OVERVIEW

• This edition of the UN Bulletin brings you stories from the various strategic partnership events and outreach activities that the UN and partners have been involved in in support of Uganda development agenda and vision 2040.
• Government of Norway through its Embassy in Kampala has contributed US$2 million towards the new generation UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) in Uganda.
• The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) at annual retreat agree to ensure inclusiveness, build trust, accountability, transparency, improve risk management and foster support to Government among key priority areas for 2019.
• The United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) has opened a representative office (branch) at United Nations Base in Entebbe, Uganda.
• Over the years, Uganda has made progress in the fight against HIV. New infections have reduced from 135,000 in 2010 to approximately 46,000 in 2017.
• OHCHR Deputy Country Representative has reiterated the call by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism.
• UNIDO donates juice processing equipment worth US$180,000 to Forest Fruit Foods Ltd, a small and medium size enterprise (SME) operating in Bushenyi District.
• UN Uganda holds Annual Town Hall meeting for staff on theme ‘Understanding the UN Reform to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2040 in Uganda.'
NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR HOSTS RECEPTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN UGANDA

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

The Government of Norway through its Embassy in Kampala has contributed US$ 2 million towards the new generation UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) in Uganda.

The announcement was made by the Norwegian Ambassador H.E. Susan Eckey at a reception she hosted in support of the United Nations in Uganda at the Norwegian Residence on 26 June 2018.
“Norway is a strong supporter of enhanced UN coherence and cooperation, including the “Delivering as One”-policy, the “New Way of Working” principles and the UN Secretary-General’s reform agenda. With this new partnership in Uganda we will see an even more efficient and coherent UN system that works hand in hand towards shared goals. As a UN Member State that strongly supports the UN and a major donor globally to the UN development system, we have high expectations of this new partnership,” said Ms. Eckey.

The multi-year contribution will greatly assist efforts of the new generation UN Country Team to facilitate the achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will contribute to enhancing the strategic, coherent and efficient provision of essential and value-added services to ensure that necessary capacities and resources are available to the RCO to effectively support the UN Country Team.

“On behalf of the UN System in Uganda, I convey our deepest gratitude to the Government of Norway for its generosity, dedication and commitment to the engagement, promotion and strengthening of international cooperation efforts,” said the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda, Ms. Rosa Malango.

“Norway’s contribution to the Resident Coordinator’s Office in Uganda, the first of its kind, serves to demonstrate the importance Norway attaches to a stronger Resident Coordinator System in Uganda, and the new generation UN footprint,” said Ms. Malango.

The multi-year contribution will greatly assist efforts of the new generation UN Country Team to facilitate the achievement of national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. It will contribute to enhancing the strategic, coherent and efficient provision of essential and value-added services to ensure that necessary capacities and resources are available to the RCO for the UN Country Team. This will enable better implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and response to emerging challenges.

It will contribute to enhanced strategic support to policy development, joint programming processes, coordination, partnership management, accountability and coherence between humanitarian and development work as well as initiatives towards sustaining peace.

This major contribution from Norway constitutes an important example of partnership with regard to the UN Secretary-General’s reform proposals to strengthen the Resident Coordinator system in guiding the UN Country Team as well as improving accountability of the UN development system around the world by starting in Uganda.
UN COUNTRY TEAM HOLDS RETREAT TO ASSESS PROGRESS

By Rebecca Nalumansi, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

The Uganda UN Country Team and partners at their annual retreat at Protea Hotel Entebbe, 28 June 2018

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has agreed to ensure, inclusiveness and build trust, accountability, transparency, risk management and continued support to Government among key priority areas for 2019.

This was agreed upon during a two days retreat which took place at Protea Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda from 28-29 June 2018. In addition to the UN staff in country and from the region, the retreated attracted participants from Government, Diplomatic corps and Non-Governmental organizations.
While making opening remarks at the retreat Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta Ndong, Regional Director UNESCO and Regional Directors’ Country Focal Point for Uganda called on participants to harness opportunities from the challenges they face instead of looking at these challenges as obstacles”.

Minister of State for Local Government, Honourable Jenipher Namuyangu who represented the Government at the retreat reiterated the key role of local governments in fostering development agendas “Localisation of SDGs will be easier if we work through the lower local governments and the elected leaders,” said Hon. Namuyangu.

H.E. Mr. Kazuaki Kameda, Ambassador of Japan in Uganda asked the UNCT to embrace UN Delivering as One “One UN is still portrayed as an idea and has not been clearly implemented for example, when we call for proposal from agencies, we would expect the agencies work together to come up with one proposal for the project,” said Ambassador Kameda.

“Ugandans need a mindset change to be able to reach their fullest protentional. They need to do things differently by using the available resources and capacity they have to build their country,” said H.E. Mr. Kim You-churl, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Every year the leadership of the UN family working in Uganda meets to assess progress, identify challenges and agree on the way forward. This provides the UN Country Team, comprised of the Heads of UN agencies in Uganda, with an opportunity to assess their performance and partnerships with the expectation that they will make decisions to reinforce the relevance of the UN System in Uganda.
The annual retreat is one of the mechanisms the UNCT undertakes to reflect on the UN work in Uganda and how best the UN family and partners can deliver in a politically, culturally and sensitive country, leaving no one behind.

**UNFCU OPENS REPRESENTATIVE BRANCH IN UGANDA**

By Monica Aturinda and Henry Mukasa (UN Uganda)

The United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) has opened a representative office (branch) at United Nations Base in Entebbe, Uganda. The branch which is the second in Africa was opened on 26 Jun 2018 to serve the United Nations Community in Uganda and the United Nations Peace Keeping Missions located throughout Africa, whose launchpad is Entebbe.

The Entebbe branch will extend international financial services to more than 2,691 United Nations staff in the country, 79% of which are Ugandans.

“We are delighted to have another UN entity setting up in Uganda. The opening of this representation office is a testament of Uganda’s truly significant economic relevance not just to the United Nations, but also as an economic hub to countries in the region,” said Ms. Rosa Malango, the UN Resident Coordinator. “The United Nations Federal Credit Union will no doubt serve to improve this economic position of Uganda in the region,” she added.

The financial institution will provide services to UN staff from other countries in the region including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of South Sudan and Rwanda; expanding the Credit Union operations in Uganda and contributing to a considerable foreign exchange circulation within the Ugandan economy.

“I want to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to ensure that this office is set up here at the base. Early this year, there were rumors going around that the base was closing but what we are witnessing today is a clear indication that the base is not only staying but is even growing bigger” said Mr. Amadu Fuseini, Head of Entebbe Support Base.
UN delegation led by Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator and partners posing for a photo in front of the new UNFCU Office at Entebbe Base after its grand opening, 26 June 2018

UNFCU has also partnered with a local bank – Barclays Bank to further ease transactions for members. Pursuing its mission of “Serving the people who serve the world”, UNFCU serves the personnel of the UN and their family members, and concentrates its operations within countries of critical United Nations presence and activities.

“I urge you to carry out community outreaches in different communities in Uganda so that this culture of saving you are encouraging amongst UN staff can trickle down to every individual in Uganda,” said Ambassador Isaac Ssebulime who spoke on behalf of the Government of Uganda at the grand opening.

Ms. Kumiko Matsuura-Mueller, Chairperson Board of Directors UNFCU recognized the key role Uganda is playing in peacekeeping mission throughout the region. Adding that the new office is a great partnership in which UNFCU can serve Uganda and the rest of Africa.

For more than 70 years, the United Nations Federal Credit Union has served the global United Nations Community, growing in relevance and significance alongside the United Nations itself. It’s set up in Uganda was cleared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Central Bank. Already, three (3) Ugandan nationals have been hired to run its operations in Uganda. Entebbe is UNFCU’s fifth global location after Geneva, Switzerland; Nairobi, Kenya; Rome, Italy and Vienna, Austria.
ONE YEAR ON; THE PRESIDENTIAL FAST TRACK INITIATIVE REGISTERS PROGRESS IN THE HIV RESPONSE

By Caroline Magambo, UNAIDS

June 6, 2018 marked one year since His Excellency the President launched the Presidential Fast Track Initiative on ending AIDS in Uganda by 2030. The overall goal of the Initiative is to achieve HIV epidemic control and eliminate AIDS as a public health threat in Uganda by 2030.

The Initiative focuses a five-point plan:

1. To engage men in HIV Prevention and close the tap on new infections particularly among adolescent girls and young women;

2. To accelerate Implementation of Test and Treat and attainment of the fast track 90-90-90 targets particularly among men and young people;

3. To consolidate progress on elimination of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV;

4. To ensure financial sustainability for the HIV and AIDS response;
5. To ensure institutional effectiveness for a well-coordinated multi-sectoral response.

Over the years, Uganda has made progress in the fight against HIV. New infections have reduced from 135,000 in 2010 to approximately 46,000 in 2017. New HIV infections among children dropped from 26,000 in 2010 to 4,000 by the end of 2016. An estimated 1.32 million people are living with HIV. Of these, 1,084,689 are enrolled in care and 1,081,733 are on antiretroviral treatment by December 2017.

To mark the one year, Uganda AIDS Commission organized a number of activities that involved different partners like the Parliamentarians, AIDS Development Partners, the young people from various Universities and tertiary institutions and the senior managers in the Armed Forces.

The events kicked off on 18th June in Parliament with the launch of the year one report by the Speaker of Parliament Hon Rebecca Kadaga. The report highlights progress made on the 5 pillars of the Initiative, challenges and priorities for the second year. The Speaker urged Members of Parliament to use the upcoming recess to speak to their constituencies about HIV. “I want you to go and speak to fishing communities, boda boda and taxi operators they need our support,” she said. She also pledged Parliament’s support in following up on the AIDS Trust Fund.

In another event on 20th June, a youth conference that brought together students from different universities was held at Uganda Christian University. The Guest of Honour, King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru IV called on the young people to abstain from sex or use condoms. “As the UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador, my passion is to ensure that the young people take responsibility. AIDS must end with our generation.”

The anniversary activities were crowned with a breakfast meeting on 21st June with the senior management in the armed forces. The meeting reflected on the role of armed forces in ending AIDS as a public health threat in Uganda by 2030.

The implementation of the Presidential Fast Track Initiative in year one has generated substantive momentum that has demonstrated positive results that will be consolidated in year 2. The priority areas for year two include strengthening the response at sub-national
level; enhancing domestic financing and increasing efficiencies in programmes; strengthening strategic information; and streamlining coordination of partners and compliance to the NSP.

SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITY

UN WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT TO ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALBINISM

By Bernard Amwine UN Human Rights (OHCHR)

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Deputy Country Representative Nicole Bjerler has reiterated the call by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, Ikponwosa Ero for all stakeholders to support persons with albinism in their quest for the enjoyment of their human rights.

Nicole made the call during the commemoration of the International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) on 13 June 2018 at Maluku Administration grounds in Mbale Town in Eastern Uganda under the theme: “Shining Our Light to the World!”

She further reiterated OHCHR’s commitment to working with Government and its institutions in fulfilling Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on human equality, dignity and non-discrimination by assisting vulnerable and least advantaged people including People Living with Albinism and to raise awareness about their human rights.

To realize this, Ms. Bjerler underscored the significance of the work of all professionals, in particular medical personnel in providing specialized attention to the specific needs of people living with albinism. “They are discriminated against in accessing education and healthcare services, in achieving and retaining livelihood opportunities. Children with albinism are particularly vulnerable due to myths and erroneous beliefs.”

“There is a strong need to demystify albinism in the public consciousness, and to undertake awareness-raising and education initiatives. Our friends living with albinism are just like us, and are entitled to live in dignity and respect of their human rights, just like us.” Noted Ms. Bjerler.
The Independent expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism Ero Ikponwosa in her message on the occasion of commemorating International Albinism Awareness Day highlighted the importance of the day, as a celebration of the remarkable contributions of persons with albinism, who have shattered stereotypes and myths. “Indeed, it is still often believed that persons with albinism are unable to learn,” she said, adding that, “This prejudice illustrates the particular discrimination they face regarding access to education, including persistent bullying and the absence of reasonable accommodation for the vision impairment that is often part of albinism”.

In Uganda, the day was observed on 13 June in Mbale. The speaker of the Parliament of Uganda Rt. Honorable Rebecca Kadaga was the Chief Guest. The Speaker demanded that the Ministry of Education and Sports prioritises the development of guidelines on education, provision of sunscreen, spectacles and hats for people living with albinism by including it in the 2019/2020 Financial Year budget. She emphasized the fact that the government of Uganda could not fail to provide such services to the persons living with albinism given their small minimal number in the country. She further revealed that the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development had failed to expedite the process of enacting the law on People with Disabilities (PWDs). The celebrations were also graced by the presence of Sylvia Ntambi Muwebwa, the Chairperson Equal Opportunities Commission and commission members – Zamina Malole and Wafula Sirabo Patrobas. In her speech, Muwebwa applauded the Speaker
of Parliament for being progressive in encouraging the Parliamentary Commission to employ a person with albinism. She implored all stakeholders to strive towards changing conditions for people living with albinism, “through promoting collaboration and making strategic partnerships with all stakeholders.” Said Muwebwa.

The Executive Director for Albinism Umbrella Organization in Uganda, Olive Namutebi, appealed for support towards a planned establishment of a factory to locally produced sunscreen. Namutebi also called for the expeditious enactment of laws protecting children with albinism in schools so as to encourage them to study. “Without education, people living with albinism are nothing,” said Namutebi.

SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNIDO DONATES PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT SMEs

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

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has donated juice processing equipment worth USD 180,000 to Forest Fruit Foods Ltd, an SME operating in Bushenyi district. The equipment has been procured by UNIDO with funding from the government of Japan. Forest Fruit Foods Ltd produces banana juice under the brand name Eshandy.

Mr Willington Kano, the Director Forest Fruit Foods Ltd, said they have started transforming the mind-set of banana farmers in the district and that the new machine will ensure standardisation of products and quality.

The new equipment comprises several parts including a pasteuriser, homogeniser, storage tanks, bottling unit, labelling unit among others. It produces 6,000 bottles of juice per hour and the company now plans to increase its production capacity to 30,000 litres per day compared to the current capacity of 20,000 litres per week. With this, at least 1,000 primary processors will be employed while the demand for bananas is also expected to grow exponentially with farmers having ready market for their produce.
The facility is one of those being upgraded by UNIDO under the Banana Livelihoods Diversification Project. UNIDO will also provide a water purification plant for the supply of clean water and ensure the effective operation of the processing facility.

Mr Willington Kano, the Resident Partner Forest Fruit Foods Ltd in Bushenyi takes the delegation led by UNIDO Country Representative Mr Bruno Otto (Right in White T-shirt) through the work-flow of juice processing using the new equipment he received from UNIDO

The District Chief Administrative Officer Mr Elias Byamungu said they are working to ensure that the facility is connected to the power grid, adding that they are working to create a new breed of youth that can cause positive change in the community. “The district leadership is working to ensure that the youth are empowered and projects such as these, supported by UNIDO will go a long way in providing youth with employment and income generating activities,” Mr Byamungu said. He challenged the local leaders to build capacity of banana producers and eliminate Banana Bacterial Wilt.

Meanwhile, Mr Bruno Otto, the UNIDO Country Representative in Uganda said focusing more effort on production will empower the youth. “Every key player must do their part to make sure the project does not fail,” Mr Otto said. He also thanked the district and the office of the CAO for working with UNIDO in supporting the project. The facility is expected to be commissioned in August by H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the president of Uganda.
UN Uganda holds Annual Staff Town Hall Meeting

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

The Annual Town Hall meeting for UN staff was held at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala, on 13 July 2018. The theme for the meeting ‘Understanding the UN Reform to accelerate achievement of the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2040 in Uganda.

In her remarks UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, noted that the UN System in Uganda was at a critical juncture, half way through implementation of the United Nations Assistance Framework (UNDAF) with ongoing UN Reforms, which offered an opportunity to refocus commitment and action towards achieving the SDGs and Vision
The meeting addressed issues of staff health and wellbeing. It was noted that it was imperative for staff to exercise regularly and eat healthy food for their health and wellbeing, and in order to remain productive.

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