OVERVIEW

- This edition of the Bulletin brings you stories from the Joint Field Visit of the UN Executive Boards to Uganda, their interaction with the Government and communities to learn more about the work of the UN System in Uganda in collaboration with its partners and how the UN is contributing to the achievement of the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP). Most of these stories demonstrate how the UN is delivering on the ground.
- The Joint Executive Board Members led by His Excellency Jagdish Koonjul, visits Karamoja region – Commend agencies for their partnership with local governments on development.
- The Joint Executive Board Members led by H.E. Zoltan Kalman visit West Nile sub-region to review humanitarian work by the UN- Refugee women showcase livelihood projects such as art and crafts and share how they have benefited from the programme.
- The UN supported Youth Centre in Kisenyi, Kampala empowers youth with employable skills.
- UN supported child friendly spaces helping refugee children in West Nile sub-region recover from trauma.
- The Government of Uganda and the UN launch a new initiative to address food security and strengthen ecosystems in the Karamoja sub-region.
- FAO urges media in Uganda to prioritize reporting on commercial forestry and environment
- **Pictorial:** UN Resident Coordinator meets the newly appointed Inspector General of Police to discuss partnership.
UN JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARDS MEMBERS VISIT KARAMOJA REGION - COMMEND AGENCIES FOR PARTNERING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON DEVELOPMENT

By Doreen Kansiime, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

To the welcome of Karamoja’s majestic rock mountains and its lush green, 17 members of the high-level mission of the Executive Boards of six United Nations (UN) agencies landed in the Moroto. The team was part of the 34 members of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Women and the World Food Programme (WFP) who were in Uganda for five days from 30th April to 4th May 2018.
The Executive Board members were in Uganda to assess the UN’s work in supporting the country’s development efforts were led by His Excellency Jagdish Koonjul, who is the President of the UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Board.

In Karamoja sub-region, the team visited Moroto and Amudat districts where they saw first-hand how the UN is supporting the delivery of education, health, livelihood support and well as promoting peace among communities.

They also visited some of UNDP’s project sites including Rupa Police Station, one of the police stations that UNDP has supported to improve security for communities living along the borders of Uganda with South Sudan and Kenya in districts of Moroto, Amudat and Kaabong.

UNDP equipped the Police response units along the three border points with communications equipment as well as three patrol cars and eight motorcycles to support the peace keeping efforts along the borders.

“With UNDP’s support, we now have transport to enable us carry out community policing and follow up on any reported crime incidents faster. The communities and traders along the border can tell that there is reduced incidence of crime because of this support,” Regional Police Commander, Aruk Maruk said during the meeting with the board members.

Commander Maruk added that UN Women had supported both the Police and the community in the region to understand and follow up on issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV) while UNFPA supported them to reduce the dangerous cultural practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). These efforts have led to increased reporting of these vices and swift action to address them.

In Amudat District, the Board members met with the district local government officials who gave them a warm welcome by dressing them in the traditional Karamojong suka (plaid cloth). The reception took place at the administration block constructed with support from UNDP.

While at Alakas border in the same district, the members visited the Immigration offices shared with Uganda Police, also constructed with support from UNDP.
The new office has restored immigration services along the border and has been instrumental in curbing the smuggling of illegal arms and uncontrolled movements of criminals, including perpetrators of FGM to and from Kenya that had prevailed for a long time, easing interventions of other UN agencies such as UNFPA on FGM.

Since the establishment of the office in 2010, immigration officers have noted a significant reduction of incidents related to illegal movement and an increase in trade between Ugandans and their Kenyan counterparts, as a result Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) also intends to establish a presence in the area.

The board members also visited Rupa Health Centre III and Kala Girls Primary School where UNFPA and WFP are supporting sexual and reproductive health services and proving food respectively.

At the end of their visit board members visited a traditional Karamojong manyatta and interacted with the family members who shared some of their traditional practices.

Speaking about the visit, the H.E Koonjul said that he was delighted to see that the UN agencies were working together to deliver development support to the region. He called on local leaders to ensure sustainability of these efforts as they work with the UN to reach sustainable development.

The report of the board members’ visit will contribute to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ new reforms for better coordination, transparency and accountability, beginning with a new generation of demand-driven UN Country Teams, equipped with skill sets tailored to country-specific development priorities and needs.
REFUGEE WOMEN CALL FOR MORE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

By Aidah Nanyonjo, Communications Officer, UN Women

For 68-year-old Jackeline Tabu, a resident of Zone One, Bidi bidi Refugee Settlement, excessive consumption of alcohol had become part of her lifestyle.

For more than three months, Tabu sold part of her food rations to get money to purchase alcohol. Although she was given a tarpaulin, she did not construct a house for herself. Her grandchildren ate from neighbours and sometimes slept there.

Tabu is one of the refugees who fled to Uganda to escape the conflict in South Sudan. She left Jebele Zone in Juba in June 2016 after a bullet struck her husband in the head and killed him instantly. She was with her husband in the house when the gunshots started. As he peeped through the window to check on the direction of the shooting, a bullet hit him.
Tabu narrated her story to the high-level delegation of the Joint Executive Boards that visited West Nile in Uganda to assess the organization’s work in supporting the country’s development efforts.

The team visited humanitarian projects by UN Women with the refugees in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement, the largest refugee settlement in Uganda. The women refugees from South Sudan showcased livelihood projects such as Art and Crafts. They shared stories on how they have benefited from the UN Women Humanitarian Response Programme. The refugee women asked for the return of peace in South Sudan, psychosocial support, a revolving fund to enable them start businesses, and vocational skills training in hair dressing, tailoring, catering and agribusiness.

Ms. Desiree del Carmen, the Vice President of the Executive Board of UN Women for Latin America and the Caribbean called for more assistance to Uganda to enable it to meet the needs of women especially those fleeing the civil war in South Sudan.

Mr. Jyrki Juhana Terva, Finland, Minister/Counsellor – UN Women said that, “It was very enlightening to see and have discussions with the beneficiaries of the projects. We shall take this message to New York, that ‘UN Women is a strong operator in the humanitarian response for further discussion on how to continue empowering women especially in the refugee settlements.”

Dr. Maxime Houinato, Designate UN Women Representative Uganda noted that the humanitarian interventions should go beyond direct delivery of services and look at the sociological setups such as the vulnerability of some members of the household specifically women and children.

Robert Baryamwesiga, the OPM settlement commandant at Bidi bidi Refugee Settlement expressed regret that only a few female police officers were deployed in the settlement which makes it hard to handle sexual and gender based violence cases.
UN SUPPORTED YOUTH CENTER IN KISENYI- KAMPALA EMPOWERING YOUTH WITH EMPLOYABLE SKILLS

By Mina Nozawa and Prossy Nakanjako, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

The Executive Board members visited a UNFPA supported health and youth centre. The Executive Board members of WFP, UNICEF and UN Women visited Kisenyi Health Centre IV which hosts Muvubuka Agunjuse Youth Centre in Kisenyi, a Kampala city suburb.

Muvubuka Agunjuse Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Information and Service Provision Centre (MUAG) is an initiative of the Ministry of Health in Buganda Kingdom. The youth-led organisation is implementing the Youth Enterprise Model (YEM) whose aim is to ensure that young people are not only obtaining employable skills, but are also gaining knowledge and developing the ability to make right decisions in relation to their sexual and reproductive health.

Ssemambo Amooti, a Peer Educator at the Youth Centre says that they go to schools, communities, workshops to mobilize young people and refer them for services.
“We might not have all the tools we need, but we are focused on our aim, to reach as many young people with sexual and reproductive health information so that they can seek services,” Ssemambo told the three visiting members of the UN Executive Boards, who were accompanied by UNFPA Representative, Mr. Alain Sibenaler.

To get a clear picture of YEM implementation, the delegates visited a Metal Fabrication Workshop and a craft selling stall to meet some of the young people who have benefited from the services of the Youth Centre.

“YEM has changed my life – I used to beg [for] money on streets to survive and knew nothing about business and my health,” said Nashra Rajab, a 22-year-old YEM Peer Educator who sells crafts for a living.

“I am very thankful for UNFPA’s support because now I know how to protect myself from health risks, such as HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy, while learning and growing my own business.”

Sharing the experience following the visit to the Youth Centre, H.E. Amb. Zoltán Kálmán, the WFP Executive Board President, advised that there should be efforts to stop these slums from happening in the first place because they eventually become expensive for the Government to manage.

UN SUPPORTED CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES HELPING CHILDREN TO RECOVER FROM TRAUMA

By Monica Aturinda, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office

Akita is a 13-year-old South Sudanese refugee living in Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Arua District. He came to Uganda with his paternal aunt Ajiba Jenity in March 2017 because of the war that broke out in South Sudan.
John arrived at Imvepi Reception Center, he was immediately registered by Save the Children protection sector which receives support from the UN through UNICEF. John is a child at risk due to a mental condition that started three years back while he was still in South Sudan.

Upon arrival at Imvepi a Best Interest Assessment was immediately conducted to ascertain John’s needs.

John was provided with basic needs such as clothes, sandals, beddings and was referred to Medical Teams International for proper treatment which he has been receiving since then.

When I asked John what he was doing at the center, he smiled and went on to toss his dice and continued playing his board game. This to me confirmed that he was happy and enjoying his stay at the centre.

“He comes to the reception center every day to stay and play with the caseworkers since we have lots children’s games to support their development through play, psychosocial healing and John only goes back home in the evening to sleep,” said Ms. Charity Eyoru, Child Protection Officer, Save the Children.

She added that the center has given help to many children in the settlement including unaccompanied minors, children at risk and separated children since many are identified and assessed at the centre and given the required support. The centre however, still needs a lot of support in areas of education, children’s toys and other games and caseworkers due to the ever-increasing number of children in critical need of these services.

On a daily basis, the reception center receives more than 200 new persons and of these new arrivals, 63 per cent are children. John is one of the children the Joint Executive Board members met at Imvepi Reception Center during their field mission to the refugee settlement.

The 2018 joint field visit of the Executive Boards also aimed at providing the board members with an understanding of the extent and ways through which the UN in Uganda work together in support of the Government and global development agendas.
FAO, UNDP AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA LAUNCH FOOD SECURITY AND STRENGTHEN ECOSYSTEMS PROJECT IN KARAMOJA

By Doreen Kansiime. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Honourable Vincent Sempijja, Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (2nd left) and Ms. Rosa Malango, the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative (extreme right) and district official admire a cassava tuber.

A new food security and ecosystems resilience initiative for the Karamoja Sub-region has been launched in Moroto District, Karamoja Sub-region.

The project entitled, Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Karamoja Region (SURE – Karamoja), was launched by Honourable Vincent Sempijja, Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and witnessed by Ms. Rosa Malango, the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Priya Gujadhur, FAO’s Acting Country Representative, and Mr. Jean-Marc Sinnassamy, the Global Environmental Fund (GEF)’s Senior Environment Specialist as well as local leaders from the Karamoja Sub-region.
The five-year Government-led initiative which will focus on improving food security and environmental sustainability in the region has been made possible with support from the Global Environment Fund (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

“The Government of Uganda has over the years worked hard to pacify Karamoja paving way for development initiatives such as this new SURE Karamoja project,” Hon. Ssempijja, the agriculture minister said before officially launching the project, adding that it was the second initiative his ministry was bringing to the region to address food security concerns.

He further said that this new initiative would build on and add value to work started by other projects by delivering innovative practices, technologies and approaches that enhance the resilience of food production systems and long-term environmental sustainability in Karamoja Sub-region in line with the national vision,” said Hon. Sempijja. More

FAO URGES MEDIA IN UGANDA TO PRIOTISE REPORTING ON COMMERCIAL FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

By Anita Tibasaaga- Communications Assistant, FAO Uganda

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), through the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) III project, organized a media dialogue on “Commercial Forestry in Uganda”, as part of activities to commemorate International Day of Forests 2018.

Under the global theme: “Forests and Sustainable Cities, the dialogue was attended by 50 participants, including journalists from key media houses in Uganda, as well as representatives from the European Union, Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA), the Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Forestry Authority (NFA) who constituted the panel discussants.

The FAO Deputy Country Representative in Uganda, Priya Gujadhur, noted that the theme is relevant as it “points out the complex relationship between forests and cities”.

“Forests are key to supporting the booming construction works in cities, and act as a sink for heavy emissions of carbon from mushrooming industries in and around cities”, she said. “We
also know that about 96 per cent of the population in Uganda relies on biomass, with limited or no access to energy improved technologies that can allow energy saving, “she added.

Journalists and key stakeholders in forestry who attended the Media Dialogue on Commercial Forestry in Uganda, ahead of International Day of Forests 2018

Gujadhur thanked the media noting that: “the role of media in promoting forestry in Uganda is essential”. She called upon journalists to “inform the public on achievements by different stakeholders involved in forestry but also on challenges which we have to overcome in order to mitigate deforestation”.

According to Charles Byaruhanga, Principal Forestry Officer at the Forest Sector Support Department of Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda needs about one million tonnes of charcoal annually and approximately 70 per cent of charcoal is consumed in urban centres, with only 30 per cent being consumed in rural areas. “African wood demand is booming and estimated to be $100 Billion by 2030 from $50 billion in 2015,” he said.
PICTORIAL: UN delegation led by Ms. Rosa Malango met with Inspector General of Police and his team to discuss possible collaboration areas.

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