OVERVIEW

- The total amount of pledges received so far, as a result of the Uganda Solidarity Summit for refugees and communities hosting them is **USD 354.9 million** (as at 15th September 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/)

- The total number of Refugees in Uganda is 1,355,764 including 1,021,903 from South Sudan. Between 1st January 2017 and 18th September 2017, there were 340,103 new arrivals from South Sudan according to the UNHCR Uganda Flash Update on the South Sudanese Emergency Response of 19th September 2017.

- The UN Country Team held their annual retreat from 7th to 9th September and agreed on several measures to improve delivery.

- The Government of Uganda and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a financing agreement on 23rd August 2017 for a project to restore degraded wetlands, improve ecosystems, strengthen climate information and early warning systems supported with a US$24 million grant from the Green Climate Fund, US$2 million from UNDP and US$18.12 million in co-financing from the Government of Uganda.

- The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango called on youth in Buganda Kingdom to be drivers of social change needed in the value system of Uganda during the launch of the Buganda Youth Mentorship and Leadership Camp 2018 (Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka Gatonnya 2018) held in Bulange Mengo, Kampala.

- Alur King, Ubimu Philip Olarker Rauni III has vowed to fight all the injustices against women in his Kingdom. He made this vow while officiating at the launch of HeForShe Campaign in Nebbi District.

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed 150 metric tons of high-energy biscuits to World Food Programme’s (WFP) refugee response efforts in Uganda.

- The Ministry of Health with support from partners convened a two-day meeting to discuss control and elimination of Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) in Uganda. The meeting provided an opportunity for the experts to review the Ministry of Health’s Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) programme implementation.
SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UN COUNTRY TEAM REFLECTS ON DELIVERY AT ANNUAL RETREAT

By Patricia Nalule, United Nations Resident Coordinators Office (RCO)

“UN in Uganda remains committed to strengthening regional partnerships and integration, improving Delivering as One (DaO) and reinforcing the UN’s role in addressing the root causes of development challenges in Uganda,” said Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator in her remarks at the opening of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) retreat.

The UNCT annual retreat is a platform to discuss progress, identify challenges, agree on the way forward to make relevant decisions for the UN to remain fit for purpose in Uganda. The UNCT is comprised of the heads of 18 UN agencies, funds and programmes.

The three-day retreat held from 7th to 9th September 2017 at Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe was attended by heads of UN agencies in Uganda based in the country and at regional headquarters, representatives from Government, ambassadors, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The retreat
acted as a platform for the UN Family to reflect on delivery and forge a way forward to strengthen partnerships.

The Prime Minister, Right Honourable Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, in remarks read on his behalf by Mr. Martin Owori, Commissioner at the Office of the Prime Minister, said that the Government of Uganda was committed to mobilising domestic resources for the 2030 Agenda by widening the tax base, bringing on board the informal sector, and supporting the Ugandan private sector and entrepreneurship among youth.

The Dean of Diplomatic Corps and High Commissioner of Kenya, Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Okanga hailed Uganda’s relations in the region and her open-door policy to refugees.

The US Ambassador to Uganda, Ms. Deborah Malac in her remarks appreciated the work of the United Nations supporting refugees in the country. She further underscored the need for the UN to deliver as one as well as strengthen coordination with the Government of Uganda.

The South Korean Ambassador to Uganda Mr. Park Jong-Dae applauded UN and Government of Uganda for its role in supporting development in the country, citing the partnership between the South Korean government with UN on rural Sustainable Development Programs in areas of health and education.
The UN Country Team committed to review the coordination architecture of the UN System in Uganda, strengthen the UN Area Coordination teams, leverage joint operations at sub-national level, optimise partnerships with private sector, communicate with intent to all stakeholders including staff using appropriate tools and channels, encourage stakeholders and staff to talk about the UN’s work, and to play its role as convener of power, knowledge transfer and partnerships.

SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA AND UNDP SIGN FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR NEW CLIMATE FUND TO RESTORE WETLANDS AND BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

By Doreen Kansiime, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)


The Minister of Finance, Hon. Matia Kasaija, signed on behalf of the Government and the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango, signed on behalf of UNDP. The ceremony held at the Ministry of Finance offices was witnessed, the Minister of Water, by Hon. Sam Cheptoris.

The project is the UN’s response to the President of Uganda’s Presidential Initiative on Wetlands and a key spoke in the Government of Uganda’s integrated approach to building climate resilience and contributing to targets outlined in the Paris Agreements, 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework and other Global Accords.

The eight-year “Building Resilient Communities, Wetland Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda” project is supported with a US$24 million grant from the Green Climate Fund, US$2 million from UNDP and US$18.12 million in co-financing from the Government of Uganda.

The Green Climate Fund Project will restore an estimated area of at least 760 square kilometres of degraded wetlands and associated catchments while improving the lives of at least 500,000 people living in 20 districts in Eastern and South Western regions of Uganda which have experienced the highest levels of wetland degradation and climate change impacts.
“Addressing the effects of climate change and mitigating them remains key for the Government of Uganda. This project will therefore be key for improved management of wetlands and other environmental resources enabling us to achieve the goals of our second National Development Plan, Vision 2040 as well as the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” Hon. Kasaija said during the signing ceremony.

Hon. Matia Kasaija, the Minister of Finance, Planning & Economic Development and Ms. Rosa Malango, the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator for Uganda sign the Green Climate Fund (GCF) financial agreement at the Ministry Offices in Kampala. The project will restore degraded wetlands, improve ecosystems, and strengthen climate information and early warning systems. (Photo Credit: UNDP Uganda 2017).

He also thanked UNDP for working with the Government to acquire the GCF funding which will be an addition to the national budget and other government efforts to fight the effects of climate change.
“The project will augment our efforts to safeguard the environment and its natural resources”, Hon Sam Cheptoris Minister of Water and Environment said. He underscored the need to restore degraded ecosystems specifically wetlands and forests in order to contribute towards the realization of Vision 2040 and the middle income status. He pledged his Ministry’s continued commitment to ensure that the project is successfully implemented and the set targets are fully realised.

Ms. Malango, the UNDP Representative emphasized that the project’s main goal is to enable communities living near wetlands have alternative livelihoods that encourage wise use of this resource enabling them to be part of efforts to restore the wetlands.

“Restoration of wetlands is just the beginning, these conservation efforts will also be replicated and extended to protect forests and wildlife areas among others, so that Uganda is able to wholesomely address the issues of environmental degradation,” Ms. Malango stated.

**SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

**YOUTH CALLED TO BE DRIVERS OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN UGANDA**

By Monica M. Aturinda, United Nations Resident Coordinators Office (RCO)

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango has called on youth in Buganda Kingdom to be drivers of social change needed in the value system of Uganda.

Ms. Malango said this at the launch of the Buganda Youth Mentorship and Leadership Camp 2018 (Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka Gatonya 2018) held in Bulange Mengo, Kampala. The occasion is a symbolic transfer of duty from the previous host school of Ekisaakaate to the incoming host school.

“Ekisaakaate is a good innovation for breeding a social movement that has the consequence of creating a new breed of transformative leadership and a moral responsible generation that holds within its reach, the ability to sustain peace and development in a world where the two are in great jeopardy,” said Ms. Malango.

She added that putting culture and peace at the heart of peace and development will enable us to create a new generation of citizens who are respectful, hardworking and caring.
The Kampala Capital City Authority Executive Director, Ms. Jennifer Musisi who was the chief guest, asked the youth to uphold obuntubulamu values in their lives - respect for each other and every individual regardless of their status.

The Nnabagereka (Queen) of Buganda, Her Royal Highness Lady Sylvia Nna Nninga (third from left) and United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango (second from left) with dignitaries at the launch of Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka Gatonnya 2018

“I am able to deliver at my job because my mother instilled good values of obuntubulamu when I was young and they are my guiding principle that are leading me to do great thing for my family, country and others,” said Ms. Musisi.

“A number of people have look at Ekisaakaate as a practice for only Buganda, but this is wrong because it is for anyone who is interested in the positive values and life skills that it teaches,” said Ms. Deborah Kaddu Serwadda Executive Director of the Nnabagereka Development Foundation (NDF).

Freedom Ahereza, a student of Seeta Church of Uganda Primary School said her life has transformed after attending Ekisaakaate last year, “I can now help my mother to do house chores something I never used to do,” said Aherez. He encouraged every youth to attend Ekisaakaate because he believes it the good values of togetherness it teaches.
The Ekisaakaate Kya Nnabagereka is NDF’s annual flagship program that is open to both girls and boys between 6 and 18 years of age. Going into its twelfth year of existence, the EKN continues to attract youth from various regions and ethnic groups in Uganda. Currently, it has impacted on close to twelve thousand youth (12,000) in and outside Uganda.

The UN in Uganda is partnering with NDF on the revival of Obuntubulamu using positive set of cultural values as a tool for bringing about social transformation to ensure Uganda achieves vision 2040. In June, this year, the first ever roundtable for different cultural institutions Uganda was held, which demonstrated the willingness and drive for cultural leaders to champion the positive cultural values and pass them on to the young generation.

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

ALUR KING VOWS TO FIGHT INJUSTICES AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

By Aidah Nanyonjo, UN Women

Alur King, Ubimu Philip Olarker Rauni III has vowed to fight all the injustices against women in his Kingdom.

While officiating at the launch of HeForShe Campaign in Nebbi District on 12th August 2017, Ubimu Olarker said, “we shall support, empower and protect our girls against all forms of injustices, cruelty, marginalization and inhumane treatment. Such behaviours have no place in Alur culture. And as a king I stand for the HeForShe Campaign.”

King Olarker pledged to champion the HeForShe Campaign with a call to all men and boys in his kingdom to rally behind him in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. “Promoting women and girls’ rights is something I have personally decided to champion. I therefore, issue a call to all men and boys of Alur Kingdom to rally behind me to end gender inequality as well as discrimination,” King Olarker said.

King Olarker was optimistic that by the end of five years of implementing this campaign, attitudes of men in Alur Kingdom towards gender equality will have changed and rivaled by no other community. He urged his subjects to take a lead and ensure that the HeForShe campaign succeeds. He said, “UN Women and MEMPROW are giving us a stepping stone to tackle this injustice. It up on us as leaders and people of Alur Kingdom especially men to champion this campaign.”
UN Women Representative ai. Ms. Mary Okumu (left) with Alur King, Ubimu Philip Olarker Rauni III

UN Women Country Representative (Officer in charge), Dr. Mary Okumu, thanked the king for championing the campaign that will contribute to gender equality and the general wellbeing of women and girls. “Thank you your majesty for shining a spotlight in Alur Kingdom. I applaud you for the vision you have demonstrated in uplifting the status of women and girls in Alur Kingdom. We want cultural leaders, men and boys to be role models in championing gender equality,” Okumu said.

The campaign will be implemented in partnership with UN Women, Alur Kingdom and MEMPROW, an NGO that has been operating in the area for more than five years.
USAID AND WFP RECEIVE HIGH-ENERGY BISCUITS FOR REFUGEES

By Claire Nevill, World Food Programme (WFP)

Left to right - United Parcel Services (UPS) Country Manager Mr. Luc Angwenyi; World Food Programme Country Director Mr. El Khidir Daloum; and U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Ms. Deborah Malac during the handover of the high energy biscuits for refugees.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has contributed 150 metric tons of high-energy biscuits to World Food Programme’s (WFP) refugee response efforts in Uganda.

With high-energy biscuits, WFP assists refugees immediately on their arrival in Uganda, before they are able to cook for themselves and in the absence of any structures through which they can find nutritious food.

U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Ms. Deborah Malac and United Nations World Food Programme Country Director Mr. El Khidir Daloum received the biscuits at the agency’s warehouse in
Kisubi on Wednesday August 30th, and were also joined by United Parcel Services (UPS) Country Manager Mr. Luc Angwenyi. UPS airlifted the biscuits pro-bono from the US to Uganda, offering vital logistics support to WFP's refugee operation.

WFP Country Director, Mr. Daloum said: “The World Food Programme is extremely grateful to the United States Government for what we are receiving today: 36 metric tons of high-energy biscuits for refugees fleeing South Sudan.”

“High-energy biscuits are the very first bite of nutritious food for most refugees arriving in Uganda after walking for days from South Sudan. Most refugees are women who arrive weary and hungry, carrying young children. The biscuits are a fast, immediate and convenient means of assisting them at the border before the Government transports them to the transit centres.”

The biscuits are a contribution of the American people through USAID’s Office of Food for Peace. The biscuits are part of a larger 70 million USD contribution that the U.S. Government has made this year to the refugee humanitarian response in Uganda through the WFP.

WFP’s food assistance to refugees has more than doubled in the last year. It costs the agency around US$19 million every month to provide 1.1 million refugees in Uganda with food, or cash to buy food.

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND PARTNERS GEAR UP TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE SCHISTOSOMIASIS IN UGANDA

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organisation (WHO)

The Ministry of Health with support from partners convened a two-day meeting to discuss control and elimination of Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) in Uganda. The meeting provided an opportunity for the experts to review the details of Ministry of Health’s Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) programme implementation, coverage of the different interventions, possible reasons for the resurgence of schistosomiasis and provide guidance on a comprehensive approach to controlling Schistosomiasis, using the available tools. Further to this, the experts deliberated on the scale up of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions for infection prevention. WHO provided guidelines on the integration of WASH interventions into NTD control and elimination, which the NTD programme intends to familiarize with and adapt as necessary.
Experts from different sectors of government and development partners that attended the meeting

The Acting World Health Organization Representative in Uganda Dr Abdouliie Jack applauded the Ministry of Health for bringing partners together saying, “Schistosomiasis is one of the NTDs that have inflicted man for a very long time, and a string of interventions ought to be implemented”. He, however, noted that the tools to control the disease and relieve people of the related morbidity, and the disease are available and should be put to good use.

The Director General of Health Services was represented by Dr Edridah Tukahebwa, the NTD Program Manager who remarked that Schistosomiasis remains a public health problem in Uganda. She said, “Seven million people are infected, and 16 million are at risk in Uganda, particularly those that live along lakes and rivers.” She, however, added that NTD control is integrated into the National strategic and development plans, hence creating momentum at national and local levels to eliminate NTDs. Dr Tukahebwa also acknowledged the support from partners and particularly thanked WHO for producing the necessary guidelines.

WHO's work on schistosomiasis is part of an integrated approach to the control of neglected tropical diseases. Although medically diverse, neglected tropical diseases share features that allow them to persist in conditions of poverty, where they cluster and frequently overlap. WHO coordinates the strategy of preventive chemotherapy in consultation with collaborating centres and partners from academic and research institutions, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, international development agencies, and other United Nations agencies. WHO develops technical guidelines and tools for adaptation and use by national control programmes.
Working with partners and the private sector, WHO has advocated for increased access to treatment and resources for implementation. WHO is also advocating for integration of WASH interventions into NTD control and elimination as this will enhance attainment of the 2020 advanced control targets for Schistosomiasis.

SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

YOUTHCONNEKT UGANDA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DEVELOPED

By Doreen Kansiime, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

An implementation plan for the YouthConnekt Initiative in Uganda has been developed.

The plan was developed by a mixed group of youth who are involved in different sectors ranging from Agriculture, those engaged in peace building to information and communication technology as well refugee youth.

*Participants of YouthConnekt Uganda Implementation plan development meeting, Kampala (Photo Credit: Southstreet24).*
The YouthConnekt initiative was initially started in Rwanda in 2013 and has yielded numerous successes in regards to supporting youth advance and develop themselves. It provides a context-specific approach to what works in addressing issues of youth unemployment and inclusion in socio-economic and political processes.

Building on the successes of Rwanda, Uganda signed up this year to scale up YouthConnekt initiative together with other African countries. The initiative was launched Africa wide during the Africa YouthConnekt Summit in Kigali, Rwanda held at the end of July 2017.

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