



UN Uganda Bulletin Vol 13 28th April 2017

OVERVIEW

- The UN System in Uganda receives contribution worth USD 6.3 million (around 22 billion Uganda shillings) from the Government of Japan to support efforts towards refugees and host communities in Uganda through UNHCR, WFP and UNDP.
- Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Minister and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the author of the book *Made in Africa* visited Uganda at the invitation of UNDP. He called for prioritization of the export industries.
- The World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa trained national trainers and tutors from Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Uganda on the newly released Family Planning contraception guidelines and their derivative tools.
- The total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in Uganda was 880,221 and daily average new arrivals between 29th March and 11th April 2017 was 1,862 according to UNHCR Uganda Operational Emergency Update of 1st -15 April 2017.
- An attack by armed forces on the town of Pajok in South Sudan on the 3rd of April caused thousands of people to flee to safety in Uganda. Some 7,000 people crossed the border into Lamwo district, including 3,200 on the day after the attack. Among them were some 600 unaccompanied minors and separated children. On 12 April, UNHCR and Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister opened a new settlement at Palabek, in Lamwo, with the capacity to accommodate 30,000 refugees. To date, more than 5,000 refugees have been relocated from Ngomoromo border.
- UNHCR assures Uganda of international commitment to support its refugee protection, management and social integration policies



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UN SYSTEM IN UGANDA RECEIVES USD 6.3 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

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

The UN System in Uganda has received contribution worth USD 6.3 million (around 22 billion Uganda shillings) from the Government of Japan to support efforts towards refugees and host communities in Uganda.



Left to right – UNHCR Representative, Mr. Bornwell Kantande; UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango; Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hon. Hillary Onek; Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, H.E. Kazuaki Kameda; and WFP Representative, Mr. El-Khidir Daloum at the press conference

This was announced during a press conference addressed by Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, H.E. Kazuaki Kameda; the Minister of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees, Hon. Hillary Onek; UN Uganda Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango; UNHCR Representative, Mr. Bornwell Kantande; and WFP Representative, Mr. El-Khidir Daloum at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala 24th April 2017.

While addressing the press, Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, H.E. Kazuaki Kameda, said that the generous contribution by his government will provide the much-needed assistance to refugees and host communities, focusing on health; water, sanitation and hygiene; food assistance; and livelihoods. The Minister of Disaster Preparedness, Management and Refugees, Hon. Hillary Onek appreciated the government of Japan for the contribution and assured the world that Uganda will never build walls to keep away people seeking for shelter and protection.

The UN Uganda Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Rosa Malango said that UN agencies will continue collaborating with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other partners to strengthen the humanitarian and development nexus by addressing the immediate needs as well as managing future shocks using a more integrated development approach. She also thanked Japan for contributing to both humanitarian and development action demonstrating that it is possible and viable to support the humanitarian and development nexus in Uganda.

The contribution went to three UN agencies; UNHCR, WFP and UNDP that support refugees and host communities in West Nile and South Western Uganda.

UNHCR received USD 2,584,000 to provide services in public health; water, sanitation and hygiene; and livelihoods, to refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, in Nakivale, Adjumani, Arua and Oruchinga districts. These projects are expected to benefit at least 279,797 refugees and 83,939 members of the host communities.

WFP received US\$2,932,000 to assist with food and livelihood support. WFP will provide life-saving food assistance to approximately 509,000 refugees in the settlements of West Nile to guarantee minimum food consumption and prevent deterioration of their nutrition status. In addition, WFP will provide tailored livelihood support to some 12,000 households in refugee hosting districts, targeting both refugees and host communities. This project aims to reduce post-harvest losses and improve food security by providing agricultural trainings and household level storage equipment to farmers.

UNDP received USD 741,000 to create emergency employment for refugees and host communities; provide business skills training and start up grants for micro-enterprise development; and refurbish vocational training institutes in cooperation with JICA. The

project is expected to benefit over 5,000 refugees and Ugandan youth and women in Yumbe district. It will build on UNDP's preceding partnership with GoJ in 2016 that supported border stabilization, livelihoods and skills development for refugees and host communities in West Nile.



SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ETHIOPIAN MINISTER AND UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR TOUR NAMANVE INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS PARK

By Doreen Kansiiime, UN Development Programme (UNDP)



Mr Hamza Galiwango (2nd right), the UIA Director for Land Development Division showing Dr. Arkebe Oqubay (3rd right), a Minister and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Ms. Ms Jolly Kaguhangire (2nd left), the Executive Director of the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) and Ms. Rosa Malango (left), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, the Kampala Industrial and Business Park (KIBP) in Namanve, near Kampala. (Photo credit: UNDP Uganda 2017)

Speaking at Namanve - Dr. Arkebe Oqubay a Minister and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the author of the book *Made in Africa* advised the Uganda Investment Authority to prioritise the export industries and treat them differently in its industrial parks. This was during a tour of the Kampala Industrial and Business Park (KIBP) in Namanve outside Kampala accompanied by Ms Rosa Malango, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator and a team from UNDP.

The team was taken on the tour led by Ms Jolly Kaguhangire the Executive Director of the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) and other UIA officials. The UIA officials informed the team that the total investment in the Business Park is now estimated at \$3.5trillion. At full capacity, this industrial park will have 296 industries and directly employ 200,000 Ugandans. "The industries in the park alone will be contributing over \$540million in taxes per annum at full capacity of operation," Mr Hamza Galiwango, the UIA Director for Land Development Division said during the visit. Mr. Galiwango added that UIA needs at least \$151million (shs500billion) support from Government for infrastructure development and help the park operate optimally.

The 2200-acre industrial park is located partly in Wakiso and Mukono district. A total of 21 industries are operational employing 11,000 Ugandans within the park while 70 companies are under construction and 150 are processing paper work. Sharing some of the strategies Ethiopia has under taken to industrialise, Dr. Oqubay advised UIA to prioritise the export industries and also proposed that they provide incentives which should vary according to the sector. "Incentives are sweeteners but not a criterion. The best criterion is the cost of doing business; market access, infrastructure, government support and stability," Dr Arkebe counselled. The Ethiopian minister noted that there should be established a one-stop-centre in the industrial park with all business-related offices and services like; logistics, banking, insurance, water supply, power connection and registration of businesses. This makes the process of starting an industry easier and faster for both local and foreign investors. "In Ethiopia," he said, "visas are issued within the industrial park."

Ms Malango, the UN Resident Coordinator congratulated UIA on a job well done so far. She however called on them to ensure that industrialisation is not achieved at the expense of the environment. "Any investor who comes to Uganda should know where wetlands are and the laws that govern them," Ms Malango emphasising that as inclusive green growth is the pathway to sustainable development. She said UNDP together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) partnered with the Government of Uganda publish a wetlands atlas, detailing location and status of all wetlands – this would be useful for UIA too. A version for schools is also planned so that their location and importance is learned in education institutions.

Ms Kaguhangire promised that the Authority would pick some lessons from Ethiopia which is now an industrial hub in Africa. UNDP offered to support Uganda's mission to Ethiopia to benchmark best practices on efficiency of the business parks.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALISATION IS EMPHASISED AT THE HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON REALISING THE PROMISES OF GREEN GROWTH

By Doreen Kansime, UN Development Programme (UNDP)



Dr. Oqubay explains how Ethiopia has is promoting sustainable industrialisation through focus on clean sources of energy as well as eco industrial parks during the High level dialogue on realising the promises of green growth: promoting sustainable industrialisation in Uganda. (Photo credit: UNDP Uganda 2017)

Kampala - Pursuing sustainable green growth is no longer a fancy global catch word but a sound economic strategy. This was emphasised by Dr. Arkebe Oqubay while delivering his key note address at the High Level Dialogue on Realising the Promises of Green Growth: Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation in Uganda, held in Kampala.

Dr. Oqubay is a Minister and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the author of the book Made in Africa - showcased how Ethiopia as an African example of how an economy can be transformed through industrialisation and infrastructural development

without forsaking the environment. He also emphasized the need to draw lessons from high income as well as low-income countries that have successfully adopted industrialisation strategies and used them to catapult their economic growth.

"African countries," he pointed out, "need to 'think green' as they industrialise disclosing that Ethiopia had used the industrial park model and is now setting up eco-parks that are environmentally more sustainable." He cited the Hawassa Industrial Park - Ethiopia's first major eco-friendly development which is designed around energy and water conservation principles – including maximisation of natural lightning and ventilation, fitting of power saving bulbs, recycling of rain water, and solar powered LED street lights.

"In an era of climate change, ensuring that we follow the path of green industrialisation is every important," Dr. Oqubay said. Dr. Oquabay described industrialisation as a journey of learning, however in learning, countries, he advised, must pick the best practices to promote sustainable green industrialisation. "Ethiopia," he said, "picked best practises from North America, Asia as well as other African Countries and improved these models to suit their environment."

He added that Ethiopia is leveraging its industrialisation on agricultural modernisation from which the largest percentage of the country's population gets its livelihood. Heavy investment had also been injected into power generation, and the telecommunications industry, which he described as "a cash-cow." "All these aspects are very key because they feed into each other to enable economic growth," Dr. Oqubay said. He also emphasised the need for cheap power to bring down the cost of doing business and enable industries break even.

"It's good to see that lessons on economic development and industry are being shared from fellow African countries." Right Honourable, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister who was the guest of honour said thanking Mr. Oqubay for his illuminating address. He added that Uganda is working towards some of the things Ethiopia has achieved such as the construction of power dams. "When the Karuma and Isimba dams are completed, the cost of power in the country should go down significantly too."

Ms. Malango urged the Government and stakeholders to pay attention to sustainable industrialisation during the formulation of the new industrialisation policy and strategy.

Hon. Amelia Kyambadde, the Trade and Cooperatives Minister answering to some of these queries said that the Ministry was now promoting the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) policy to encourage Ugandans to buy locally manufactured products. This, she hopes, will also increase the level of industrialisation.

The High Level Dialogue on Realising the Promises of Green Growth: Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation in Uganda was hosted by the Ministry of Trade Industry and cooperatives with collaboration from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) as well as Makerere University, Kampala.

It was attended by a wide range of stakeholders from the Government, Development Partners, Civil Society, Private Sector as well as Academia.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

TRAINING HEALTH WORKERS ON NEW FAMILY PLANNING GUIDELINES

By Edmond Mwebembezi, World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa trained national trainers and tutors from Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Uganda on the newly released Family Planning contraception guidelines and their derivative tools. The focus of the training is on unintended pregnancy and closely spaced pregnancies (Postpartum family planning) and use of family planning methods immediately after and within 48 hours of an abortion, before fertility returns (Postabortum contraception).

In the training, participants were oriented on the updated WHO Family Planning Evidence-based Guidelines; the Postpartum Family Planning and Postabortum contraception; the use of the Family Planning training resource package for service providers; and they agreed on the next steps for strengthening the quality of pre-service and in-service training and capacity building for Family Planning service providers at all levels.

The training was opened by the Acting WHO Representative in Uganda, Dr. Tarande Constant Manzila who informed participants that meeting the Family Planning needs for modern methods in developing countries would lead to a 70% drop in unintended pregnancies, that is, from 74 million to 22 million per year. Similarly, maternal deaths would drop by 67% and newborn deaths would drop by 77%. "Family Planning is one of the most cost-effective and life-saving interventions of public health importance", he pointed out.

Dr. Tarande highlighted the persistent challenges that hinder progress of Family Planning in Africa despite efforts by national authorities and partners and urged participants to propose coherent and inclusive solutions to them.

Dr. Placid Mihayo from the Ministry of Health who represented the Acting Director General of Health Services at the opening reported that, according to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2016, the maternal mortality ratio has reduced from 438 to 336 per 100,000 live births. He added that the contraceptive prevalence rate has now moved to 39% from 30 % since 2011. According to Dr. Mihayo, scaling up post-partum Family Planning is crucial for Uganda given the country's high fertility rate of 5.4% and the increasing numbers of teenage pregnancies that rose from 24% in 2011 to 25% in 2016. He therefore hoped that the training will contribute to curbing the increasing teenage pregnancies and their health, social and economic consequences in Uganda.



Participants at the Family Planning Training organized by WHO

The WHO Regional Office for Africa, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is implementing a regional platform to strengthen Family Planning programs performance in African countries. The project addresses the high unmet family planning needs in the postpartum, postabortion, and among adolescents in Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Uganda.

The on-going Inter-country workshop for National Trainers is the first step towards capacity building of national trainers from Ministries of Health, WHO, Obstetric and gynecologist societies and midwifery training institutions to support the scale up of Postpartum family planning and Postabortion contraception training. The training is conducted by WHO and co-facilitated by JHPIEGO.



SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SOUTH SUDAN’S RECENT VIOLENCE SPLITS HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES APART

By Rocco Nuri, UNHCR Uganda

Sandra fixes her gaze on a family sitting beneath a makeshift shelter. Tears stream down her dusty face, leaving tracks on her cheeks.

Thousands of people lie around on the ground around her, exhausted. Men are busy making a shelter for the night. Mothers and young girls hurry to ready porridge for lunch. Sandra is alone in a sea of uncertainty and intense emotion. “I have no news about my parents and my siblings,” she sobs. “I prefer not to think about them. It makes me sad. I fear that I may not see them ever again.”

Sandra, 14, fled to Uganda on April 3 after the South Sudanese army launched a deadly attack on Pajok town, forcing tens of thousands of people to leave their homes and hide in the bush. More than 7,000 crossed to Uganda at Ngomoromo in the course of a week.

Among them are 600 children, separated from their parents. They made the perilous journey alone. Some were girls who were far away from home fetching water or collecting firewood when the attack happened; others are teenagers selling fruit and vegetables at the local market; or students like Sandra.

“When the gunshot began, I was in school. We were learning English vocabulary. I was so afraid. I never heard that sound before. The teacher shouted to get out and ran. My classmates and I were in the front. He was the last one to leave the classroom, making sure that no one was left behind.”

Sandra and her fellow students arrived in Ngomoromo two days after a long walk through the bush without food and water. She is still wearing the uniform that she had put on to go to school the day of the attack. “When we reached this place, we found many people sleeping on the ground. Some were sitting on the sides of the road. But they were all strangers to me.”

Since the onset of the emergency, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency has been running a ‘protection desk’ at the border to identify and assist the most needy: survivors of sexual violence, people with disabilities, the elderly, single mothers, and separated children and

unaccompanied minors like Sandra. Working closely with refugee representatives, the UNHCR team on the ground in Ngomoromo was able to reunite some of these children with their parents and arrange temporary foster care for the rest. Sandra was briefly reunited with her Aunt. "I wanted Auntie to stay with me, but she went back to South Sudan the following day to look for my parents," says Sandra. "I am alone again."



© UNHCR/Rocco Nuri. Sandra, 14, watches the crowds congregating at Ngomoromo crossing point, Uganda for any sign of her family

Christine Achan, 26, sits on a dusty straw mat under the shade of an old concrete waiting station, cradling her newborn in her arms. But her face hardly reflects the joy of bringing a new life into the world. "I thank God that the baby is healthy, but I don't feel good. I don't know where my husband is. Who is going to take care of my children? I don't feel good," she says with a sense of guilty. Christine was in her last week of pregnancy when the violence split Pajok, where she used to be a teacher. "I was at home getting ready to go to school when I heard the gunshots. Everything happened suddenly. I run to the bush with my two children and my grandmother. We walked for three days without food and water. I thought I would deliver on the way. I had pain in my stomach. I feared I would lose my baby," she says. Christine gave birth to Anwech Varsity two days after arriving in Uganda. "In the midst of this chaos, I found my sister Beatrice. At least I have someone to share my worries with. My children keep asking me about their father. I told them that he is alive and he will soon join us. But I have a bad feeling deep inside."

Since the outbreak of the conflict in South Sudan in 2013, families have been torn apart. Violence, hunger and indiscriminate attacks against civilian populations continue to prompt mass exodus, putting the number of internally displaced people and refugees at respectively 1.9 million and 1.7 million. Uganda currently hosts more than 834,000 South Sudanese refugees, with over 194,000 new arrivals in 2017 alone. Eighty-six percent are women and children, including some 21,000 minors without parents or a legal guardian. “Women and children bear the brunt of this senseless war,” says Bornwell Kantande, UNHCR’s Representative in Uganda. “While it is imperative to pursue a political resolution to the conflict, in countries of asylum like Uganda it is vital to provide special support to women and children who have experienced violence, trauma and abuse. But the funding situation is dire.” UNHCR and partners need more than US\$558 million to respond to the needs of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, including food, water, shelter and livelihoods. “Four months into 2017, we have received less than 10 percent of the funding. The international community should show share more responsibility towards the world’s fastest growing refugee crisis. What is at stake here is the future of an entire generation of children, who have lost one or both parents, who are unable to go to school or do the ordinary things all children deserve.”

UNHCR ASSURES UGANDA OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT ITS REFUGEE PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION POLICIES

By Terry Ongaro, UNHCR Uganda

On 13 April, UNHCR’s Representative in Uganda assured the Government of the international community’s commitment to assist refugees and the communities that host them, and to support the country to pursue its refugee protection, management and social integration policies. Bornwell Kantande was speaking at a ceremony, where the Uganda’s Minister for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Refugees, Hon. Hilary Onok and the Inspector-General of Police, General Kale Kayihura were guests of honour. During the ceremony, UNHCR handed over 30 vehicles to the Government and to NGO partners. “The main reasons that people — women, men and children — flee their homes and communities are conflict, general insecurity and human rights,” said Kantande. “Without exception, Uganda opens its doors to refugees and provides them the security and protection that they are no longer able to enjoy in their country.” The UNHCR Representative lauded the role that the Uganda Police plays in receiving and protecting refugees. “We see police officers working day and night to ensure that those seeking safety find it,” he said. He noted that the vehicles were intended to enhance police mobility so that refugees and nationals could benefit from the security services. Kantande requested the Government of Uganda to deploy more police officers to refugee hosting areas, and asked for an increase in the number of women officers.

The Inspector-General of Police welcomed the additional support and gave his assurances that refugees would always find safe sanctuary in Uganda. “These are our brothers and

sisters,” said Kayihura, adding that despite resource constraints and spiralling refugee numbers, Uganda’s police will continue to redouble their efforts to secure refugee hosting areas. He outlined a range of needs to enhance security including logistical support to patrol border areas.



© UNHCR/Sophia Mbuli. UNHCR Representative Bornwell Kantande hands over vehicles to the Inspector-General of Police, General Kale Kayihura.

The Minister for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Refugees lauded the Government’s partnership with UNHCR in the quest to support people who have fled their countries. Describing the refugee influx as overwhelming, he commended the police for their vigilance and good work. The Minister noted that Uganda has set aside Government land for use by refugees to settle and cultivate, and that in many cases host communities have done the same. He described initiatives by the Government and its international partners to boost the social and economic situation of refugees and the communities that host them. Uganda has a long history of providing safe asylum to refugees. With more than 1.2 million, it is currently Africa’s leading refugee-hosting country. The majority hail from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Somalia.

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