OVERVIEW

- This 38th edition highlights UN, Government and partners working together to deliver services to the people in the different regions of Uganda
- Stanbic signs Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme
- UNDP demonstrates integrator role by joining the National Planning Authority to host a series of breakfast policy discussions with diverse stakeholders on the new National Development Plan III
- UNICEF-supported Go Back To School campaigns encouraging children who had dropped out of school to return, stay in school and complete their education
- The Ministry of Works and Transport with support from the Government of Japan and UNIDO to construct a training centre for heavy equipment operators
- UNWomen trains partners in reporting, fraud prevention, risk management and Results Based Management
- IOM and partners launch campaigns to raise awareness about trafficking in persons to improve migration management in the region
- National Inception Workshop held for Spotlight Initiative
- Ministry of Health, UN and Global Fund partner to address human rights barriers that deter communities from fully accessing services for AIDS, TB and malaria
- UNHCR donation to Uganda’s Ministry of Health aims to boost Ebola response
- European Union, FAO launch a five-year project worth €8 million to scale up agricultural adaptation to climate change in Uganda.
- Government of Uganda and UNCDF convened the High-Level Regional Event on Blended Finance: Opportunities and Challenges in East Africa
- UN Resident Coordinator appreciates outgoing Africa Group Dean and Burundi Ambassador
- UN Resident Coordinator and UNSG Special Envoy for Burundi meet President Museveni to discuss regional cooperation, sustaining peace and development
STANBIC SIGNS GENDER EQUALITY SEAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

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

On 27 August 2019, Stanbic Bank joined the UNDP Gender Equality Seal (GES) certification programme for private enterprises in Uganda at a signing ceremony held at the bank’s head office in Kampala. Stanbic has joined 41 other private enterprises in Uganda to commit to ensuring Gender Equality at the workplace as part of the role of private sector in bringing the SDGs to life.

‘Your signature today is a loud statement that both private and public enterprises are working for sustainable development in Uganda,’ said Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator.

The GES certifies that a company promotes and integrates measures for gender equality as an integral part of corporate governance and good business. The certification programme provides tools, guidance and assessments towards the elimination of gender-based pay gaps; increasing women’s roles in decision-making; enhancing work-life balance; enhancing women’s access to non-traditional jobs; eradicating sexual harassment at work; and using inclusive and non-sexist communication.
‘Stanbic, one of Africa’s most recognized brands has made history by standing side by side with UNDP and the larger UN family by signing on the Gender Equality Seal. We are confident that it will be a formidable ambassador in Uganda and Africa,” said Ms. Elsie Attafuah, UNDP Resident Representative.

‘Private Sector in Uganda is committed to signing up the Gender Equality Seal because it is vital in achieving the SDGs. We cannot achieve sustainable growth if there is marginalisation and inequalities at the workplace. We need to all get on board and Leave No One Behind,’ said Mr. Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director, Private Sector Foundation.

‘We have 50-50 gender parity in our executive committee and most our employees at Stanbic Uganda are women. We have achieved this through unbiased hiring practices and ensuring that women have access to appropriate development and leadership opportunities,’ said Stanbic CEO Mr. Patrick Mweheirwe. The ‘Ignite Women Leadership Programme’, is an internal Stanbic Uganda initiative aimed at developing women leaders and igniting untapped value and opportunity in female staff,’ said Mr. Mweheire. He revealed that the bank opened up a motherhood centre for its staff. Stanbic’s CEO also revealed that Stanbic had given US $3 million to UN Women for women in Climate Smart Agriculture, of which US $600,000 is being attached to Uganda.

UNDP, NPA POLICY DIALOGUES GENERATE IDEAS TO INFORM UGANDA’S 3RD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

By Michael Mubangizi, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

As a clear demonstration of UNDP’s integrator role within the UN Reform, UNDP Uganda partnered with the National Planning Authority to host a breakfast policy series on the formulation of Uganda’s third National Development Plan (NDP III). Participants from government, United Nations Country Team, development partners, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector actively participated and noted that government requires substantial investments in critical sectors such as health and education, environmental protection, infrastructure, clean and affordable energy, rural development as well as peace and security. To achieve its aspirations, speakers suggested that Uganda needs to develop appropriate financing strategies, minimize wastage, and be more efficient across all government ministries, departments and agencies.
Under the theme, “Towards Integrated Financing of the NDPIII”, the fifth and final dialogue held on Thursday August 15th, 2019 built on the success of the earlier policy series that focused on; Human Capital Development, Enhancing Value Addition for Inclusive Growth in Uganda, Good Governance and Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues respectively.

Speaking during the final breakfast policy series, Mr. El-Khidir Daloum, the Acting UN Resident Coordinator, noted that while Uganda has made strides in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), challenges remain in the areas of reducing poverty, sustainable urbanization, affordable and clean energy, good governance and effective partnerships. “The third National Development Plan should identify high-impact interventions with appropriate financing to accelerate progress towards achieving the goals,” Mr. Daloum who is also the World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director, said. More

SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

GO BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN GIVES NAKUT ANOTHER CHANCE AT EDUCATION

By Proscovia Nakibuuka Mbonye, UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Pupils of Nabilatuk Town Council Primary School, Nabilatuk District, Karamoja sub-region, use UNICEF-supported Go Back To School campaigns to encourage children who had dropped out of school to return, stay in school and complete their education. Through songs, drama, music and sports, the pupils disseminate messages on the benefits of education. The campaigns led by Trailblazers Mentoring Foundation with support from UNICEF and financial assistance from Irish Aid, target both girls and boys and many have returned since their inception.
17-year-old Gloria Nakut a primary six pupil at Nabilatuk P.S. is one of the beneficiaries who heard about the campaign in her community. “I heard that they were looking for children who were interested in returning to school especially those like us who did not have any support.” Nakut dropped out of school in 2013 while in P3. It all started with the demise of her mother, leaving her behind with her father who didn’t value the education of her daughter but instead planned to marry her off at only 13 years. “I don't know why my father didn't support me because I was enjoying school and was doing well,” Nakut said with a lot of sadness. Out of school, with no parental care, Nakut run away from home. She stayed with different relatives, worked as a housemaid, slept in people’s gardens but nothing worked. Overwhelmed with her situation, Nakut returned home. “I went back home, and my father took me to the man. However, I played along and when they left me with him, I poured soil in his eyes and escaped. I knew that if I married, I would suffer even more in future,” Nakut shared.

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

UNIDO TO CONSTRUCT TRAINING CENTRE FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

By Judith Atim, UNIDO Uganda

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is to receive a grant of USD 2.4 Million from the Government of Japan. UNIDO will use the funding to provide technical support for a project to develop and construct a training centre for heavy equipment operators in Luwero district. UNIDO will implement the project jointly with the Ministry of Works and Transport. On Thursday 8th August 2019, UNIDO and the Government of Japan signed Exchange Notes capturing the procedural details with which the project will be implemented. Speaking at the signing ceremony, the UNIDO Country Representative Mr. Bruno Otto Tokwiny underscored the importance of industrialisation as a pathway for poverty reduction. “Whether you look at the early advances of the European countries, United States, or Japan or
those that caught up with the global trend in the latter half of the 20th century, including the Republics of Korea, China and other Asian “Tigers” and “Dragons” it was always industrial development and trade in industrial goods that shaped their successes,” Mr Otto said.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Kazuaki Kameda said that the Government of Japan has decided to entrust UNIDO to implement the project due to its successful track record in similar projects. More

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SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

“WE ARE HERE FOR THE VALUES OF FEMINISM” – DR. MAXIME HOuinato

By Aidah Nanyonjo, UN Women

“We are here to promote the values of feminism. If such values are lacking in your organization, it will be replaced with a women organisation,” Dr. Maxime Houinato, UN Women Country Representative said this while closing a five-day annual partners training on reporting, fraud prevention, risk management and Results Based Management in Entebbe.

Dr. Houinato revealed that the Agency would soon focus only on women led organisations that promote feminism and gender equality. However, for male-led organizations to benefit from UN Women funding, they must be able to comply with the values of feminism and gender equality.

“These funds are for women empowerment. For any man to benefit from it, you have to follow the conditions attached such as

A participant receives a certificate from the UN Women Representative after training in Entebbe
following the values of feminism. You must be ready to challenge the toxic and negative masculinities,” Dr Houinato said. For male-led organisations to benefit from the UNWomen funding, a certain criterion shall be used to measure how such organisations are managed in relation to the values of feminism. More

SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

IOM’S HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN LIVENS UP TOWNS

By Marion Dehier and Richard M Kavuma, UN Migration Agency (IOM)

IOM Uganda and its implementing partners recently organized a series of public campaigns to raise awareness about human trafficking.

The campaign was supported by the Better Migration Management (BMM) programme, a regional, multi-year, multi-partner programme co-funded by the European Union Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). BMM aims to improve migration management in the region, and in particular to address the trafficking and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa. The main events were held in Kampala, as well as in the northwestern districts of Yumbe and Moyo. IOM worked with the Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS) and the Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL). More
SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE NATIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP HELD

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

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls held a National Inception Workshop in Uganda on 20 and 21 August in Kampala. The workshop was attended by participants from Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, civil society, cultural institutions, private sector, academia and the district leadership of the seven participating districts represented by their Chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers, Community Development Officers and Probation Officers. The participating districts are Amudat, Arua, Kabong, Kampala, Kasese, Kitgum, Kyegegwa and Tororo. The workshop participants also included partners of UNICEF’s Protection System Strengthening Programme, which is partially funded under Spotlight Initiative.

The Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Mr. James Ebitu, who represented the Minister thanked the European Union and United Nations for the support provided to respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in Uganda. Speaking on behalf of the UN Country Team, UN Women Representative, Dr. Maxime Houinato said, “the Spotlight Initiative takes a whole of government, whole of society, whole of UN approach. Together, we will address legislative and policy gaps, strengthen institutions, promote gender-equitable attitudes, provide quality services for...
survivors and their families, and end impunity for violence against women and children. Interventions will also strengthen systems for collecting data on violence against women and girls and empower women’s movements.”

Mr. Thomas Tiedemann, Head of Cooperation at the European Union, pointed out that the Spotlight Initiative is a substantial global investment towards gender equality and women’s empowerment in contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “The EU has provided US $22 million seed funding for the first two years of the programme in Uganda,” he said. Following the national inception workshop, the district inception workshops and the National Launch of the Spotlight Initiative in Uganda will be held soon.

**SDG 3– GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

**REMOVING HUMAN RIGHTS-RELATED BARRIERS AGAINST HIV, TB AND MALARIA SERVICES**

By Angela Kateemu Nuwahereza, UNAIDS

On July 23rd, UNAIDS partnered with the Ministry of Health, Global Fund and WHO to address human rights barriers that deter communities from fully accessing services for AIDS, TB and
malaria. This strategy is premised on the econometric argument that Global Fund investments could see higher returns if these barriers were removed. Grants that remove barriers open access to services and are also more likely to be sustainable in the long run.

This initiative is part of a 20-country programme, including Uganda. The first step was to conduct a baseline assessment of human rights-related barriers for the three diseases. In Uganda, the study was conducted in 2018. The Global Fund is providing intensive support over the next five years to the 20 countries to enable them to put in place comprehensive programmes aimed at significantly reducing these barriers.

UNHCR DONATION TO UGANDA’S MINISTRY OF HEALTH AIMS TO BOOST EBOLA RESPONSE

By Yonna Tukundane, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR’s Representative in Uganda handed over three ambulances, thirty-one motorcycles and a thermal scanner to the Ministry of Health to boost the Ebola response. Uganda has included refugees in the National Ebola Preparedness and Response Plan and continues to keep its borders open, ensuring safe and dignified asylum for the women, children and men arriving daily from the neighbouring countries.

The ambulances will go to Arua, Kikuube and Kisoro districts for transportation of identified alerts and suspected cases of Ebola to designated treatment sites. Motorcycles will be used to improve Integrated disease surveillance and response in the refugee-hosting districts of Yumbe, Arua, Adjumani, Moyo, Lamwo, Kikuube, Kiryandongo, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Isingiro, Koboko, Hoima and Ntoroko districts. The thermal scanner will be deployed at the point of entry with highest refugee influx as stipulated in the National Ebola preparedness and response plan, to improve Ebola surveillance.
At the handover ceremony, Mr. Joel Boutroue, UNHCR’s Representative in Uganda said, “This donation is part of the UNHCR efforts to strengthen refugee-hosting district health systems to be better prepared for any possible outbreaks”. “I wish to extend my appreciation to UNHCR and UK (DFID) for the Ambulances, motorcycles and the UN’s Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) for the thermal scanner,” said Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Minister of Health. “The donation will improve case management by transportation of the alert cases from the point of identification of the isolation centres.”

SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

FAO, EU AND GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN VULNERABLE DISTRICTS IN UGANDA

By Anita Tibasaaga, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Government of Uganda, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Union (EU) in Uganda, launched a five-year project to empower rural communities in some of the most vulnerable districts as well as identify and adapt to climate change, through interventions that will also promote food security, income generation and sustainability of livelihoods. The project, Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+), now in its second phase (2018 – 2023) and with funding of €8 million (UGX 33.8 billion) from the European Union, will help to scale up agricultural adaptation to climate change in Uganda, enabling rural households to become more resilient to climate change effects and food insecurity by promoting sustainable and gender transformation actions. The Project will be implemented in nine districts of the central part of Uganda’s Cattle Corridor, including six previous beneficiary GCCA districts of Nakasongola, Luwero, Nakaseke, Mubende, Kiboga and Sembabule and three new adjacent, vulnerable districts of Kalungu, Gomba, Lyantonde.

The new phase of the Project builds upon the successful implementation of the first phase of the GCCA project, implemented

(R-L) European Union Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Attilio Pacifici(right); Honourable Vincent Ssempijja, Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (centre), Dr. Antonio Querido FAO Country Representative(second from left) during at the launch of the Project
from 2012 to 2017, which helped to make Uganda one of the leading countries in Africa undertaking climate change adaptation. More

SDG 9– INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

QUESTIONS; IDEAS; SOLUTIONS. WHAT TOOK PLACE AT THE HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL EVENT ON BLENDED FINANCE IN KAMPALA

By David Mikhail, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

So often, when there is a conversation about ensuring that developing countries experience the benefits of sustainable development, it tends to focus on the SDG financing gap. The investment needed to support SDG achievement in the world’s least developed countries by 2030 is estimated at US$240 billion per year, whereas only US $40 billion was deployed in 2014.

But on June 18, 2019, when UNCDF and the Government of Uganda convened the High-Level Regional Event on Blended Finance: Opportunities and Challenges in East Africa, the conversation expanded well beyond the finance gap. With more than 150 delegates in attendance, the conversation was a rare opportunity to elevate and address critical questions surrounding blended finance; share a lifecycle approach to optimize blended finance projects; and a commitment to putting ideas on blended finance into practice. Talking at the opening of this event, UNCDF Executive Secretary, Ms. Judith Karl said, ‘To be sure, we see the impressive progress being made in Southern and East Africa towards the SDGs.’

Still, across the region, there is need for accelerated progress. Getting the finance piece right is essential to that acceleration. Specifically, we need more risk-taking and changes in the incentives that underpin much of the financing for development architecture if we aim to get more finance to where it’s most needed. And we need to make those changes now, before the structure of the current international financial system further entrenches the inequalities that further marginalize poor and vulnerable countries and communities at risk of being left behind.” More
UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango presented a certificate of appreciation to H.E. Jean Bosco Barege, outgoing Chair Africa Ambassadors Group and Ambassador of Burundi to Uganda, at his office on 27 August 2019. She appreciated Ambassador Barege for his leadership of the African Ambassadors Group in Uganda and for the partnership with the United Nations system in Uganda during his tenure. Ambassador Barege pledged to continuing being a champion for the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Developments (SDGs) in his new posting as Burundi’s Ambassador to Kenya.

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR AND UNSG SPECIAL ENVOY FOR BURUNDI MEET PRESIDENT MUSEVENI TO DISCUSS REGIONAL COOPERATION, SUSTAINING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango (left) and the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Burundi, Mr. Michel Kafando (centre), met with President Yoweri Museveni(right) on 23 August 2019 and discussed regional cooperation towards sustaining peace and development.

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