OVERVIEW

• UN Family led by UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, participates in the MTN Marathon 2017 to promote SDG 3- Good Health and Well-Being.

• Uganda’s refugee hosting approach showcased to fellow African States at the inaugural African South-South Cooperation Match-Making event for SDG Achievement in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 November 2017.

• Mirambo iECD Centre, located 18kms from Kabale town in western Uganda, is a faith based model ECD centre set up with UNICEF support which teaches children through play. Through community mobilization, the centre was set up to provide early learning services to children between the ages of three and six years in Mirambo and neighbouring sub-counties.

• The National Financial Inclusion Strategy will be launched ending a lengthy process that the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) facilitated aimed at increasing financial inclusion.

• The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango on mission in Brussels, met with senior officials from across the European Commission and the European Parliament with a clear message – inclusive development in Uganda requires the ‘New Way of Working’ to be fully realised.

• The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) supported Uganda to design a harmonized, detailed and realistic road-map of activities to improve collaboration between animal health and public health sectors.
UN FAMILY PROMOTE SDG3 THROUGH MTN MARATHON

By Monica Aturinda, Resident Coordinator’s Office

Before day break of 19th November 2017, Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala was painted in yellow with marathoners including UN staff waiting to be flagged off for the 14th edition of the MTN Marathon.

As I made my way through the thick crowd at the starting lane, I bumped into one, Moses, who looked excited and I asked him if this was his first time to participate. “I have been coming for the marathon since it started here in Uganda but this particular one is special to me because it’s all about saving lives,” he replied while doing his final stretches for the run.

The theme for this year was improving Maternal Health and reducing risk to cancer, which are both linked to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3)- Good Health and Well-being. Like
Moses, most participants were in support of this cause including UN staff who ran to promote SDG3.

“Maternal health and the fight against cancer are all about the Sustainable Development Goals—that’s why I am running,” said Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator when asked why she was excited about this year’s MTN marathon.

The UN agencies who participated included; FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCHR and UN Women. Two UN staff won medals in the 21km category; Ms. Viola Akuma from Pulse lab Kampala and Mr. Abilio Alfeu from UNFPA.

Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator posing for a photo with UN medalists Ms. Viola Akumu, Pulse Lab Kampala on her left and Mr. Abilio Alfeu of UNFPA on her right after the MTN Marathon
UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango marking her remarks at the South-South Cooperation event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Ms. Malango and officials from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) presented Uganda’s refugee hosting approach to fellow African States at the inaugural African South-South Cooperation Match-Making event for SDG Achievement in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 November 2017.

Mr. Charles Bafaki, Principal Settlement Officer at OPM’s Department for Refugees, told delegates that Uganda seeks to leverage the potential of refugees as contributors to the nation’s development. Presenting the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE)
strategic framework, Mr. Bafaki outlined the advantages of working with partners on development-oriented solutions for refugees and their host communities.

Outlining the conducive policy environment, Ms. Malango presented the UN in Uganda’s ‘whole of system’ approach to implementing ReHoPE, and the UN’s revised footprint to achieve this. She highlighted UNDP’s recent re-positioning, including the development of its ‘Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy for Refugees and Host Communities’, the establishment of an office in Yumbe and requests from the Government to leverage UNDP’s convening power with local and national stakeholders, as examples of how development approaches within a humanitarian context can drive forward durable solutions in Uganda. She highlighted that this indigenous approach led by the Government of Uganda made it possible to contribute to emerging global platforms such as the New York Declaration’s Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the SDGs.

Committing to take forward south-south cooperation in refugee hosting and innovative financing, Ms. Malango invited delegations from Cote d’Iviore, Ethiopia and Zambia to visit Uganda to see the approach first-hand.

SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

IN A RURAL MODEL INTEGRATED EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH PLAY

By Proscovia Nakibuuka Mbonye, UNICEF

It is a few minutes after nine o’clock and the children of Mirambo integrated Early Childhood Development Centre (iECD) are all in class for morning lessons. In the middle class, for those aged four to five years, it is time for the lesson on mathematics led by children themselves. The session is very participatory and the children are learning through songs.

Before the lesson begins, teacher Immaculate engages the children through a song. She wants them to sit down before the lesson begins. ‘Sit down”, “We are sitting down.” Sit down”, “We are sitting down.” They do this while clapping and dancing.
When they have all settled down, teacher Immaculate asks for a volunteer to lead the class, several hands go up in the air and little Amos, a five-year-old boy is selected. He quickly dashes to the corner where locally made learning materials like balls, sticks, bottle tops, are kept. He chooses balls made from banana fibers. He then picks up one ball at a time, counting loudly one up to ten as the whole class repeats after him. Upon completion, the whole class applauds him for a job well done through a song that is accompanied by a dance. He also joins in the dancing with a smile. “Amos, Amos, you are so good. You are very nice. You are so clever. A soda and a cake for you,” they all chorus.

Medius Busingye, the head caregiver at the centre affirms that they chose this approach because it enables the children to learn faster. “It is fun because we teach them through play,” she mentions. The children are also taught how to interact with each other, how to take care of themselves, basic hygiene practices, among many other things. Throughout the day, the classes conducted are simplified for the little ones to learn easily and quickly. Activities begin at nine o’clock with an activity known as morning circle and end with another activity named goodbye circle.

Mirambo iECD Centre, located 18kms from Kabale town in western Uganda, is a faith based model Early Childhood Development centre set up with UNICEF support. Through community
mobilization, the centre was established to provide early learning services to children between the ages of three and six years in Mirambo and neighbouring sub-counties.

Prior to its establishment, the children stayed at home because the nearby primary school couldn’t enroll the little ones as they didn’t have any facilities for that age group. However, since its inception in 2012, the numbers have gone up from 25 to 89 in 2017. The centre boasts of five teachers and five trained caregivers. Today, children accompanied by their parents, walk as far as 3km to the centre because they want to learn and play.

SDG 9-INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LITERACY WEEK SPECIAL: NAVIGATE COMPLEX PHONE *# MENUS

By Naomi de Groot, Knowledge Management UNCDF MM4P

The National Financial Inclusion Strategy was launched at the end of October ending a lengthy process that UNCDF facilitated from the start aiming to increase financial inclusion. When people have access to financial products, such as a mobile money accounts, research shows that people can save more, plan better and climb out of poverty quicker.

In Uganda, the UNCDF MM4P programme supports the creation of an ecosystem that allows people, especially in rural areas, to send, receive and use money on their mobile wallets. UNCDF works with implementing partners such as Kyagalani Coffee, Mukwano, Agroways and McLoud on digitising payments to farmers and workers. Receiving payments on their phone, allows people to save and create a buffer in case of economic shocks.

UNCDF MM4P is also part of the Technical Working Group on Cash for the Refugee Response, co-chaired by WFP and UNHCR. Together with our partners DanChurchAid, MercyCorps and World Vision, UNCDF is piloting mobile payments of cash based interventions for refugees.
MTN staff teaching a lady how to use the mobile money services.

Going digital, instead of driving a car full of cash to Northern Uganda, is not as easy as it sounds. There are many challenges. Not all refugees have a phone or a SIM card. And when they want to sign up for a SIM card some lack the required national ID. When these issues are solved, understanding the “Dial *#” menu can also be very tricky. Many people don’t grasp the complex menu, even if they can read English. They are simply not comfortable with a technology that is new to them.

Across UNCDF’s digital projects, potential beneficiaries need extra guidance when it comes to understanding mobile money and navigating the USSD menu. UNCDF supports mobile network operators with so called ‘booster teams’, that take the time to teach agents and customers every step of the way and help ensure the behavioral change that is needed for them to accept and adopt digital financial services.

For more information and weekly updates on our projects across the country please visit our blog: http://mm4p.uncdf.org/tags/uganda
“UGANDA REQUIRES THE ‘NEW WAY OF WORKING’ TO BE FULLY REALISED FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT” - UN CHIEF IN UGANDA VISITS EU INSTITUTIONS

By Steve Goldfinch United Nations Development Programme UNDP

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango, briefs the European Parliament’s Development Committee in Brussels

BRUSSELS – The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango on mission in Brussels, met with senior officials from across the European Commission and the European Parliament with a clear message – inclusive development in Uganda requires the ‘New Way of Working’ to be fully realised.
At the invitation of the UN/UNDP Office in Brussels, Ms. Malango visited Brussels to brief senior officials from the European External Action Service (EESA), the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the European Parliament’s Development Committee, as well as the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN directors based in Brussels. In addition, Ms. Malango paid courtesy calls on the Ugandan and Guatemalan Missions to the European Union.

Throughout her engagements, Ms. Malango outlined the challenges and opportunities in nationally-led efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within a context of complex, and increasing, multidimensional vulnerabilities. She underscored the importance of supporting a coherent approach to the various international agendas (SDGs, CRRF, Global Compact on Migration, Grand Bargain, etc.) recognising the value of national ownership above externally imposed deadlines.

Ms. Malango briefed officials on the UN’s positioning vis-à-vis the New Way of Working. She outlined the UN’s revised footprint in Uganda, noting the deployment of a UNDP-funded Senior Humanitarian-Development Advisor and Partnership Advisor, as well as two MSB-funded Humanitarian-Development Coordination Officers at the field level, in addition to an Information Management Officer in Kampala all aimed at strengthening efforts in support of the humanitarian-development nexus as the UN Delivers as One. She showcased publications produced to support the New Way of Working and SDGs in Uganda using the opportunity to highlight innovative approaches to engage cultural leaders to promote the SDGs by linking it to cultural values linked to our shared humanity as well as innovative work being done to improve the use of big data in humanitarian and development action.

Thanking the European Union and Kingdom of Belgium for their ongoing support to Uganda’s development aspirations, Ms. Malango reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations family in Uganda to further strengthening partnerships with a more diverse group of stakeholders.
UGANDA COMMITS TO SCALING UP COLLABORATION BETWEEN VETERINARY HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH SECTORS

By Edmond Mwebembezi World Health Organization WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) supported Uganda to design a harmonized, detailed and realistic roadmap of activities to improve collaboration between animal health and the public health sector, in a three-day meeting convened at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala. The roadmap will enable Uganda to prevent, detect and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks.

WHO’s Dr. Stephane de la Rocque guides participants through the IHR/PVS core competencies matrix

The roadmap highlighted the importance of International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and the role of WHO, on the mandate of the OIE. Veterinary services were recognized as a crucial part of implementing the IHR (2005). The importance of the IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (IHRMEF) and Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) strategic planning and exploring capacity building needs was also given prominence.
Additionally, participants noted that emerging, re-emerging, and endemic human diseases have their origins in animals recognizing that diseases in animals can have additional implications for human health through food safety and food security.

In his opening remarks, the Acting Director General of Health Services, Professor Anthony Mbonye noted that human and animal interaction is the leading source of disease outbreaks. He said, “We have to integrate human and animal health services if we are to quell disease outbreaks successfully.”

Mr. Andrew Bakainaga spoke on behalf of the WHO Representative in Uganda and highlighted the importance of integrating animal and public health. “Having a national action plan that is harmonized to control zoonotic disease will propel the country to greater heights in public health”, he said.

WHO and OIE have been active promoters and implementers of an intersectoral collaborative approach among institutions and systems to prevent, detect, and control diseases among animals and humans. WHO and OIE are the two main international organizations responsible for proposing references for public health and animal health sectors respectively. They have developed various frameworks, tools and guidance material to strengthen the capacities at the national, regional and global levels.

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