OVERVIEW

- This 35th edition highlights the work of UN, Government and partners and how they are changing lives in communities through different interventions.
- With funding from David Beckham Foundation, UNICEF is supporting over 1,890 out of school adolescents in Adjumani District to achieve literacy and numeracy skills required to enter formal or non-formal vocational training.
- UNHCR, EU Humanitarian Aid fund health facility saving mothers in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in West Nile region.
- IOM’s project reconnects over 18,000 Somali women refugees in Kisenyi, a Kampala slum with their aspirations.
- With funding from the Japanese Government, UNDP provides temporary employment opportunities to refugees and host communities in Palorinya Refugee Settlement.
- FAO’s multi-purpose solar-powered irrigation scheme to benefit more than 50 households in Palorinya East Village, Itula Sub-county, in Moyo District.
- UN orients journalists on SDGs and Human Rights to enable them to fully understand and actively contribute to creating public awareness on the issues.
- UNCDF launches a hotline on Airtel’s call in system also known as the 1-6-1 service for consumers on solar powered energy in five local languages.
- Uganda strengthens partnerships to close data and evidence gaps for women.
- Delegates from nine countries meet in Kampala to discuss Ebola preparedness and response.
- The Joint UN Programme of Support on AIDS (JUPSA) meet to review progress and plan for 2019.
“I HAVE ACQUIRED VOCATIONAL SKILLS TO WORK AND GO BACK TO SECONDARY SCHOOL”

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

19-year-old Victoria Ide, from South Sudan graduated from a vocational school in 2018 and is looking forward to continuing with her studies in Senior Two after earning some money from the skills attained.

I chose hair dressing because I can now work in other people’s salons or plait people within the settlement as I raise money to set up my own salon. I want to go back to school. At the
vocational school, they advise us to save money so that we can go back to school,” Ide reveals.

Ide works mainly on adults and specializes in weaving and plaiting dreads. She has also learnt ‘tie and die’ cloth making from the vocational school.

Ide dropped out in Senior Two in 2013 following the death of her mother. Her father married another woman and refused to pay her school fees.

With funding from the David Beckham Foundation through the United Kingdom National Committee for UNICEF, over 1,890 out of school adolescents in Adjumani District like Ide, are supported to achieve literacy and numeracy skills required to enter formal or non-formal vocational training. The programme also targets 18,667 adolescents in school in the same district. More

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

EU HUMANITARIAN AID FUNDED HEALTH FACILITIES BOOST HEALTH CARE FOR LOCAL UGANDANS AND REFUGEES

By Duniya Aslam Khan, UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR)
Zubaida carefully holds her little baby and tenderly smiles at him – it is his feeding time. Mother and child look content and healthy but ten days ago, after the 20-year-old Ugandan delivered her son, she was in urgent need of medical attention.

After having a caesarean section at a local medical facility, she was brought to Yangani III Health Centre in Bidibidi for removal of her stitches. Upon examination, the midwife discovered that her operation wound was severely infected due to poor hygiene and lack of proper medical care.

The young mother was immediately admitted to the maternity ward where nurse and midwives have been regularly monitoring her condition and provided her assistance on personal hygiene and baby care.

“When she first came here, she could barely stand or walk but within two days of continuous medical support, she can now walk on her own and is recovering quickly,” explains Emily, a midwife at the health facility.

Emily explains that 92 per cent of deliveries in and around the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement are now taking place at designated healthcare facilities, thanks to the efforts of dedicated Village Health Teams (VHTs) who carry out awareness in the area. They are very active and hold regular meetings and health sessions with refugees and the local host communities on a range of health-related issues, including maternal health.

Yangani Health Centre is one of 16 health facilities funded by the European Commission’s department for humanitarian aid and one of UNHCR, the UN Agency for Refugees’ key donors. ECHO has supported health facilities across all five zones of Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Uganda’s largest.
Somalia, people are killing each other. You can’t even go to the market without being scared of not coming back, you can’t send your kids to school because you are always worried something will happen. So, we decided to look for a safer place.”

Like Mariam, Sofia left behind a difficult life in Somalia. She came to Uganda 12 years ago to protect her family, after Al Shabaab tried to brainwash and radicalize her son. “I needed to take him out of the country. I took all my family because it became too dangerous for us. If we refused to do what they wanted, they could kill us,” narrates Sofia.

Mariam and Sofia are among the beneficiaries of IOM Uganda’s project titled: Livelihood Assistance to Strengthen Resilience of Vulnerable Urban Female Somali Refugees in Kampala. The six-month initiative is funded by the USAID through the US Embassy in Kampala. It aims at giving livelihood skills, business start-up kits and psychosocial support to Somali women refugees in Kisenyi, a Kampala slum where over 18,000 Somalis have settled. More than 80 women are enrolled in trainings in sewing, baking, hair dressing and beauty. Nearly 30 of them are also receiving psychological support thanks to group counselling. More
By Tamami Yoshimoto, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

“My life in the Palorinya Refugee Settlement has been difficult ever since I arrived”, says Puli, a South Sudanese who fled to Uganda in 2017 with only her bed sheets and clothes. “Until recently, there was no road to the nearest host community where medical and other important facilities are, “she says.

With funding from the Japanese Government, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has provided temporary employment opportunities to refugees and host communities, in cooperation with implementing partners, under the project “Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Response to the South Sudanese Refugee Crisis in West Nile, Northern Uganda” since April 2018. More
FAO LAUNCHES NEW SOLAR POWERED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS FOR REFUGEE-HOSTING COMMUNITY

By Agatha Ayebazibwe, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched a multi-purpose solar-powered irrigation scheme that will increase access to water for production for over 50 households. In addition, the scheme will enable year-round cultivation of high-value crops to meet market demands within the refugee and host community markets for access to nutrient-rich foods.

While commissioning the scheme in Palorinya East Village, Itula Sub-county, in Moyo District, FAO Uganda Country Representative, Dr. Antonio Querido, re-affirmed FAO’s commitment to supporting refugees and host communities in Uganda to be resilient and food and nutrition
secure, as part of its contribution to Uganda’s refugee response, and in recognition of the potential of refugees to have positive impacts in their host communities. More

SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

GOVERNMENT, UN ORGANISE MEDIA ORIENTATION WORKSHOP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDGS

By Monicah Aturinda, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

The United Nations in Uganda, in collaboration with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies responsible for coordinating SDGs implementation, organised a one-day Media Orientation workshop on the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Human Rights to enable journalists to fully understand and actively contribute to creating public awareness about human rights-based approach to planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Vision 2040.

The workshop which attracted 50 journalists from print, broadcast and online media in Uganda was held on 2 May 2019 at Protea Hotel, Kampala as part of World Press Freedom Day commemoration, which is observed globally on 3 May every year.

While speaking at the workshop Hon. Mary Karooro Okurut, Minister for General Duties, who is the government focal person for coordinating SDGs implementation in Uganda said that the media is a key player in popularising the SDGs in Uganda since they have power to influence public opinion.
“Media can contribute to achieving the SDGs by talking and writing about them in a simpler way so that the local population understands what the SDGs are all about and know how they can contribute to achieving them,” said Hon. Karooro.

“Empowering people to seek accountability for implementation of the goals is a collective responsibility and as media professionals you need to understand the linkages between human rights and the SDGs in order to communicate better on human rights and the SDGs,” said Mr. Ali Abdi, Acting UN Resident Coordinator and IOM Chief of Mission. More

**SDG 9 – INDUSRTY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**UNCDF LAUNCHES SOLAR HOTLINE**

Joan Alupo and Julius Magala, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

The United Nations Capital Development (UNCDF) and UKaid in partnership with Uganda Solar Energy Association (USEA) launched a hotline on Airtel’s call in system also known as the 1-6-1 service to provide on demand information to consumers of solar powered energy in English and five local languages: Ateso, English, Lugbara, Luganda and Runyakore.

To connect to the hotline, users dial 161 on their mobile phones, select their preferred language, follow the prompts and can access solar related information under menu three option. The hotline is one of the channels being used to create national awareness and share information on the utility of solar energy and quality products. Other channels used to create awareness are exhibitions, road drives, shows and radio campaigns in eastern Uganda and
This initiative is a product of UNCDF’s CleanStart programme which promotes affordable and clean energy solutions by co-investing in early stage business ideas that have positive ripple effect in the way customers buy and use modern energy. The Solar hotline is funded by UKaid. More

UGANDA STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP TO CLOSE DATA AND EVIDENCE GAPS FOR WOMEN

By Martin Ninsiima, UN Women Uganda

For the last fifteen years, Uganda has invested significantly in the production of data in support of its successive national development plans. Through census and surveys, the national statistics authorities have provided important information to guide national priorities as the country strive to reduce poverty and improve growth. However, with the adoption in 2015 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the “Leave No One Behind” principle, it has become critical to generate a more comprehensive set of statistics along the SDGs’ indicators and create an environment of partnership and dialogue between producers and users of statistics that are gender sensitive.

Who are currently “left behind”? What are their socioeconomic characteristics? How can credible and policy-oriented information be generated to guide decision-makers in the public, private and social sectors, as they address vulnerabilities, inequalities, and lack of opportunities that perpetuate poverty? These were some of the questions addressed by
Gender Officers from UN Agencies and various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), participating in the training workshop that was held last month at Entebbe Golf View Hotel. Participants agreed that technical capacity is required to produce and use better gender statistics for effective policy, planning and decision making. More

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: STAKEHOLDERS BEGIN NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS TOWARDS ELEBORATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

By Timothy Fonyuy, UN Human Rights Uganda

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is coordinating the development of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, supported by a team of resource persons from both the Government and civil society with assistance from the UN Human Rights Office.

Business entities play a very important role in helping Uganda to achieve its Vision 2040 goal of becoming a middle-income country. At the same time, these activities can at times have undesirable consequences on the human rights of individuals and groups in local communities.

In an effort to prevent such consequences and in implementing one of the recommendations accepted by Uganda during the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review in 2016, the Government has commenced developing a National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights. The process kicked off in February 2019 with a stakeholder meeting in Kampala, followed by regional consultations in April 2019 in the Eastern, Western and Central Regions, bringing together over 300 participants from local
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS MEET IN KAMPALA TO DISCUSS EBOLA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)

The meeting on Strengthening Partnership for Improving Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak preparedness and readiness, opened in Kampala with a call to delegates to undertake frank discussions to unearth critical risk factors and challenges in the response and suggest feasible solutions to register concrete results.

“The increasing complexity of the current EVD outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in DRC presents a major risk of spreading of EVD within DRC and neighbouring countries. This
outbreak is therefore not a problem of the DRC alone,” said Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Uganda’s Health Minter, while opening the meeting.

Organized under the theme “Outbreak Preparedness and Readiness” the meeting was intended to further engage partners for a better coordinated and comprehensive preparedness and response efforts to accelerate and achieve sustained EVD readiness. More

UNFPA UGANDA LAUNCHES STATE OF THE WORLD POPULATION REPORT 2019: UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN THE PURSUIT OF RIGHTS AND CHOICES

By Prossy Jonker Nakanjako, UNFPA Uganda

Uganda’s population doubles every 20 years. This revelation was made by Mr. Alain Sibenaler, the United Nations Population Fund Representative, at the launch of the State of the World
Population Report 2019, in Kampala on 25 April. Currently at 40.3 million, the population stood at 6.5 million in 1959. “But with reduced fertility, this trend is likely to slow down by 2040,” Mr. Sibenaler said.

Globally, the 2019 State of the World Report shows that since 50 years ago, when UNFPA was established, great milestones have been achieved towards realizing reproductive health and rights in many countries. The global movement to empower women to make their own decisions about whether, when, how often and with whom to become pregnant has gained momentum.

“In Uganda, there has been a steady increase in the number of married women using modern methods of family planning from 26 percent in 2006 to 35 percent in 2016,” said Hon. David Bahati, State Minister of Finance for Planning, who officiated at the launch. More

JUPSA HOLDS ITS 11TH JSC: UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR APPLAUDS DONOR SUPPORT TOWARDS THE COUNTRY’S HIV RESPONSE

By Caroline Magambo, UNAIDS

The Joint UN Programme of Support on AIDS (JUPSA) held its 11th Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting April 4, 2019. The meeting took stock of the programmatic contribution of the United Nations System to the national HIV response. In particular, the meeting highlighted major achievements and key implementation issues, summarized along the three thematic areas: primary; secondary prevention, care and treatment; and support and governance and human rights. In attendance were Heads of UN Agencies, donors, government and civil society representatives.
The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango also Chair of the JSC expressed her profound appreciation for the support from the donor partners - Irish Aid Government for the funding since inception of the Joint UN Programme of Support on AIDS (JUPSA) in 2007 and for the SIDA funded Joint Program on HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Gender Based Violence (GBV).

JUPSA’s focus for 2018 was on contributing to the country’s reduction of new HIV infections, sustainable domestic financing, advocacy for attainment of the 90-90-90, and strengthening capacity for data generation and use, through provision of technical and financial support by UN. More

**News Briefs**

**NICE- UG Leadership meet Ministers to brief them on Civic Education Initiative:** The National Initiative for Civic Education in Uganda (NICE-UG) Team led by its Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Biribonwa, and Patron, Ms. Rosa Malango, met with Ministers and discussed the implementation of the NICE-UG initiative at an Inter-Ministerial meeting chaired by the Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda. The meeting took place at the Office of Prime Minister in Kampala.

**New Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes visits Uganda:** The new Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes based in Nairobi, Mr. Huang Xia of China, visited Uganda from 22 to 24 April 2019. He met with President Yoweri Museveni, Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Sam Kutesa and the UN Country Team.

**UN Counter Terrorism Mission to Uganda:** The mission met with representative from various Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, civil society and academia.

**For more information, please contact:**

Michael Wangusa  
michael.wangusa@one.un.org  
+256 (0) 771 005 988  
UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

Monicah Aturinda  
monicah.aturinda@one.un.org  
+256 (0) 772 147 505