This 37th edition highlights the work of UN, Government and partners and how partnerships brought us together to create the change that we want to see in the world.

H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of Uganda meets UN Country Team to discuss strategic scope of partnership within the current UN Reform dispensation

OHCHR, Equal Opportunities Commission launch a report highlighting challenges faced by Persons with Albinism in Uganda and measures needed to fight discrimination against them

UN Women, Standard Bank group launch a Climate Smart Agriculture project worth US$3,000,000 to enhance economic empowerment for more than 1,400 Women in Uganda

UNICEF, Government of Uganda roll out Kolibri, a digital platform that provides free learning for pupils and teachers in hard to reach schools in the country

112 young graduates gain access to workspaces, employability, entrepreneurial and innovation skills through UNDP, Government of Uganda Graduate Volunteer programme

UNIDO trains 100 technicians on sound management and best practices in refrigeration and air conditioning

Japanese star dancer and WFP celebrity supporter ÜSA wows audiences in remote northern Uganda, during a visit to support life-changing development projects

While teenage pregnancy is one of the main reason girls drop out of school, for Apunyo, this has not deterred her from achieving her dreams.

A small village in Kasese district of Uganda resort to a local Ebola Alert team to keep the disease out of their community

Celebrating World Refugee Day through celebrating different cultures and country-wide tree planting

News Briefs
UNCT, UGANDA PRESIDENT DISCUSS BOTTLENECKS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

On 4 July 2019, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Uganda led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango met the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, at Mbale State Lodge in Eastern Uganda. The President and the UNCT discussed an array of issues including the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how to resolve the strategic bottlenecks that still impede Africa’s transformation. The UNCT comprises all heads of UN agencies in Uganda.

The meeting, the first of its kind for the UNCT and Head of State in Uganda was an important milestone to discuss strategic partnership between the UN and the Government, within the scope of the current UN Reform dispensation. The reforms approved by the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/72/279 of 31 May 2018 is to reposition the United Nations to support Member States to deliver on the 2030 Agenda using global perspectives informed by local context.

H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda addressing UN Country Team at Mbale State Lodge. Photo credits: State House Uganda

President Museveni requested the UN Country Team to focus on key issues including; the
needs of the youth and women, the role of new technologies in the economy, as well as the need for society to evolve while preserving positive core values.

The meeting with the President subsequently informed the July 5, 2019 deliberations of the UN Country Team at their annual retreat held at Lake Victoria Serena Resort at Kigo in Entebbe with a theme “UN Evidence-based Leadership for the SDGs.” which took place on 5 July 2019. It was attended by partners from government of Uganda, civil society, private sector, academia and diplomatic missions.

![Group photo of the UN country Team with partners from Government, civil society, private sector, academia and diplomatic missions at the opening of the Annual UNCT Retreat Lake Victoria Serena, kigo](image)

The retreat assessed the UN System in Uganda’s collective progress, identified opportunities and challenges and reviewed partnerships amongst UN agencies. The UNCT also agreed on modalities to ensure the UN remains fit for purpose in the country.

Key outcomes of the retreat included; consensus to focus on addressing the strategic bottlenecks to transformation outlined by the President during the formulation of the UN Cooperation Framework (2021 -2025) with the Government and using SDGs to ensure a better alignment and coherence among and between all partners in order to ‘leave no one behind.’ They also agreed to work with partners guided by the SDGs to address key issues including: accountability, gender equality and women’s empowerment, environment and human capital development. More
EOC, OHCHR LAUNCH REPORT ON SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH ALBINISM IN UGANDA

By Fonyuy Kiven & Amwine Bernard, UN Human Rights Uganda (OHCHR)

Representatives from the albinism community, Government, Civil Society, and the diplomatic community posing for a photo at the launch

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have launched a report highlighting challenges faced by Persons with Albinism (PWA) in Uganda and measures needed to fight discrimination against them. The launch on 13 June 2019 brought together representatives from the albinism community, government, civil society, and the diplomatic community. The report examines problems facing PWA such as challenges in access to healthcare, education, an inadequate protection framework and the discriminatory attitude of other community members towards PWAs.

During the launch, OHCHR Uganda Deputy Representative Ms. Nicole Bjerler emphasized, “Persons with albinism are human beings just like all of us and are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights, without any exception, and need to be treated with dignity and respect.”
The report highlights several recommendations to demystify existing myths, superstitions and beliefs about albinism. It stresses the need to collect data to determine the number of PWAs in Uganda including their functional disabilities. The report further calls for adequate support for persons with albinism to be integrated into the national health system, and on the relevant Ministries to develop and implement programs that adequately respond, on a sustainable basis, to the health and education needs of PWAs, among others.

According to the Acting Chairperson Equal Opportunities, Commissioner Joel Cox Ojuko, “Persons with Albinism should be provided with equal opportunities and all the support they require to live a valuable and meaningful life.”

UN WOMEN, STANDARD BANK LAUNCH CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PROJECT TO ENHANCE WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

By Martin Ninsiima, UN Women Uganda

UN Women has partnered with Standard Bank Group to implement a multi-country project to use climate smart techniques to enhance women’s economic empowerment. The project has been funded by the Standard Bank Group of companies with a grant of USD$3,000,000 and will be implemented in Uganda, South Africa, Malawi and Nigeria. In Uganda, the project was launched in June 2019 at Wakawaka landing site in Buliidha Sub-County in Bugiri district.

UN Women will work with Bugiri District local government to support women to implement a cage fish farming project. Project implementation activities will be supported by Pearl Aquatics Limited and the project is expected to benefit 1,400 women who operate under Bugiri Fish Farmers co-operative society.

During the launch of the project, UN Women Country Representative Dr. Maxime Houinato explained to beneficiaries of the project and dignitaries that the major goal of this multi country project is to promote transformative women smallholders’ economic empowerment and household food security in a changing climate. He said: “we chose to engage in aquaculture in Bugiri District with an aim of promoting transformative women smallholders’ economic empowerment and household food security in a view of the worsening climate change”.

By Martin Ninsiima, UN Women Uganda
Ms. Daisy Achiro, Commissioner for fisheries resources in the Ministry of Agriculture launching the Fish Cage farming project off Wakawaka landing site in Bugiri district.

Standard Bank was represented by Ms. Harriet Mwesigwa Kayanga, the Manager of Stanbic Bank Iganga branch. She told the gathering that the financial support provided by the Bank is part of the initiative to achieve gender equality across Africa. More

SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

UNICEF AND GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA ROLL OUT KOLIBRI PLATFORM TO IMPROVE LEARNING PERFORMANCE IN HARD TO REACH AREAS

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

The Government of Uganda in partnership with UNICEF is rolling out a digital platform that provides free learning content to pupils, students and teachers to help improve their learning, specifically in Mathematics and Science subjects.

Kolibri, a free and open source education technology platform allows in and out of school
pupils and students to learn at their own pace, while providing teachers or mentors with educational resources.

Students listening to an instructor on the use of Kolibri in one of the secondary schools in Kaabong

*Kolibri* is an initiative between the Government of Uganda through the Ministry of Education and Sports and National Information Technology Authority of Uganda (NITA-U) and UNICEF. With *Kolibri*, pupils, students and teachers in government schools can access content on Mathematics, Sciences, technology, arts, humanities and life skills in form of text, videos, interactive simulations and digital education games.

The platform available online ([e-learning.education.go.ug](http://e-learning.education.go.ug)) and offline also contains videos in sign language, ebooks for children with low vision and audio books for the benefit of children with disabilities.

“Together with UNICEF, we are rolling out *Kolibri*, an E-learning portal that targets children in hard to reach areas and provides offline access to education materials,” says Peter Kahiigi, Director, eGovernment Services of NITA-U. More
UNDP-GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA PROGRAMME ENABLES 112 GRADUATE ACCESS EMPLOYMENT, JOB – SKILLS

By Violet Namata and Henry Mukasa, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

A total of 112 graduate volunteers who concluded a one-week induction for work-readiness skills have been placed in various public and private sector host organisations including civil society and UN agencies.

This is the second cohort of young graduates gaining access to workspaces, employability, entrepreneurial and innovation skills through the Uganda Graduate Volunteer Scheme (UGVS) that was launched on December 5th, 2018 by the Government of Uganda with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme.

The Uganda Graduate Volunteer Scheme is an innovative programme which is enabling young graduates of Uganda access job opportunities, gain on-job skills through mentorship, so that they hone their professional skills as they build their nascent careers. More
UNIDO SCALES UP TRAINING TO ADDRESS OZONE DEPLETION

By Judith Atim, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has scaled up training of refrigeration and air conditioning technicians in the country.

In the month of June, more than 100 technicians were trained on sound management and best practices in refrigeration and air conditioning. This includes 25 technicians of Ogolai Technical Institute in Amuria District, 100 in Kampala, while 20 technicians are set to undergo training at Bushenyi Technical Institute by end of July.

The training is aimed at equipping the technicians with the knowledge and skills in areas such as installation, energy efficiency in the refrigeration sector, component selection, assembling and test running as well as the recovery and recycling of refrigerants (gases used in refrigeration).

The training has been conducted by a team of experts from UNIDO led by Mr Paulo Odu and is one of the activities for the implementation of the Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) phase down management plan (HPMP). UNIDO has also provided training kits and equipment for training in good Refrigeration and Air Conditioning practices.

“We are providing this technical support to four Vocational Training Institutes including Ogolai, Elgon, Lira and Bushenyi and we want to ensure that the technicians are highly skilled,” Mr Odu said. More
EMPOWERED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER TEENAGE PREGNANCY

By Evelyn Matsamura Kiapi, UNFPA Uganda

Eighteen–year-old Alice Apunyo (not real names) had just delivered a baby boy at Swinga Health Centre III in Bidi-Bidi refugee settlement in the wee hours of the morning. A primary seven candidate, Apunyo had to drop out of Kejebere primary school after realizing a fellow schoolmate had impregnated her.

“I have named her Bianca Morning because she was born early before the sun rose,” she says with a subtle smile.

Like many adolescent girls, for Apunyo, pregnancy was not by choice. She says that she did not know about family planning until the midwife who supported her deliver provided the information. In Uganda, one in four girls is either pregnant or has had a child by the age of 19.
JAPAN’S ÜSA BRINGS DANCE FEVER TO UGANDA

By Lydia Wamala, WFP Uganda

For Japanese star dancer and World Food Programme (WFP) celebrity supporter ÜSA wowed audiences in remote northern Uganda, during a visit to support life-changing development projects.

A group of pupils broke out in a loud chorus as ÜSA and his entourage arrived at Namalu Mixed Primary School in the Karamoja region of northeastern Uganda. “Welcome, welcome our visitors, welcome,” they chanted.

Everywhere he went in Karamoja, children happily welcomed ÜSA. He quickly picked up their rhythm and joined in swinging with them before inviting them to dance with him. Photo: WFP/Kiyori Ueno

Their salute was among many for the dancer and World Food Programme (WFP) celebrity supporter on a six-day tour of North Uganda. ÜSA’s visit to WFP-supported schools, nutrition centres and farmer cooperatives — many funded by the Government of Japan — in Karamoja and West Nile regions. More
UGANDA VILLAGE JOINS FORCE TO FIGHT EBOLA
By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)

When Godfrey and his wife Jennifer fell sick with vomiting and fever, their first thought was Ebola. Their neighbours in Muhindi, a small village in Kasese District of Uganda, had the same fear. But, thanks to their community surveillance training, all of them knew what to do.

Godfrey and Jennifer alerted their village health team contacted the local Ebola Alert team. They agreed that the couple, along with their two children (aged 6 and 4), should be admitted to the isolation and treatment unit at Bwera Hospital for testing.

When the family of four stepped out of the Ebola Treatment Unit 48 hours later it was with some trepidation. Fortunately, it turned out that Godfrey and his family were suffering from nothing more serious than food poisoning. But while they were happy to have been declared Ebola disease-free, they were unsure of how they would be treated by their community. More
WORLD REFUGEE DAY MARKED BY CELEBRATING DIFFERENT CULTURES AND PLANTING TREES

By Yonna Tukundane, UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR)

From dance parties, tree-planting, solidarity marches, football and volleyball games, thousands of people around Uganda took part in events to celebrate World Refugee Day at a time when the number of children, women and men uprooted by wars and persecution has broken all records and as the population in Uganda reaches towards the 1.3 million mark.

The event, held on 20 June each year, honours the courage and determination of those who have been forced to flee their homes. This year, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is asking people from all walks of life to join the #StepWithRefugees global challenge in solidarity with
refugees who each year trek 1 billion kilometres to reach the nearest point of safety.

The theme in Uganda for World Refugee Day was ‘Take a Step #WithRefugees-protect the environment’. Here is a roundup of activities across the country. Conservation of the environment was the main theme for the celebrations and participants planted trees to show their commitment to environmental protection across Uganda. More

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Members of the National Joint Steering committee for EU-UN Spotlight Initiative hold first meeting: The governing body of the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls met to discuss progress of the Programme. The meeting which took place on 15 July 2019 at the Ministry of Gender in Kampala was chaired by Mr. Pius Bigirimana Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour, Social and Development with Members from the UN Country Team, Line Ministries and Civil Society.

The UN Country Team partnership dinner with African Ambassadors Group: The dinner took place on Thursday, 11 July 2019 in Kololo, Kampala. The dinner served as an opportunity for both communities to meet and discuss possible areas of collaboration in support of the Government and people of Uganda.

The UN Resident Coordinator’s meets a delegation from UN-Habitat: A delegation led by Ms. Christine Musisi - UN-Habitat Director in charge of External Relations met with Ms. Rosa Malango at the UN offices in Uganda. They discussed several issues including supporting local communities to secure land rights through acquiring Certificates of CustomaryOwnership.

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