states who had converged in Kampala for the workshop.

He also cited a number of issues affecting the management of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) including the low level of public awareness on the harmful effects of these wastes on the environment, human health and safety; urging regional leaders to create awareness and encourage citizen participation through deliberate and specific marketing and campaign strategies that target citizens directly.
Panelists at the 2nd East African Communications Organisation (EACO) Regional Workshop on Sustainable e-waste Management in the East African Region

Mr Otto further highlighted the fact that most of the EAC member states lack adequate regulatory framework to effectively deal with WEEE management at the local level despite the fact that they are signatories to most international conventions on e-waste. “Currently, all the solid waste collected by local authorities is not separated into different streams to facilitate separation of WEEE and deal with disposal in effective ways,” he said, adding that there is need to develop a proper waste collection system in all local authorities where waste is separated at the source.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance Mr Vincent Bagiire said, “the lack of relevant laws to address e-waste in most EAC member countries; non-environmentally sound management of e-waste such as the recovery of good components; and lack of a national infrastructure for formal recycling are some of the major challenges affecting the proper handling of e-waste management in the region.” He thus urged East African member states to have a comprehensive discussion on how to dispose of electronic
waste and come up with mechanisms of addressing the challenges such waste materials pose to both human life and the environment.

The workshop was held from 19th to 21st July, 2017 at the Uganda Communications Commission House in Bugolobi, Kampala under the theme "Towards Zero negative impact of E-waste in the EACO member states by 2030." It attracted participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

UNIDO TAKES PART IN 25TH ANNUAL SOURCE OF THE NILE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW IN JINJA

By Judith Atim, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

The processors supported by UNIDO exhibit their products during the Agriculture show in Jinja

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) took part in the 25th Annual Source of the Nile National Agricultural Show in Jinja Municipality in Eastern Uganda. The show which took place from 17 July - 23 July 2017 at Jinja showgrounds was held under the theme ‘Managing the Challenges of Climate Change for Sustainable Agriculture.’ This
show was designed as a centre to expose the latest innovations and technologies in agricultural and trade sectors as well as establishing business linkages.

UNIDO supported 10 processors under its Uganda Banana Livelihood Diversification Project the supported by participated together with over 200 other exhibitors at the event. In general, UNIDO supports over 500 banana processors from eight districts in Western Uganda including Mbarara, Bushenyi, Mitooma, Sheema, Ntungamo, Insingiro, Rubirizi, Buhweju. The processors deal in a wide range of products which include banana flour, juice, wine, crisps and chips, handicrafts and many other products. Out of these, UNIDO invited a group of ten banana processors to exhibit their products at the recently held Agriculture show.

Speaking at the opening of the event, the President H.E Yoweri Museveni urged citizens to understand that Agriculture is closely linked to environmental conservation and added that they must stop encroaching on wetlands, swamps, lakes, rivers and forests, which are water catchment areas.

“We can’t talk about agriculture without talking about the environment. Even if we are to irrigate our gardens, we need water but where shall we get the water from when we have destroyed all our water catchment areas leading to loss of rain. We, therefore, need to partner up and sensitise the population to peacefully leave these water catchment points,” the president said.

In that regard, UNIDO is working to safe guard the environment through working with the Government to support its environmental management efforts as well as focuses on the sustainable use of water resources. UNIDO also works to create shared prosperity through agribusiness and rural entrepreneurship development by linking resources and markets in agribusiness value chains and strengthening forward and backward industrial linkages to leg up the economic transformation of countries, improve employment and income opportunities thus reinforcing sustainable livelihoods.

SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

AFRICA HOLDS THIRD DATA SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL AND WORKSHOP

By Chanil Jung Pulse Lab Kampala

The workshop organized by Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in collaboration with Makerere University and Pulse Lab Kampala, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and Sheffield University took place from 17 - 21 July in Arusha, Tanzania.
Pulse Lab Kampala, as one of the organizers, facilitated several lectures at the Summer School such as Machine Learning and showcased Pulse Lab Kampala’s work and projects at the workshop. In addition, Pulse Lab Kampala shared about the implications of using data science on solving development issues and privacy protection during the panel discussion sessions at the workshop.

The event started with a three-day summer school on machine learning and data science that focused on introducing important concepts of machine learning and the use of data science software for participating graduate students, researchers, and professionals. The summer school also included introductory and advanced lectures in data science and machine learning as well as moderate to advanced practical and tutorial sessions. This was followed by a two-day workshop around paper presentations and interactive panel discussions all aimed giving participants opportunities to learn about cutting-edge technologies and applications of machine learning and data science and engage in in-depth discussions with experts. Advanced topics, including health, IOT, geospatial analysis, use of machine learning on visual recognition, were discussed during the workshop.

Lectures were given by experts from Sheffield University, Amazon, Swansea University Medical School, Facebook, Pulse Lab Kampala, the AI and Data Science (AIR) lab-Makerere University, ARM and Dedan Kimath University of Technology (DeKUT).

The next Data Science workshop at Nyeri, Kenya (Dedan Kimath University of Technology) from 4-8 June and then Abuja, Nigeria (African University of Science and Technology, AUST) dates TBD all aimed at expanding the collaboration.

Programmes for the event: [http://www.datascienceafrica.org/dsa2017/](http://www.datascienceafrica.org/dsa2017/)

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