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OVERVIEW

- On 18th March 2017, the First Lady Hon. Janet Museveni, National and Parliamentary Champions on the Adolescent Girl Agenda in partnership with the UN System in Uganda launched the Advocacy platform that will advocate for the empowerment of the Adolescent Girl Uganda.
- Health Minister Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng attributes reduction in maternal mortality to concerted efforts by Government of Uganda, Development Partners including the United Nations Family, CAUM and other Non-Government Organizations. This was during the launch of the preliminary report of the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS).
- The total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in Uganda is 813,908; while the daily average arrival refugees and asylum is 2,197 since 7th July 2016 according to the UNHCR Flash Update on the South Sudan Emergency Response of 24th March 2017.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) boosted the Electoral Commission (EC) with a donation of an assortment of media equipment and a van, which were handed over on 20th March 2017 as part of efforts to reinforce their ability to facilitate voter education.
- Four Ugandans were among 39 women in the military and police from 17 countries across the globe completed a specialised training course of the United Nations Signals Academy (UNSA) at the UN Regional Service Centre Entebbe (RCSE) 17th March 2017.
- On 21st March, the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda and United Nations Capital Development Fund launched the Renewable Energy Challenge Fund (RECF) - Clean Cooking Window. Grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$ 150,000 are available for companies that can put forth ideas that can lead to a step-change in the adoption of clean cooking solutions in Uganda, and have a positive impact on women and youth employment.



SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

UGANDA LAUNCHES ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE ADOLESCENT GIRL AGENDA

By Monicah Aturinda Kyeyune, UN Resident Coordinators Office (RCO)

On 18th March 2017, the First Lady Hon. Janet Museveni, the National and Parliamentary Champions on the Adolescent Girl Agenda in partnership with the UN System in Uganda launched an Advocacy platform that will advocate for the empowerment of the Adolescent Girl in Uganda through Members of Parliament.



The First Lady, Hon. Janet Museveni (4th from left); the Minister of State for Youth and Children, Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi (5th from left); UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango, (3rd from left); UNICEF Representative, Ms. Aida Girma (2nd from left), and UNFPA Country Representative Mr. Alain Sibenaler (behind Ms. Girma); at the launch of the advocacy platform on the adolescent girl agenda at Masuulita, 18th March 2017

The one day event organized by Organisation of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA Uganda) at Masuulita Children's Village in Wakiso District was attended by the First Lady and National Champion of the Adolescent Girl Agenda, officials from government agencies, Members of Parliament, local government officials, supporters of girls and boys, the UN system and development partners.

According to UNICEF, approximately 35% of girls drop out of school because of early marriage and 23% do so because of early pregnancy (UNICEF, 2015). In Uganda, the teenage pregnancy rate is 24% with regional variations. This increases to 34% in the poorest households. In rural areas 24% of girls experience early pregnancy compared with 16% of wealthier households and 21% of urban girls (UNICEF, 2015).

While speaking at the event, Mrs. Janet Museveni, who is also Minister of Education, called on girls and boys to use their time wisely. To learn from the elders as much as they can when they are young because this plays a key role in what they become in future. Mrs. Museveni encouraged guests and champions to spare time and talk to the adolescents because inspirational messages to the boys and girls can have an impact on how they choose to lead their lives.

Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator while addressing guests at the event appreciated, the First Lady of Uganda, for her tireless efforts to support the well-being and development of the girl-child in Uganda.

Ms. Malango added that every voice matters and that Members of Parliament are particularly critical to improve the well-being of Adolescent Girls citing key roles such as endorsing adolescent needs and concerns publicly, raising adolescent girls' health, education and protection issues in Parliament and other public fora, and encouraging positive discussion and debate on meeting the needs of adolescent girls.

Hon. Dr. Michael Bukenya who spoke on behalf of the Parliamentary Champions said that the team is committed to creating awareness and mobilize increased targeted upstream engagement by critical national and district actors for the promotion of girl child education in Uganda. Adding that they will continue orientating Members of Parliament on issues around the Adolescent Girl Agenda so that adolescents' issues are well addressed.

One of the adolescent girls who presented highlighted menstrual periods as one of the issues that cause them to miss school, dropping out of school due to early pregnancies and yet the boys who do not get pregnant continue with school. The other issues she presented

were heavy domestic chores that pose a danger to their health and forced early marriages by their parents or caretakers. She called on the National and Parliamentary champions to help make an adolescent girl's life in Uganda better.

Another of the adolescents staying at Masuulita Children's Village told the guests that some girls on the streets of Kampala are forcefully turned into beggars by their parents and guardians "I was forced by my mother and aunt to leave school in Karamoja and come to Kampala to beg on the streets, when I rejected the proposal, my aunt brought me here at Masuulita Children's Village," she said. She added that she likes the care and treatment at Masuulita Children's Village because she is getting training in tailoring, a skill she hopes will be useful to her in the future.

The event was organized by OFLA under a Partnership Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

HEALTH MINISTER COMMENDS UN AND PARTNERS FOR MORE SAFE BIRTHS AS MORE WOMEN EMBRACE FAMILY PLANNING, SKILLED DELIVERY

By Evelyn Kiapi, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The number of mothers dying during childbirth has gone down following more women using family planning and delivering at a health facility under skilled care. The latest figures contained in the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) reveal that pregnancy-related deaths have steadily been declining from 524 in 2001 to 438 in 2011, and now stand at 368 per 100,000 live births.

Uganda's Health Minister Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng attributed this progress to concerted efforts by Government of Uganda, Development Partners including the United Nations Family, CAUM and other Non-Government Organizations, to provide high impact maternal, newborn and child health interventions in the under-served and hard-to-reach districts of Karamoja and South Western Uganda.

"It is motivating to the people in the health sector to see that the investments by Government and development partners have yielded good results," said Dr. Aceng said, in her ending remarks at the launch of the preliminary report in Kampala, March 14, 2017.

According to the survey report, the proportion of women attended to by a skilled provider while giving birth has increased over the years, from 45 percent in 2006 to 58 percent in 2011 and now at 74 percent in 2016. Similarly, the proportion of women giving birth in a health facility has increased from 42 percent in 2006 to 57 percent in 2011 and now at 73 percent in the 2016 UDHS.



First Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Moses Ali (7th from left); Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng (6th from left); UNFPA Country Representative, Mr. Alain Sibenaler (7th from right); and UNICEF Representative, Ms. Aida Girma (6th from right) at the launch of the preliminary report the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) in Kampala, 14th March 2017

Dr. Aceng specifically commended the health workers: "Health workers are the unsung heroes behind this work, without them we wouldn't see an improvement in our indicators," she said.

The report further showed that 58 percent of the total demand for family planning is being met with 39 percent cent of married women and 51 percent of sexually unmarried women in Uganda using a contraceptive method. This is an increase from 2011 where 24 percent of all women (30 percent of married women, and 52 percent of sexually active unmarried women) were using some method of contraception.

The UDHS is an important household-based survey that collects data which supports the formulation of the country's development policies and programmes. "Up-to-date population data is indispensable for any country's development as information on the people, their geographical distribution, their age and sex composition, their location, and other key characteristics is critical," said Mr. Alain Sibenaler, UNFPA Country Representative.

Technical and financial support for the 2016 UDHS was provided by the Government of Uganda, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Technical support to ensure quality of the survey and build local capacity was provided by ICF International (USA).

At the launch, key findings were presented, a comprehensive analysis of the survey data will be presented in a final report to be published in mid-2017.



SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

UNDP BOOSTS ELECTORAL BODY CIVIC EDUCATION ROLE

By Henry Mukasa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) boosted the Electoral Commission (EC) with a donation of an assortment of media equipment and a van, which were handed over on 20th March 2017. The equipment all valued at USD 85,795 (Shs 308,433,025) included; a video camera, a heavy-duty photocopier, four television screens, 13 projectors, six computer sets and a 30-seater van.

The UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango, said that the equipment will enable the EC to carry out civic education and boost public participation in elections and enhance democracy.

"The electoral process is not a just about the elections. It is also the period in between and the preparations involved. UNDP's new Country programme emphasizes using this period to strengthen civic engagement which informs and empowers the populace to be more engaged," Ms Malango said at the handover ceremony held at the EC headquarters in Kampala.

"Boosting participation of the public will require the EC to educate the public to understand their rights so that they are able to make informed decisions on who their leaders should be

and what their responsibilities are,” said Ms. Malango, who is also the UN Resident Coordinator. She proposed to the EC to partner with civil society and the media whose core function is informing the public.



UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, (left) handing over a media van to the Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Hajjat Aisha Lubega on 20th March 2017

“This, we believe, will ensure that Uganda’s electoral process is democratic and provides space to attain inclusive and sustainable development where no one is left behind,” Ms Malango said.

The support is part of the UNDP assistance to the achievement of Uganda’s Vision 2040 which emphasizes good governance as a key component of attaining transformative development. The Sustainable Development Goals especially goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions also emphasizes effective governance based on rule of law as key component of achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

Currently, UNDP is supporting the Electoral Commission is evaluating the conduct of the 2016 General Elections, with the objective of identifying vulnerable spots in the legal framework and electoral systems. The evaluation will lead to formulation of a Roadmap for the 2021 General Elections.

Prior to the handover ceremony, Ms. Malango together with a team from UNDP's Rule of Law and Governance Programme/Peace Architecture of UNDP, held a consultative meeting with the new commissioners of the Electoral Commission led by the deputy Chairperson, Ms. Aisha M. Lubega.

Ms. Lubega commended UNDP for the support and said that the equipment will be used to establish a media centre and mobile voter education campaigns. "I wish to extend our gratitude to UNDP for donating equipment that will facilitate improved delivery of electoral services to the people of Uganda," Ms. Lubega said.

The EC deputy chairperson said the UNDP partnership with the commission and Uganda's electoral processes dates to 1990 during the elections for Constituent Assembly, which debated and promulgated the 1995 Constitution. The Constitution provided for establishment of a permanent Electoral Commission.

During the 2015/2016 General Elections, UNDP supported the Electoral Commission to build capacity to deliver its mandate. This was through; promoting dialogue, conducting media training, support for enhanced women's participation, promoting fair and gender-sensitive reporting and training of EC staff in human rights in the context of the elections.

"This support is a clear sign of a strong partnership that continues to grow between the Electoral Commission and UNDP," Ms. Lubega said.

UN SIGNALS ACADEMY WOMEN'S OUTREACH COURSE HOLDS AWARDS CEREMONY

By Yoon-Kyung Shin, UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

Thirty nine women in the military and police from 17 countries across the globe completed a specialised training course of the United Nations Signals Academy (UNSA) at the UN Regional Service Centre Entebbe (RCSE) 17th March 2017. The graduates included four Ugandan soldiers who received their certificates from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Henry Oryem; the Minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Bright Rwamirama; and the Minister of State for Gender, Hon. Peace Mutuzo.

The UNSA's Women's Outreach Course (WOC) training aims to provide comprehensive training to participating women signals personnel at both the management/officer and technician level. The WOC training combines theoretical and practical modules on UN-owned equipment, standard operating procedures, gender issues and familiarization with the larger UN operational environment.

It is noteworthy that one of the crosscutting themes of the training curriculum is empowerment of women and gender equality between women and men. Throughout this two-weeks trainings, participants reflected the importance of achieving a fuller gender equality at the decision-making in political, economic and public life together.

The selection of Uganda to host the course is a significant achievement for the country. It is manifestation of the confidence that UN Missions around the world have in the information communication technology facilities. It is a demonstration that RCSE's growing stature as training centre of global repute.



Thirty-nine women in the military and police from 17 countries across the globe completed a specialised training course of the United Nations Signals Academy (UNSA) at the UN Regional Service Centre Entebbe (RCSE) 17th March 2017.

Contributors of this course are the Government of Japan, USAFRICOM, the Government of Germany, UNMISS and UNSOS supported this WOC training with a vision to enable more female military and police personnel to take part in peacekeeping operations.

The Minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Bright Rwamirama, thanked the founders and supporters of UN Signal Academy for their vision, and the organizers of the women's outreach course, for organizing the programme to develop and improve telecommunications and information technology capacities of Military and Police Women from United Nations Member States.

The UNSA's WOC training programme this year is the second in a series of the UNSA's WOC training programmes for women in disciplined forces. Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, conveyed her congratulations to the women graduates who received awards for successfully completing the course. She encouraged them to continue to serve the world from the insecurity with the skills they acquired through the course and inspire women and girl in their countries.

The UNSA's Women's Outreach Course (WOC) training for women in peacekeeping contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and the SDG 5 on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, especially Goal 5b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.



SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

UNCDF LAUNCHES RENEWABLE ENERGY CHALLENGE FUND (RECF) - CLEAN COOKING WINDOW

By Hee Sung Kim, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

On 21st March, the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda and United Nations Capital Development Fund launched the Renewable Energy Challenge Fund (RECF) - Clean Cooking Window.

This funding window challenges companies to put forth ideas that can lead to a step-change in the adoption of clean cooking solutions in Uganda, and have a positive impact on women and youth employment.

The goal of RECF is to increase access to renewable, efficient energy for domestic, productive and social uses among underserved poor households, especially in rural areas. By end of 2020, RECF aims to support 150,000 low-income customers transition to renewable energy. The RECF is managed by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda.



The RECF is seeking ideas that can lead to a step-change in the adoption of clean cooking solutions in Uganda and have the potential to transform the market.

- Is your company active in the clean cooking sector in Uganda?
- Is your company currently working on an innovative business idea that can hit the ground running in September 2017, and start generating new sales by Q1 2018?
- Is your company willing to invest its own money to make this idea happen but is in need of a co-investor to reduce its risk exposure?

If so, then UNCF is interested in hearing more about your idea.

Target market: Uganda – with a focus on under-served, low-income customers, especially in rural areas.

Clean cooking solutions: The RECF is technology neutral in that it will not favour any particular clean cooking technology above another. Acceptable solutions include:

- Improved cook stoves (e.g. charcoal or wood stoves);
- Fuels (e.g. briquettes, biomass pellets, LPG, biogas, ethanol);
- Solutions for households, businesses, as well as institutional applications;
- Or a combination of the above.

Type of funding: Cost-sharing grant, paid upon achievement of milestones.

Grant size:

1. **Small Grants: US\$50,000-US\$75,000** over a period of **up to 2 years (2017-2019)**
2. **Large Grants: Up to US\$150,000** over a period of **up to 3 years (2017-2020)**
3. **Top-up grant:** Once the initial funding agreement has come to an end, UNCDF may provide top-up grants of US\$25,000 to US\$50,000.

Type of entities that are eligible to apply:

- The RECF targets exclusively for-profit private companies, including social enterprises, or consortia led by eligible private companies;
- Other types of entities (e.g. NGOs, CBOs, etc.) can apply as part of a consortium led by an eligible private company (the Lead Applicant);
- For-profit arms of non-for-profit organisations can also apply.

Number of proposals: Applicants can submit more than one EOI – **One proposal per EOI form** – but these must be for distinct business ideas.

The deadline for responding to the Call for Expression of Interest is 17 April (Monday) 2017 17:00 East Africa Time. If you have any queries or require assistance, please e-mail recf.uganda@uncdf.org. UNCDF will accept inquiries related to the EOI until April 7th. For more information visit <http://www.uncdf.org/en/renewable-energy-challenge-fund-uganda-clean-cooking-window-0>

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