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OVERVIEW

• This 34th edition of the UN Uganda Bulletin brings you stories from key events and interventions that UN Uganda and its partners have achieved in the past month.

• Government, UN meet to review the findings and recommendations from the mid-term evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

• Uganda Commemorates World Health Day 2019; Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is one of the key targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

• Busoga College Mwiri emerges winner of the FAO Uganda quiz challenge focusing on forest conservation as part of the 2019 Forest Day celebration. The quiz targeted six secondary schools in eastern Uganda.

• UNICEF, UKaid roll out “Test and Treat” strategy for malaria in 25 districts of Northern, Mid Northern, Eastern and North Eastern Uganda.

• Despite war turning into desperation, WFP cash transfers cushion Solange, Francoise and their families.

• UNCDF trains 150 political and technical leaders from 17 districts in Northern Uganda on road maintenance.

• IOM organises public dialogue for slum residents and leaders to discuss public services in informal settlements in Kampala.

• Mobile connectivity in Uganda presents an opportunity for advancing national and global agendas through mobile-enabled digital transformation.

• UNOPS, WFP conclude road assessment that will guide future infrastructure development in Uganda.

• UN Refugee Agency’s Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements calls for global solidarity for Ugandan for its open-door policy for refugees.

• News Briefs
GOVERNMENT, UN SYSTEM COMPLETE JOINT REVIEW TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA

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

Prime Minister and UN Uganda Leadership outside OPM building after the UNDAF Joint Steering Committee meeting

The Government and UN System in Uganda Joint Steering Committee met to review progress on the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2016-2020) aimed at contributing to the objectives of National Development Plan II (NDP). The meeting was chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda and attended by Cabinet Ministers, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, Heads of UN Agencies in Uganda working on Humanitarian and Development issues.

Participants focused on reviewing the findings and recommendations of the UNDAF Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) and agreed on priority areas for collaboration going forward to ensure implementation of the national vision and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Prime Minister noted that the meeting provided an opportunity to assess the engagement of Government and the UN, consolidate gains and jointly plan for a new partnership to lead to the attainment of the national vision of a transformed and modern Uganda. The UN Resident Coordinator reiterated the importance of the strategic meeting as a safe space for both Government and the UN to assess progress and hold each other accountable on their joint efforts to improve the lives of the people of Uganda. full report
GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)

Uganda commemorated the World Health Day (WHD) under the national theme Multi-sectoral Action to Universal Health Coverage, with a strong appeal to all sectors to contribute to its attainment. “For us to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) we shall need a concerted effort and commitment of all sectors,” said Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda’s Minister of Health who was the guest of honour at the commemoration held at Kira Municipal Grounds in Wakiso district. She informed the audience that UHC is the responsibility of every sector including the education, finance, agriculture, security sectors and others.
Relating to World Health Organization’s (WHO) global theme, “Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere”, Dr. Aceng noted that in many countries including Uganda, UHC can be a matter of life and death especially for the poor and vulnerable. It can become the difference between financial survival and destitution.

Dr. Aceng emphasized the importance of Primary Health Care (PHC) in the prevention of diseases, noting that PHC greatly reduces expenditure on health as it promotes the prevention of diseases. In that regard, her take-home message for the public was “exercise regularly, eat healthy, avoid harmful consumption of alcohol and drug abuse and seek medical attention when feeling unwell.”

Echoing the same sentiments, the WHO Representative in Uganda, Dr. Yonas Tegegn Woldemariam said that progress towards health-related development goals can only be attained if action is taken by everyone within and outside the health sector. Strengthening PHC, he added, is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people’s physical and mental health, as well as social well-being. More

GOVERNMENT, FAO URGE SCHOOLS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE INTERESTED IN TREE PLANTING TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

By Anita Tibasaaga, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

School-going children can start learning about trees and forests from an early age. This helps children to connect with nature, fosters the emergence of new generations that are conscious of the benefits of trees and forests and the need to manage them sustainably. Schools should encourage and support young generations to love forests and to take care of trees to improve the environment for posterity as part of their core values.

This was a call made by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Uganda- Dr. Antonio Querido, during celebrations to commemorate the International Day of Forests (IDF) on 29 March 2019 held at Wanyange Girls’ Secondary School in Jinja, Eastern Uganda.

This year’s celebrations were held under the theme: “Forests and Education”. To commemorate this event, FAO, through its forestry programme- Sawlog Production Grant Scheme, Phase III (SPGS) III, organized a quiz codenamed- IDF Secondary Schools’ Challenge.
Ms. Deborah Basekanakyo- Headmistress of Wanyange Girls School, receives an SDGs bag from FAO Representative- Dr. Antonio Querido, in recognition of her schools’ promotion of tree planting

The Quiz attracted six schools from Eastern Uganda, namely: Kiira College Butiki, Busoga College Mwiri, PMM Girls School, MM College Wairaka, Jinja College and the hosts, Wanyange Girls’ School. The IDF Secondary Schools’ Challenge was won by Busoga College Mwiri, followed closely by PMM Girls’ School. The six schools tussled out a series of questions on forestry and trees, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.  More

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

“TEST AND TREAT” STRATEGY REINFORCED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UKAID’S STRENGTHENING OF UGANDA’S RESPONSE TO MALARIA

By Catherine Ntabadde Makumbi, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Akello Susan, 20-year-old, resident of Lalem village in Nwoya district on 19th March 2019 visited Purungo Health Centre III with her 2-year-old daughter and her sister. The trio were tested for malaria having complained of malaria like symptoms.
Akello says her household has one mosquito net which is used by her daughter, her husband and herself sleep. Her sister does not sleep under a mosquito net. “I came here to get medicine because we are all experiencing fever, headache and some chills. But when we reached here, the health workers told me that they need to test us first before we can receive treatment,” Akello said. And indeed, all the three were tested at the health centre laboratory.

Implementing UKaid’s Strengthening of Uganda’s Response to Malaria (SURMa) has emphasized the test and treat strategy in 25 districts of Northern, Mid Northern, Eastern and North Eastern Uganda to improve the management of malaria. If your under five year old is experiencing a high temperature, headache and fever, it does not necessary mean that he/she is suffering from malaria. The health workers or village health teams must carry out a malaria test on the child that is unwell for confirmation.

“The test and treat strategy has been rolled out in all health centres in the district and the village health teams also conduct tests before administering treatment. This strategy existed before but when SURMa came, the strategy is more emphasized,” Jacob Lony, the In-charge of Purongo Health Centre III in Nwoya district explained. More
AMID EXTREME POVERTY FOR REFUGEES IN UGANDA, CASH HELPS A LOT
By Lydia Wamala, World Food Programme (WFP)

Solange Mahingwe has a two-week-old baby, Shakira. But she isn’t celebrating as she paces around her hut in Rwamwanja refugee settlement in western Uganda. Her two older children have nothing to eat for supper because she has no money. Very dry maize stalks stand all around her house, their cobs harvested long ago. Her eldest child is Hadija, 5, and her second born is Mohammed, 3. “I will find a way,” says Solange, 24, as her children are busy playing in patches of grass in her compound. “I will borrow more money from the village women’s savings group. I will borrow until I receive cash from WFP.”

WFP provides Solange with the equivalent of US$25.20 each month to buy food for her family—US$8.40 per family member. With a new baby, she will eventually receive another
US$8.40 more every month for Shakira.

“My priority is to feed my children,” she says. “When I get the WFP money, I stock up on food.”

Money was a problem the day before giving birth. She realized she had too much food but no money. She had to sell a bit to buy clothes for the newborn. Solange was in better shape years ago. She worked with her husband on a rented farm growing maize. But the farm was allocated to another family. More

SDG9–INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNCDF LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ROADS MAINTENANCE

By Joan Alupo, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) recently launched a two-year training programme on roads maintenance for district staff in 17 districts in Northern Uganda to improve capacity in planning, implementation and management of road works. The targeted districts are: Amudat, Moroto, Abim, Napak, Pader, Agago, Omoro, Lamwo, Otuke, Kole, Amolatar, Amuria, Kapelebyong, Adjumani, Moyo, Yumbe and Zombo.

The first course was held in Soroti where 150 political and technical leaders including: Resident District Commissioners, District Chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers, engineers, planners, procurement, environment and community development officers were taken through a set introductory courses covering roads maintenance, environmental and social safeguards and procurement rules and regulations.

“Roads are not only for engineers, they cut across everything to stimulate production. Thank you UNCDF for involving key local government departments in this training,” said Eng. Kasule, Ministry of Local Government representative at the opening of the two-day workshop. Eng. Kasule noted that the programme is in line with the government’s priority of developing roads infrastructure to improve connectivity and access to jobs and social services. In 2017, the government supplied all districts with a road unit comprising of a grader, water bowser, vibro roller, tipper trucks and a wheel loader to support opening of new roads and maintenance of the district road networks.
Emphasizing the link between improved road maintenance and opportunities for income generation, Eng. Rwanga, Commissioner Roads and Bridges, representing the Minister for Works and Transport at the workshop urged participants to effectively care for and use the road units to keep the roads in good condition to ease movement of people, goods and services within the districts. More

By Richard M Kavuma, UN Migration Agency (IOM)

Under its European Union-funded Slums project, IOM recently organised a meeting at which slum residents and leaders at various levels exchanged views on public services in informal settlements in the Ugandan capital Kampala. The meeting was part of a series of public dialogues on supply-side and demand-side accountability, which will culminate into a roadmap towards improved services for slum communities in Kampala.

The Supply and Demand Side Accountability components are part of the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Stability in Slum Populations (SSCoS) project, funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa. This community stabilization action aims to tackle the root causes of radicalization in slum populations by addressing the sources of grievances and strengthening community cohesion around shared assets. Interventions support both the
vulnerable populations and key institutions serving them.

Some of the participants speaking at the meeting between slum residents and leaders

The project is implemented in four slums by IOM Uganda, along with partners led by the nongovernmental organization AFFCAD (Action for Fundamental Change and Development).

More

SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDERS COMMIT TO PURSUE MOBILE-ENABLED DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN UGANDA

By Michael Mubangizi, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and National Guidance, in partnership with GSMA and UNDP, held a high-level round table on mobile-enabled digital transformation in Uganda. This partnership was financially supported by other partners including Ukaid and SIDA. The March 28, 2019 event graced by the 1st Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Honourable Moses Ali, was attended by ministers, CEOs from the mobile industry and the private sector and development partners who deliberated on how Uganda can advance the national and global sustainable development agenda through mobile-enabled digital transformation.
A high-level panel involving experts from UNDP, the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, GSMA and private sector practitioners, reiterated the value of collaboration between the public and private sectors to collectively harness mobile technology to deliver on development results. It was agreed that the growing connectivity of mobile presents an opportunity to address development challenges, including inefficiencies at all levels. More

SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNOPS, WFP COMPLETE A RURAL ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT IN UGANDA

By Andrew Njihia, UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and World Food Programme (WFP) have concluded a roads assessment in Uganda, aimed at supporting the use of evidence to make informed decisions in the development of infrastructure. Using the roads assessment, WFP and UNOPS will work to ensure there is adequate information to plan infrastructure interventions as Uganda works to achieve the goal of Zero Hunger.

The assessment used the Rural Access Index (RAI), a transport indicator tool that measures the proportion of the population that lives within a two-kilometre walk of an all-weather road. The
index determines this accessibility based on the population distribution, the coverage of the road network and the road conditions.

Chris Musaranganyi, a GIS Assessment Specialist with UNOPS, presents the findings of the Uganda Roads Assessment in Kampala on 20 February 2019 ©UNOPS/Emma Akinyi

UNOPS and WFP assessed the West Nile and Acholi regions, South/Western Regions and Karamoja. The data indicated that 49% of the people in West Nile and Acholi, 65% of the people in Karamoja, and 63% of the population in the Western and Southern regions live over two kilometres away from an all-weather road. These populations have limited access to social amenities and it is difficult for the government and development agencies to provide them with development support and humanitarian assistance when necessary. The data collected in the assessment will enable stakeholders in the country to make decisions that are more informed when developing infrastructure. The information can be used to identify gaps in access to services, simulate the impact of interventions, and prioritize future development projects.

The results of the assessment were presented to the Government of Uganda and other development partners on 20th February 2019 at a conference in Kampala. Speaking at the conference, Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, Minister of Works and Transport noted, “with the use of the RAI, evidence-based decisions will be made by the stakeholders as they prepare investment plans and policies on roads and bridge infrastructure.”
UNHCR expressing appreciation, urges more solidarity for Uganda’s refugee response

By Duniya Khan, UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR)

Concluding a five-day trip to Uganda, Ms. Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, expressed appreciation to Uganda for its open-door policy for refugees and urged more global solidarity for the Ugandan people currently hosting more than 1.2 million refugees.

“I’ve been extremely impressed at how Uganda’s inclusive policies have improved the lives of refugees and the communities hosting them,” said Clements of her visit. “Uganda represents the Global Compact in action, but the country can’t do it alone. More global support is needed, particularly in the areas of education, economic opportunities and the environment.”

She visited refugee settlements in Adjumani, Moyo and Yumbe districts and met with refugee groups, district authorities, high level government officials and ministers including the Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, Minister of State for Primary Health Care. She also met with Uganda’s First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet K. Museveni, where she praised the national Education Response Plan, which fully integrates refugees into national and district planning in refugee-hosting areas.
Education is a major priority in the Uganda refugee response for 2019 and beyond. More than half of refugee children, and over one third of Ugandan children in refugee hosting areas, are out of school. In Palorinya refugee settlement in Moyo district, Clements met with teachers, students and their parents and noted the myriad of challenges they face. She was moved by the story of a 22-year-old refugee woman, who committed suicide after learning she would not be able to pay school fees to complete her last year of secondary education.

“We all want to prevent a generation of young people from being lost because they feel the future holds so little for them,” said the Deputy High Commissioner. “It is in places like Palorinya that more global solidarity with countries and people hosting refugees must be demonstrated.” More

News Briefs

UNHCR STAFF RUN TO SAVE BUGOMA FOREST: UNHCR Staff from Kampala office participated in the 10km and 5km Run for Nature to raise awareness for the preservation of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve which is near Kyangwali Refugee Settlement. Proceeds will go to conservation of the forest activities in partnership with the National Forestry Authority.

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR MEET STANBIC TEAM: The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango recently met with the Stanbic Uganda team to discuss partnership for the SDGs.

UNCT MEET TO DISCUSS JOINT SDG FUND: The UN Country Team (UNCT) met and commenced preparations for a joint programme on social protection in response to a call for proposals from the global Joint SDG Fund. Uganda is eligible to receive up to US $2 million from the fund.

NICE-UG TEAM BRIEF PRIME MINISTER ON CIVIC EDUCATION: The National Initiative for Civic Education in Uganda (NICE-UG) met and briefed the Prime Minister of Uganda Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda about the Initiative. The Prime Minister pledged full support to the initiative.

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