OVERVIEW

- This 36th edition highlights the work of UN, Government and partners and how they are changing lives in communities through different interventions.
- European Union, UN four-year $42.4 million Spotlight Initiative signed to support Government efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls by 2030
- UN Uganda supporting Governments of Uganda and Kenya, through a new cross-border programme in Turkana, West-Pokot of Kenya and Karamoja - Uganda
- Government of Uganda and partners invest resources to strengthen Ebola preparedness and readiness
- Ministry of Health and UNICEF’s FamilyConnect, a mobile phone-based tool reaching more pregnant and lactating women with maternal health related messages.
- UN Women’s communication initiative empowering women refugees and host communities to document their priority needs
- UNCDF START facility providing affordable medium-term finance for Small Medium Enterprises
- FAO trains Health surveillance officers to reinforce Uganda’s national animal disease surveillance of zoonotic diseases.
- South Sudanese refugee uses his time in Uganda to promote a movement to conserve the environment
- The Kampala Capital City Authority’s Fast-Track Cities project accelerating the HIV response in Kampala City
- UNICEF’s newborn kits are encouraging more mothers to deliver from health facilities in the Karamoja sub-region
- IOM Uganda’s Migration Health Assessment Centre hosts stakeholders and experts on tuberculosis for a practicum on state-of-the-art TB testing.
- UNDP Uganda gets a new Resident Representative
- News Briefs
EU, UN AND GOVERNMENT PARTNER TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN BY 2030

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

Gender, Labour and Social Development Minister, Hon. Janat Mukwaya (Left) and the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, display the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme Document after appending their signatures on 7 June 2019 at the ministry offices in Kampala.

The United Nations System in Uganda, with funding from the European Union (EU), is supporting the Government of Uganda to implement a four-year $42.4 million Spotlight Initiative aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls by 2030.

On 7 June 2019 representatives of the UN System in Uganda led by the Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango; the Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation, Ms. Anna Merrifield; and the Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development, Hon. Janat Mukwaya signed the country programme document for the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.

Ms. Malango noted that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a violation of human rights for women and girls and a threat to the achievement of sustainable development that leaves no one
behind.

Gender Minister, Hon. Mukwaya, pledged government’s commitment through her ministry to support the programme and to push through related policies like the National Policy on Elimination of GBV which promotes multi-sectoral collaboration among actors to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to survivors and victims, including legal redress, health care and psychological support.

On behalf of the EU Delegation in Uganda, Ms. Merrifield pointed out that the Spotlight Initiative is a confirmation that gender equality and women empowerment remains a top priority for both the European Union and the United Nations.

In Africa, the programme will benefit 8 out of the 54 nations on the continent and in the East African region, Uganda is the only beneficiary. It will be implemented nationally, as well as in seven districts; Amudat, Arua, Kampala, Kasese, Kitgum, Kyegegwa, and Tororo where gender-based violence has been reported to be prevalent. More

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

UN SUPPORTS UGANDA-KENYA NEW CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE TURKANA, WEST-POKOT AND KARAMOJA REGIONS

By Henry Nsubuga, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations System in Uganda is supporting efforts of the Governments of Uganda and Kenya, through a new cross-border programme to address chronic vulnerabilities and development challenges in Turkana, West-Pokot of Kenya and Karamoja- Uganda.

So far, the two nations have negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and have agreed on a framework for the implementation of Joint Kenya-Uganda Cross-Border Programme for the Karamoja Cluster for Sustainable Peace and Development. The United Nations Development Programme has provided seed funding of about US $1m to kick-start programme activities for June – December 2019 including the development and finalization of the detailed joint-country programme for 2020-2025 by the joint country technical teams.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango described the programme as “a game changer for people in the region” that will improve livelihoods, promote eco-tourism, increase cross-border trade and spur development.
UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, Uganda’s Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. John Byabagambi, Kenya’s Minister for Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALS), Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, and their delegations after the consultative meeting on the cross-border programme at Entebbe, Uganda on 28 May 2019. Photo: @UNDP

According to Uganda’s Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. John Byabagambi, the Karamoja Cluster has appalling human development indicators; high illiteracy, poor health, and high poverty, transhumance pastoralism in search of water and pasture due to arid and semi-arid nature of their environments and cattle rustling. More

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS INVEST RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN EBOLA PREPAREDNESS

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)

The Government of Uganda and partners have so far invested over US $18 million in Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness and readiness. This was revealed at the just concluded Accountability Forum organised by the Ministry of Health at which partners shared information on their contribution in the EVD preparedness efforts in the country.

The funds have been utilized to implement various activities under the different pillars of the preparedness response and significant progress has been made. For instance, under case
management, 526 health workers in 14 districts were trained on the appropriate handling of suspected EVD patients while taking sufficient protection measures for themselves. These health workers are now available for rapid deployment to any part of the country where EVD may occur.

**Temperature screening at Mpondwe Border point in Kasese District**

In addition, Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) were constructed in which the trained health workers can take care of patients. The centres are in Kasese (Bwera), Bundibugyo, Wakiso (Entebbe), Kabarole, Kikuube and Ntoroko districts. Two additional ETUs are under construction in Kanungu District and Naguru in Kampala City. Isolation units have also been established in Arua, Gulu and Mbarara districts. [More](#)
FAMILYCONNECT: VHTs START PEER SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT TO REACH MORE PREGNANT AND LACTATING WOMEN

By Joachim Buwembo, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Necessity continues to inspire little innovations that make a big difference in remote areas where volunteers work tirelessly to improve the health of people in the rural areas. It was the need to be taken seriously by the people they serve that inspired the Village Health Team (VHT) members of Kobulubulu Sub-county in Eastern Uganda’s Kaberamaido District to invent a new approach that has energized FamilyConnect, the mobile phone-based tool used to support maternal health during pregnancy and after delivery.

Since its inception, the highlight of these peer support exercise has been the dramatic change of attitude of hostile women who work at or hang around Imomeri Bar in Okile Parish. Some of them were drinking alcohol while pregnant but they accepted to be registered and started receiving the FamilyConnect messages. In fact, they started looking forward to the messages and discussing them with VHTs. In some cases, the women are the ones who look for the VHTs to discuss the messages.

These testimonies are corroborated by staff at Kobulubulu Health Centre III, which is the health services base of the sub-county. Betty Amuso, the overall coordinator of all the VHT activities in the sub-county, says there has been an increase in the antenatal care attendance at the hospital since the FamilyConnect sensitization in December 2018. Statistics from the hospital records confirm this. More
REFUGEE WOMEN EMPOWERED TO DOCUMENT THEIR NEEDS FOR INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

By Martin Ninsiima, UN Women

UN Women in partnership with Refugee Law Project have started an innovative communication initiative to raise the voices of women and girls in the design and implementation of humanitarian programmes. The initiative builds the capacity of women refugees and host communities to record and edit personal videos focusing on their priority needs, which are in turn used to mobilize resources and influence humanitarian action to include gender equality perspectives.

According to Fernanda Baumhardt, the lead consultant for the initiative, Communication with Communities through Participatory videos is a powerful tool for women’s empowerment. She said the approach places emphasis on listening and understanding participants’ experiences and perceptions.

“IT contributes to building women’s confidence in openly communicating their needs, priorities and experiences throughout the process. In addition, the videos resulting from this participatory exercise can help sensitize and build capacities of humanitarian actors”, she added. Personal video recording provides an opportunity for communities to participate in the process to communicate what they want in a way that they think is appropriate. More
TWO LOCAL FIRMS TO RECEIVE UDB FUNDING
Joan Alupo, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

The Support to Agricultural Revitalization and Transformation (START) facility has announced the first two successful applicants from its first call for proposals. The applicants’ proposals have been completed and submitted to Uganda Development Bank (UDB) for financing.

One company runs a maize processing plant in Omoro District and the other produces honey and related products in Lira District. The total cost of the two projects is UGX 945 million. In addition to commercial and financial viability, the two companies demonstrate a significant local development impact including new jobs for women and youth – one of the key objectives of the START facility.

At a maize processing plant, UNCDF carried out a detail due diligence with a visit to the KANA Grain Millers premises in Omoro District, Northern Uganda

Through the technical support of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) the businesses have been assisted through the project development and structuring stage that includes detailed due diligence, business case analysis and screening, verification of business
opportunities, feasibility studies and preparation of business plans, and are now ready to receive funding through the UDB. The two companies are together expected to receive concessional loans totaling to UGX 660million from the START Facility. More

FAO BOOSTS UGANDA’S HUMAN CAPACITY FOR ZOONOTIC DISEASES DETECTION RESPONSE AND CONTROL
By Agatha Ayebazibwe, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

A Veterinarian vaccinates dogs as part of the activities marking World Veterinary Day held in Buyende District

“One Health” surveillance officers from 40 districts in Eastern Uganda have become the latest reinforcement to Uganda’s national animal disease surveillance of zoonotic diseases, which are increasingly becoming a burden to humans and animals in the country annually.

The team of One Health surveillance officers, comprised of veterinary professionals, both public and private, was passed out after a three-day training organized by the Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as part of activities to commemorate World Veterinary Day on 27 April 2019.

Participants were attending the One Health Training Course for District Animal Disease Surveillance Focal Persons in Eastern Uganda, held in Buyende District. Part of the USAID-funded project to support the Global Health Security Agenda, the training focused on empowering the participants to hone their skills in rapid detection and response to outbreaks of diseases in animals before they cross to human beings. More

REFUGEE FROM SOUTH SUDAN BECOMES AN ADVOCATE FOR TREE PLANTING IN UGANDA

By Linda Muriuki, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

At 32, Bidal Abraham has fled his home in South Sudan thrice. Each time he made it safely to neighbouring Uganda, he noticed fewer trees along the route.

"The first time I came, there were many trees. The second time, somehow, they were less. The third time now, trees are scarce," he said.

Bidal could not stop the war he left behind, but he could plant trees and care for the land which welcomed him and his fellow refugees.

"Planting trees is important because trees are life," he explains. "They can provide shade for us and our animals, they provide more oxygen to the air we breath. We cut trees for charcoal and is important to plant constantly so if one day we will go back to South Sudan we can..."
leaves this place as we found it.” For More

SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

FAST- TRACKING THE HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE IN KAMPALA CITY

By Caroline Magambo, UNAIDS

Cities are known to be hotspots for the AIDS epidemic. Cities pull people from different walks of life including most at risk populations, as such they provide a fertile ground for new infections. In addition, cities account for a large proportion of people living with HIV. Without special programmes to address HIV in cities, the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 cannot be achieved.

The Kampala Fast-Track Cities project led by KCCA’s directorate of Public Health Services and Environment is a two-year HIV and AIDS project to be implemented in the six divisions of Kampala City. The project contributes to the ending of AIDS in Uganda by 2030 through engagement of leaders to improve accountability, strengthening of strategic information, improvement of quality and access to care, and reduction of stigma and discrimination in care settings. The project started in 2019 and will end in December 2020.

The Fast-Track Cities Kampala project is aligned with the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative on Ending AIDS in Uganda. The project contributes to the objectives of the Initiative on prevention, acceleration of treatment, elimination of mother-to-child transmission and institutional effectiveness. Besides Kampala City, the project is implemented in 14 other cities namely Blantyre, Johannesburg, Durban, Kigali, Lusaka, Lagos, Maputo, Nairobi, Yaounde, Windhoek, Kinshasa, Kingstone, Kiev and Jakarta. More
UNICEF NEWBORN KITS SUPPORT SAFETY OF BABIES AT BIRTH
By Proscovia Nakibuuka Mbonye, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Imagine arriving at the health facility to deliver a baby with nothing, but a piece of cloth also locally known as ‘Suuka’, which also doubles as a wrapper for the pregnant mother. This is a common scenario for many mothers in Kaabong District, Karamoja sub-region. It is also part of their culture, as pregnant women don’t prepare for deliveries, lest the unborn child dies.

Longom Esther, 21-year-old first time mother cuddles her beautiful 3-day old baby Vicky Etai in Kaabong Hospital. Beside her is a big blue bag which we later learn is known as a newborn kit. The newborn kits are given to all mothers who deliver at health facilities in the Karamoja sub-region, thanks to UNICEF with financial assistance from the Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA). The newborn kits contain a thick towel that health workers use as a
receiving blanket to keep babies warm upon delivery, two plastic sheets – one used during delivery, a bar of soap used to promote good hygiene for the mother and baby as well as an immunization card. Longom shares that when she arrived at the hospital, she too didn’t have anything with her, so the contents in the bag came in very handy during and after delivery.

“I was also happy to receive the bag because I didn’t have any bag to keep my baby’s clothes. Instead I was mixing her clothes with mine which the health workers said was not good,” Longom says with a smile before thanking the UNICEF team for the support. More

IOM UGANDA HOSTS MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND STAKEHOLDERS ON LATENT TB

By Richard M Kavuma, UN Migration Agency (IOM)

The practicum was part of a national consultative and orientation workshop on “Latent (Tuberculosis) TB Testing using Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)”. Participants included Health officials, laboratory technical staff, programmers (programme leaders) and researchers.

The workshop, convened by the Ministry of Health, was part of Government of Uganda broad
strategy to check latent TB, where an individual carries the disease-causing bacteria but does not yet show any symptoms.

The IGRA test is one of the few sure ways to detect latent TB, but it requires sophisticated equipment and expertise that is not commonly available in many developing countries.

According to Dr. Stavia Turyahabwe, the Acting Assistant Commissioner for the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) in the Ministry of Health, the workshop was part of a feasibility process for introducing the IGRA test in public hospitals.

IOM Uganda’s Migration Health Assessment Centre recently hosted stakeholders and experts on tuberculosis for a practicum on state-of-the-art TB testing. More

17

SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

NEW UNDP UGANDA REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO GOVERNMENT

By Michael Mubangizi, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

The new United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative for Uganda, Ms. Elsie G. Attafuah, recently presented her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs offices.

Speaking shortly after receiving her credentials on 29 May 2019, Hon. Kutesa commended UNDP’s work in promoting development, peace and good neighbourliness including the ongoing Uganda-Kenya Cross border initiative and encouraged UNDP to extend such initiatives to other countries such as South Sudan. He further stated that, UNDP should consider interventions that promote diaspora investments and South to South co-operation as contributions to Uganda’s growth.

On her part, Ms. Attafuah conveyed greetings to the honourable minister from the UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner, and pledged continued UNDP partnership to the Government and people of Uganda in their development aspirations. She highlighted that, UNDP will deploy its human, financial, technical and institutional resources in support of Uganda.
Ms. Attafuah also underscored support to “the realization of the Uganda Vision 2040, the second National Development Plan, formulation of the third National Development Plan, and the overall contribution to the Agenda 2030.” Hon. Kutesa, was the President of the UN General Assembly in September 2015 when world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda. More

News Briefs

NICE-UG Leadership, Government in Ghana for benchmarking exercise: The National Initiative for Civic Education in Uganda (NICE-UG) Team led by its Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Biribbonwa, and Patron, Ms. Rosa Malango, plus representatives from Government led by Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa, the Government Chief Whip are in Ghana for benchmarking.

UNODC scoping mission: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) visited Uganda. They met with the UN Country Team and Government officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the NTC and Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

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