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### OVERVIEW

- Child friendly spaces provided by UNICEF give hope and new life to the refugee children aged from 0-18 years providing them with space for games which act as a form of therapy.
- UNDP partners with Moyo Local Government and communities to strengthen Border Security. The 12-month project, funded by Japan and UNDP will address persistent stabilisation challenges and also support investments in livelihoods for youth and women in communities hosting refugees.
- The total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in Uganda is 823,528. According to UNHCR a daily average of 2,151 refugees and asylum seekers have been arriving since 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
- The Ministry of Water and Environment convened a series of meetings with key stakeholders in the forestry and environment sector to weigh strategic options for a policy on reducing emissions, deforestation and degradation of forests.
- Hygiene promoters boost sanitation and hygiene in South Sudanese refugee settlements. With funding from UKaid, UNICEF through Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is sensitising the refugees about sanitation and hygiene with a focus on household latrine construction.
- In support of Government of Uganda's efforts towards refugees and host communities, with funding of 1 million USD from the Government of Japan, UNDP is enhancing the Business Skills of refugees and host communities in Adjumani District.
- Upcoming Events



## SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES MAKE SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE CHILDREN IN UGANDA FORGET THEIR SORROWS

By Catherine Ntabadde Makumbi, UNICEF Uganda

Jacqueline Abia (not real names), is a 16 years old who is manning the goal during a football game at Nyumanzi Transit Centre in Adjumani District, West Nile. She is experiencing double tragedy, having lost both her parents and now a refugee in Uganda.

Dressed in a dark navy blue skirt and a cream blouse, Abia directs her team on how to play to ensure the opponent side does not score. Unfortunately, after 20 minutes of the game, the opponents score a goal despite Abia diving to save the ball from entering the net.



***Children playing at the Child friendly spaces at Nyumanzi Transit Centre, Adjumani District***

“When I play football, I forget about my worries. I interact with other children and we play,” Abia who is from South Sudan says when interviewed at a child friendly space set up by

UNICEF Uganda through Save the Children. About 164 children play at this Child Friendly Space (CFS) established with funding from UKAID and CERF. UNICEF utilises the child friendly spaces to give hope and new life to the refugee children aged from 0-18 years. They play games which act as a form of therapy.

Interestingly, Abia spends most of her free time playing football. Abia saw her neighbours running and she followed them up to Uganda. At Nyumazi, which has a population of 3,538 refugees who are in transit, Abia was registered as unaccompanied minor. She has not yet joined school since her arrival in July 2016 but she wants to be a doctor. Abia and other refugees are yet to be transferred to a permanent settlement where she can access education and many other services.

The Government of Uganda through Office of Prime Minister and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are coordinating this massive refugee response.

According to Peace Lamunu, a Save the Children community based mobiliser in Nyumanzi, they currently register about 2 unaccompanied and separated children. During a heavy influx, they register as many as 300 children in a day. "Most of the children we receive do not have contacts with their parents. Only two out of eleven were successfully reunited in the month of September 2016," Lamunu said. As of December 2016, UNICEF with UKAID and CERF support had provided child protection services to 48,973 refugee children. 12,012 unaccompanied or separated children received family tracing and re-unification support and placement in interim foster care.

At the Nyumanzi CFS, one can see children playing games like swinging, racing using car tyres, volley ball and sand. During the visit, a UNICEF team interfaces with Stella Anyanzo (not real names), 16 who also loves football. Anyanzo likes football because it helps her exercise. She is hopeful that one day, she will become an international star through the sport. Abia and Anyanzo were the only girls playing in the football game that had 20 boys.

Dorothy Birungi, UNICEF Emergency Education Officer, Gulu Zonal Office says the CFS relieve the children of trauma. "When they come here, they go through a lot. This acts as therapy and psychosocial support. It relieves them of stress," Birungi explained while taking the team through another UNICEF supported CFS in Pagirinya Refugee Settlement that has 23,766 refugees.

Birungi noted that at all the CFS' for the refugee children, structured talks and discussions are held. A topic is generated for discussion as a way of giving the children a chance to open up and also learn about thematic issues like health, proper hygiene and disease outbreaks. On a daily basis, 200 children play at the Pagirinya CFS. "I like the swings here. I can swing 3 times a day. I feel happy when I play," says 3 year old Ateng Kouth (not real names). Ateng is at the settlement with her mum, having lost the dad in Juba, South Sudan.



***Girls playing at the Child friendly spaces at Nyumanzi Transit Centre, Adjumani District***

Phiona Mesiku, Save the Children manager of the CSF and ECD centre at Pagirinya said all the refugee children like the child friendly space a lot and they play from Monday-Sunday up to 5:30pm. Some would even miss their lunch. Apart from provision of child friendly space services, UNICEF Uganda continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the South Sudanese refugees in the areas of health, immunisation, nutrition, water and sanitation, child protection, education as well as HIV and AIDs. All this has been made possible with support from UKAID and CERF.



## SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

### UNDP PARTNERS WITH MOYO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN WEST NILE REGION TO STRENGTHEN BORDER SECURITY

By Steven Goldfinch, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Moyo** - The Government of Japan in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda has handed over a patrol vehicle and two motorcycles to the Ugandan Police Force in Moyo to enhance border security.

The items will support the district in their border patrol work which has been intensified by the increased number of refugees from South Sudan who continue to enter various West Nile districts including Moyo.



***Mr. Jin Hashimoto from the Embassy of Japan hands over a vehicle to Ms. Obedi Collins, the Resident District Commissioner. Looking on is Ms. Almaz Gebru the UNDP Country Director***

The handover was done by Mr. Jin Hashimoto from the Embassy of Japan in Kampala and UNDP Country Director, Ms. Almaz Gebru – the items were received by Ms Obedi Collins, the Resident District Commissioner for Moyo after a consultation meeting with the district

and cultural leaders and security personnel on issues concerning the increasing pressures Uganda's border districts are facing as the refugee influx from South Sudan continues.

"Peace and security is central to Uganda's development, particularly in Northern Uganda. This is a priority for UNDP in Uganda," Ms. Gebru stated after handing over the items. Ms. Collins thanked the two partners for supporting the district and underscored the need for further investment in security.

This support was made through UNDP's Stabilization and Livelihoods enhancement for pastoralist and refugee host communities of Northern Uganda project. This 12-month project, funded by Japan and UNDP, works with local district governments and communities to address persistent stabilisation challenges, such as inter-communal and cross border conflicts, including spill-over effects from neighbouring countries, proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, and trafficking of persons due to porous borders and high youth unemployment. The project also supports livelihoods for youth and women in communities hosting refugee.



## **SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND**

### **GOVERNMENT WEIGHS POLICY OPTIONS TO AVERT DEFORESTATION**

By Henry Mukasa, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Ministry of Water and Environment convened a series of meetings with key stakeholders in the forestry and environment sector to weigh strategic options for a policy on reducing emissions, deforestation and degradation of forests. The dialogues convened by the Reducing Emissions Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) national secretariat with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were held at in Kampala at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel from March 27-31.

Statistics show that Uganda loses 200,000 hectares of forests annually, up from 90,000ha in the 1990s. Nations are required to issue their locally determined emissions under the United Nations programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degredation (UN-REDD). The programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role of the FAO, UNDP and UNEP.

Mr. Paul Mafabi, the Director of Environment Affairs in the Ministry said participants were expected to input into the development of a robust strategy and action plan for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, that will stand the test of time. "How do we

ensure that the energy mix we have can support us now and in the future,” Mr. Mafabi said while addressing chief executive officers in the sector.

Mr. Onesimus Muhwezi, the UNDP Uganda Team Leader for Environment, Climate & Disaster Resilience pointed out that REDD+ is intended to protect forests and support livelihoods which has a bearing on how Uganda achieves its development plan priorities, Vision 2040 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without leaving anyone behind. SDG7 asks Nations to provide citizens with affordable clean energy, SDG12 calls for responsible consumption and production, SDG13 demands for climate action while SDG 15 calls for care for life on land.



***Chief Executive Officers from the forestry and environment sector attending a stakeholders meeting convened by the UN Reducing Emissions Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) at Imperial Botanical Beach Entebbe 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017***

Mr. Muhwezi pointed out that agriculture on which most Ugandans are dependent for livelihoods depends on forests. “The poor invade forests as a last resort for survival but we also know the rich are the ones involved in commercial deforestation. What kind of economic strategies do we put in place to stop these?” he observed.

For several years UNDP has been giving small grants to communities in Kibale to protect forests and use them for non-extractive purposes like eco-tourism. UNDP has also made

payments to farmers around Mt Elgon to protect forests around rivers and ensure the protection of the critical landscape in Kidepo National Park.

Strategic options discussed include the creation of a fund to pay incentives to private forests owners not to cut them as well as popularizing alternative energy sources like briquettes and biomass and clear suggestions on how to make electricity affordable so as to reduce use of biomass (wood).



## **SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**

### **HYGIENE PROMOTERS BOOST SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS**

By Catherine Ntabadde Makumbi, UNICEF Uganda

Silvano Abure, 50 year old welcomes us into a clean waiting shade he has constructed as part of his home in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District. In his visibly swept compound, there is a drying rack and a chain for drying clothes. Meters away, he has constructed a latrine with a handwashing facility, locally known as tippy tap. The small jerry cans and soap used to promote hand washing have been provided by UNICEF, thanks to UKAID and CERF.

“When we arrived here. The sanitation was not good. People were defecating everywhere. These people have done a good job to teach us proper hygiene,” says Abure while referring to a representative from Danish Refugee Council (DRC) who was with us. DRC is a UNICEF implementing partner in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene. With funding from UKAID and CERF, UNICEF through DRC is sensitising the refugees about sanitation and hygiene with a focus on household latrine construction. The sanitation campaign carried out through hygiene promoters also includes messages on malaria prevention, safe excreta disposal, hand washing practices and safe water usage.

Abure explains that after the sensitisation, he has also constructed a small latrine for his children since they cannot utilise the one for adults. “DRC did an assessment in the settlement after which they supported us to construct the toilets by giving us logs, slabs, poles and nails to fence off the facility,” he added.



***The 'Tippy Tap' hand washing facility***

and is providing brick moulds to enable the refugees make bricks.

Regarding access to water in the settlement, Ogotre said the refugees access it through bore holes, tanks and taps. Edward Tunda, 36 says his house is just a stone throw away from the motorised water system. "UNICEF is playing a big role to provide us with water. Water is life. The good thing is there is a team of people selected to take care of these facilities so that they are not misused," he explains with a smile. At the time of the visit, Tunda's wife had fetched three jerry cans plus two small ones.

Through Water Mission Uganda, UNICEF has completed 90 per cent of the installation of a motorised water system in Zone 1 in Bidibidi. Water quality monitoring continues across the settlements with over 90 per cent positive results at household level.

Buckets were also provided to ensure that latrines are washed regularly. Demonstrating to us how the tippy tap works, Abure said he has also trained his family to always wash their hands and keep the home clean. As a result of the hygiene promotion, Abure says none of his family member has fallen sick due to poor hygiene or even suffered from diarrhoea. He adds that DRC has also trained them to construct rubbish pits to dispose of the garbage. Abure is among 109,600 South Sudanese refugees who have benefited from hand washing facilities. The average household latrine coverage in Bidibidi stands at 11 per cent while communal latrine coverage is at 44 per cent.

Peter Ogotre WASH Officer DRC said communal latrines are being decommissioned as a way of preventing diseases. DRC is continuously encouraging households to construct individual latrines



## **SDG 9 – INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **BUSINESS SKILLS ENHANCEMENT FOR REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ADJUMANI**

By Richard Musinguzi, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

In support of the Government of Uganda’s efforts towards refugees and host communities, with funding of 1 million USD from the Government of Japan, UNDP is implementing the “Stabilization and livelihoods enhancement for pastoralist and refugee host communities in Northern Uganda” project. This project aims to stabilize local communities at border districts and enhance livelihoods for youth and women in refugee hosting communities.

One of the project components is to enhance livelihoods for youth and women groups. Under this component, a total of 22 groups (30 members each) of youth and women have been supported in areas of enhancing business and entrepreneurship skills, development of youth led innovative initiatives, mind-set change and the provision of small start-up grants for microenterprises.

Atapkwo Evalyn a 33 year-old from Maaji 1 refugee settlement, Ukusijoni sub county, Ayiri parish, Kulukulu village said “I was orphaned at a young age”, and with enthusiasm, she narrated her story of change saying “if I had the energy, I would have carried the UNDP/JICA team in my hands for the miracle they have done in my life.” Evalyn confessed that before the training, she used to farm for subsistence characterized by mixed cropping, low yield and small gardens among others. She was truly in abject poverty. However, the trainings on mindset change, enterprise analysis and selection, financial literacy which focused on saving for investment were miraculous. Her first miracle was the day she carried one million, five hundred thousand shillings from the sale of 15 bags of rice in her own hands for the first time in her life; which puzzled her as she least expected it, “it was quite shocking, I was in disbelief”, I felt like “heaven on earth”; “what a miracle”.



***The group explaining their journey and their main enterprise is maize and rice***

After receiving this money, the lessons on investment came to her mind, and she decided to buy a pair of oxen, and a plough to upscale her production, and earn money from its hire. She now earns 160,000/= weekly, and anticipates more revenue as the rains come. She plans to upscale the animal traction business by acquiring one more pair this year, for which she has begun saving. She used to save for consumption needs, used to grapple with loans and never got any economic benefit, her only benefit was the group party (meat) on the day of distribution. However, the saving for investment lesson rescued her from that situation. She now saves for investment, last year, she saved 700,000/= shillings, and was the best performing person in the group. This year, she is saving to buy a pair of oxen, and saves 10,000= shillings weekly.

All in all, she says her life has significantly changed. She used to be skinny (emaciated) due to poverty, in poor health and even failed to conceive for eight years. However, thanks to the training, her quality of life has improved. She is now healthy and even had a baby. However, she requested UNDP to continue with support in technical areas of agronomy, and post-harvest handling to enhance productivity and production alongside monitoring activities. She thanked UNDP and the people of Japan for supporting the trainings which transformed her life.

Rachel, a 68-year-old woman from Mirieyi village, Illinyi Parish, Ofua Sub-County, Adjumani district joined the women group in 2002 and was elected the group secretary for a four-year term. The group had 25 members but after the training by UNDP with funding from the people of Japan, their number currently stands at 40 including 20 refugees and 20 Ugandans. Since joining the group after retirement from Uganda Transport Company, she says her life has been tremendously transformed. she said "the group has given me very good advice, I have received a loan that enabled me to send one of my granddaughters to school, from nursery to primary 5 before her fat took her to continue her education." she continued to state that "from my efforts of laying a

good foundation, my granddaughter graduated from Makerere University in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in economics".



***Rachel expressing her points and the group joints her in showing their vision road journey***

Rachel also appreciates the skills she received from UNDP which have enabled her to plan better for her family especially the use of loans. She said that though their group was a fish mongers' group, they had to shift their focus to farming. "The group was so disappointed by the weather, the long dry spell dried our ponds and killed the fish". She is optimistic that, with the maize mill machine provided to their group by UNDP, her life will even be more transformed. "With the maize mill, I am sure that our group will work very hard on our four acres to increase production. I know non-group members will be bringing their maize to us for processing and this will raise income for the group and help me fight poverty from my family", she added with a wide grin on her face.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Inauguration of Immigration Training Academy in Nakasongola - 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.** The Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda. The training academy was constructed as part of the Strengthening Border Security in Uganda project of IOM, which was launched in July 2016.

**The High level Dialogue on Uganda's Economy: Realising the promises of Green Growth: Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation in Uganda by UNDP – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017,**

The dialogue is designed as part of the wider effort to increase the resilience and diversification of the Ugandan economy through green industrialisation. It is also designed to broaden the understanding among key stakeholders, policy makers and a growing number of partners on the role of sustainable industrialisation to accelerate inclusive green growth. The keynote address for the dialogue will be delivered by Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia. He is also the author of the

book – Made in Africa – which Informs debates on policy design for industrialisation and structural change in Africa based on Ethiopia’s experiences in the cement, leather & floriculture industries. The High Level Dialogue will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> April from 8am to 1pm at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala.

**Government Workshop to develop a costed SDGs Roadmap - 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 2017.** The UN SDGs Technical Working Group, chaired by UNDP and UNICEF, has been involved in the preparations for and provided technical and financial support ahead of this workshop, which consolidates all Government plans to localize the SDGs, under the auspices of the GoU SDG Coordination Framework adopted in 2016. The workshop will be held 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Protea Hotel in Entebbe.

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