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OVERVIEW

- The forthcoming Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees convened and jointly hosted by President Yoweri Museveni and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in Kampala from 22 to 23 June 2017 aims to raise USD 2 Billion for refugees and communities hosting them in Uganda. This was announced by the Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda at a press conference on forthcoming summit on 9th May 2017.
- President of the UN General Assembly H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson visited Uganda on 11th May 2017 and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda after which he visited the UN Regional Service in Entebbe (RSCE).
- UNDP, in support of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), convened the first-ever dialogue between district and national leaders from the 12 refugee hosting districts in Kampala on 28 April 2017.
- The total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in Uganda was 895,813 and the number of those who arrived after 7th July 2016 was 626,652 according to UNHCR Uganda Operational Emergency Update on South Sudan Refugees 17th - 24th April 2017.
- On 5th May 2017, the UN Family led by the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango visited Masuliita Children's Home in Wakiso District. The visit was aimed at gaining a better understanding the situation of the children and their care takers and mentoring some of the adolescents through transformational dialogue.
- The rate of stunting among young children in Uganda reduced from 33 percent in 2011 to 29 percent in 2016 according to the United Nations Network for Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN), which is comprised of four UN agencies FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.
- Internationally acclaimed actor, producer, and director, Forest Whitaker, who is UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation and a member of the Global Advocacy Group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched the Youth Peacemaker Network at the WDPI offices in Gulu on 2nd May 2017. He invited UN Resident Coordinator to witness this launch and discuss partnership opportunities with the UN Country Team in Uganda.



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UGANDA AIMS TO RAISE USD 2 BILLION FROM SOLIDARITY SUMMIT ON REFUGEES

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

The forthcoming Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees convened and jointly hosted by President Yoweri Museveni and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in Kampala from 22 to 23 June 2017 aims to raise USD 2 Billion for refugees and communities hosting them in Uganda. This was announced by the Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda at a press conference on forthcoming summit on 9th May 2017.



Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda addressing the press conference on forthcoming summit on 9th May 2017. On his left is the UN Resident Coordinator, Rosa Malango; and on his right, is the Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hilary Onek.

The press conference was also addressed by the Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hilary Onek; the State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Henry Okello Oryem; the UN Resident Coordinator, Rosa Malango; and the UNHCR Deputy Country Representative Ajit Fernando.

'The main goal of the summit is to support and strengthen our country's progressive and transformative approach to refugee protection through mobilising new funding to meet the ever-increasing cost of meeting the humanitarian and long term needs of the growing number of refugees and supporting host communities,' said the Prime Minister.

"The Summit is a transformative moment for Uganda, an opportunity to reinforce existing partnerships and to create new ones. It enables the world to witness Uganda's contribution to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework through its indigenous Settlement Transformative Agenda supported by the United Nations system through the innovative Refugee and Host Community Empowerment approach known as ReHOPE developed with the World Bank," highlighted Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator.

'Uganda currently ranks among the top refugee hosting countries in Africa and in the world. During the second half of 2016, a mass exodus of refugees from South Sudan roughly doubled the refugee population from 500,000 to over 1.2 million to date,' said the Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, Hilary Onek.

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Henry Okello Oryem revealed that the Summit, would be attended by over 30 Heads of State from the region and beyond. He added that in addition to the donors already supporting with the refugee situation, the Government and the United Nations were reaching out to new partners from the Middle East, Africa and the Far East.

In 2016, the Government and the United Nations each spent an estimated USD 150 million responding to the needs of refugees and the communities hosting them in 12 districts. However, the funding is still greatly inadequate given the daily average influx of 2000 people. These huge numbers are placing a huge strain on our already stressed ability to cater for the food, water, sanitation, health and education needs of the refugees and their host communities.

'As the UN System in Uganda, we integrate host communities as best as we can through implementing the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHOPE) strategy in partnership with the World Bank. Our innovative approach enables us to provide humanitarian relief, enhance self-reliance and resilience of refugees and host communities,' said UN Resident Coordinator, Rosa Malango.

The Summit aims to mobilize support from Governments, Foundations and Private Sector corporations, regional and international organisations, humanitarian agencies,

philanthropists, non – governmental organisations and citizens from countries around the World.

PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY VISITS UGANDA

By Naomi Parekh, Office of President of the General Assembly

President of the UN General Assembly H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson visited Uganda on 11th May 2017 and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda after which he visited the UN Regional Service in Entebbe (RSCE).



The President of the UN General Assembly H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson with Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda at his office on 11th May 2017

In his meeting with Prime Minister Ruganda, discussions covered regional security issues, the massive influx refugees being experienced by Uganda and Uganda’s hosting of the Solidarity Summit on Refugees next month. President Thomson thanked Uganda for its hosting of so many refugees and encouraged Uganda to take a lead role in the UN process

currently underway on the negotiation of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Prime Minister Rugunda highlighted the many steps the government is taking to drive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including incorporation of the goals into country plans and policies. The President congratulated the government for its commitment to sustainable development and called for the international community to partner in implementation of the SDGs in Uganda. He also congratulated the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango, who accompanied the President to the meeting, for her office's close cooperation with the Ugandan government in the implementation of the SDGs.

'The SDGs are the Master Plan for Humanity through which we can transform the future of our children and grandchildren,' said President Thomson. Discussions also addressed the vital role of innovation and technology in the implementation of the SDGs.

'Exponential innovation in technology enables countries like Uganda to leap-frog in their development processes. Developing countries will have much to gain from attending the High-level SDG Action Event on ICT that I will convene on 17 May at the United Nations,' said President Thomson.'

President Thomson also noted that land-locked countries such as Uganda have a stake in The Ocean Conference to be held 5-9 June at UN Headquarters in New York, given that the Ocean is the common heritage of mankind. 'Fifty percent of the oxygen we breath comes from oceans,' he noted adding that many of the issues pertaining to the Ocean were also pertinent to Uganda's relationship with Lake Victoria.

In relation to reform of the UN Security Council, the Prime Minister reiterated Uganda's support for the African consensus and expressed Uganda's desire for meaningful reform measures to take place. The President briefed the Prime Minister on the progress of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on UNSC reform and stressed that flexibility is required from all parties to enable progress during the 71st session of the General Assembly.

The President thanked Uganda for its contribution to UN peacekeeping. In this regard, the Prime Minister highlighted the important role of the UN Regional Services Centre in Entebbe. The centre provides logistical and support services to most of the UN's peacekeeping operations in Africa.

Later in the day, President Thomson toured the Regional Services Centre and was briefed by the Centre's Chief, Ms. Safia Boly, and her team. The Regional Services Centre in Entebbe is a critical part of the infrastructure allowing UN Peacekeepers to operate in some of the most difficult environments in Africa, thereby making an important contribution to peace in the region.

UNDP AND OPM CONVENE FIRST-EVER DIALOGUE WITH LEADERS OF REFUGEE HOSTING DISTRICTS

By Steven Goldfinch, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP, in support of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), convened the first-ever dialogue between district and national leaders from the 12 refugee hosting districts in Kampala on 28 April 2017.



Hon. Hilary Onek, Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness & Refugees (right) addressing district & national leaders from the 12 refugee hosting districts with [L-R] Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative, and Ms. Christine Guwatudde Kintu, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Chaired by Hon. Hilary Onek, Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees, over 90 Members of Parliament, Resident District Commissioners, Local Chairpersons V and Chief Administrative Officers attended. UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango; Permanent Secretary of OPM, Ms. Christine Guwatudde Kintu; WFP Country Representative, Mr. El Kidir Daloum; and UNHCR Deputy Representative Ajit Fernando addressed the local leaders.

Referencing Uganda's unique non-camp hosting model, Ms. Malango highlighted the challenge the international community faces as it shifts from a traditional 'care and maintenance' approach to one that recognises the need for and investment in a

development-centred approach, such as Uganda's. Ms. Malango said UNDP's decision to open an office in Yumbe District close to the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, the world's largest, illustrated the organisation's commitment to supporting Government-led efforts to find durable solutions and advance integration. She said refugee hosting districts stand at the forefront of Uganda's economic transformation, with clear investment opportunities in renewable energy, climate smart agriculture and agri-business, value chain development, water management and roads that require closer coordination among the various stakeholders and more robust information sharing with residents of host communities.

Exchanging views, local leaders expressed concern at the growing burden, as the numbers of refugees seeking protection in Uganda continues to increase. Key issues raised included the need for greater employment opportunities for host communities in the management and delivery of services to both refugees and host communities, and the need to improve infrastructure, mainly roads and water facility but also hospitals and schools. The impact on the environment and access to natural resources emerged as central issues. Leaders also called for better coordination and consultation between OPM, UNHCR, other UN entities and district administrations.

The dialogue was convened as part of UNDP's efforts to support OPM and refugee hosting districts under its 'Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy for Refugees and Host Communities', in line with the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Framework and the Government's Settlement Transformation Agenda. It is part of UNCT efforts to demonstrate how the Ugandan experience remains a model for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.



SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

[UN FAMILY VISITS MASULITA CHILDREN'S HOME](#)

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

On 5th May 2017, the UN Family led by the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango visited Masuliita Children's Home in Wakiso District. The visit was aimed at getting a better understanding of the situation of the children and their care takers; providing an opportunity for mentoring with the adolescents by exchanging information on managing trauma, sustaining hope and learning from their experiences.

While sharing with the adolescents, Ms. Malango encouraged them to embrace learning as an important tool in life. She encouraged them to be patient and not to rush for luxurious things but instead work hard toward the future they want. Ms. Malango appreciated the Home for the warm welcome and encouraged the care takers and management to always inspire the children by being exemplary to them. She welcomed the effort made to ensure that the Home is self-sufficient and indicated that she would help raise awareness of the need for a milling machine, poultry and pigs as well as beds and trainers for the vocational training centre at the location.



Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator (centre with sun glasses), with care takers and children at Masuliita Children's Village

Ann Mutesi, an adolescent at Masulita Children's Home said that she counts herself lucky because her life has changed, adding that her dream of becoming a doctor is still a live and will one day becoming a reality.

"I am learning tailoring clothes and I have a plan to take this on as a business in future if I get any support to buy a machine and material to use," said Agnes another adolescent at the Home while sharing during the visit.

Ms. Marble Kiggundu, the Director of the Home appreciated Ms. Malango and her team for spending time to share experiences with the children and promised a great partnership

going forward. She encouraged the children to always remember what they have been told and learn from them because they are important in shaping their future.

Currently, 110 street children and 11 mothers are undergoing rehabilitation at the Home. Out of the 110 children, there are 80 girls, 45 of whom are adolescents. All them were rescued from the streets of Kampala and brought to the home by Kampala Capital City Authority for rehabilitation.

Adolescent girls who come in the Home and have no formal education are enrolled in vocational training as part of equipping them with sustainable skills to enable them start their own business or access payable employment once they leave the Home while those who join undertaking primary education are enrolled in nearby schools to continue with their education. Some of the vocational skills that the children are undergoing include: Hairdressing, Tailoring, Farming, Building and Mechanics among others.

Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans Masuliita Children's Village (UWESO-MCV) was founded in 1986 by First Lady Hon. Janet K. Museveni to respond to the needs of the children who were orphaned by the civil strife of 1980-1986 and HIV/AIDS pandemic.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

UGANDA REGISTERS PROGRESS AGAINST CHILD MALNUTRITION, URGED TO CONTINUE ACTION

By Lydia Wamala, UN World Food Programme (WFP)

The rate of stunting among young children in Uganda reduced from 33 percent in 2011 to 29 percent in 2016 according to the United Nations Network for Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN). SUN is comprised of four agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Citing results of the newly published Demographic and Health Survey 2016, the agencies particularly noted the gains made in the poorest region, Karamoja, where the stunting rate fell from 45 percent in 2011 to 35.2 percent in 2016. The urgent task for the future, the organizations said, is for the Government of Uganda and all its partners to step up joint efforts to eradicate all forms of malnutrition by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“The progress made in reducing stunting in Uganda is significant,” the FAO Country Representative Alhaji M. Jallow said, “but we must acknowledge that a 29 percent rate is still unacceptable, and that the associated cost to lives and economies is of concern.” Stunting leaves children short for their age, and undermines their chances of reaching their full potential later in life. Children’s growth is stunted when they miss out on key dietary nutrients during their first 1,000 days of life – or the time from conception to a child’s second birthday – when a child’s brain and body develop fastest. Healthy nutrition is most vital during this critical “window of opportunity,” which also offers the greatest returns for any country in preventing stunting.

“Achieving Zero Hunger and the other SDGs by 2030 will not be easy, but it is possible if all partners commit to their national, regional and global pledges,” said WFP Country Director El Khidir Daloum. “Uganda has managed to bring down its stunting rate by nearly one percentage point per year, which is admirable progress that many other countries would hope to emulate, but in order to reach the Zero Hunger goal, we will all have to work together to more than double that rate of improvement.”



Stunting reduced significantly in Karamoja. WFP/Marc Hofer

The Cost of Hunger in Africa: Uganda 2013 study – which was carried out by the Uganda Government with support from the African Union Commission, WFP and the UN Economic Commission for Africa – found that Uganda loses as much as 5.6 percent of its Gross

Domestic Product to the lingering effects of poor nutrition, especially stunting. The four UN agencies noted that Uganda can continue to reduce the stunting rate as it develops its second Nutrition Action Plan and a policy aligned with the SUN aspirations. In 2011, one year after the global SUN movement came into being, Uganda established the Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP) to tackle malnutrition and its devastating effects head on. The UNAP formed a critical foundation on which gains have been realized.

The UNAP united a wide range of partners across sectors in a joint commitment focused on the first 1,000 days. The UNAP positioned Uganda to potentially achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2, Zero Hunger. The UNAP also created opportunities for Uganda to achieve priorities of the Second National Development Plan (NDP II), key to which is building human capital. In addition to improvement in the stunting rate, the Demographic and Health Survey 2016 also found significant improvement in several indicators of acute under-nutrition, including the proportion of young children who are underweight for their age or who experience wasting. Rates of exclusive breastfeeding and dietary adequacy have likewise improved. Other common forms of malnutrition in Uganda include iron and Vitamin A deficiencies, which lead to anaemia and eye disease respectively. Collectively, malnutrition in the under-nutrition category usually arises from a combination of poor diets and poor sanitation. Malnutrition in Uganda is also increasingly in the form of over-nutrition, which leads to complications related to overweight and obesity.



SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

WHITAKER PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE YOUTH PEACEMAKER NETWORK LAUNCHED

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

Internationally acclaimed actor, producer, and director, Forest Whitaker, visited Uganda from 30th April to 3rd May 2017 and launched the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WDPI) Youth Peacemaker Network Center in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

Whitaker, who is UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation and a member of the Global Advocacy Group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched the most recent centre part of his Youth Peacemaker Network at the WDPI offices in Gulu on 2nd May 2017.

The launch was attended by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango; the Gulu District Chairperson, Mr. Martin Ojara Mapinduzi; Ericsson Country Manager, Mr. Johan Ryden; UNESCO Programs Coordinator, Ms. Victoria Kisaakye Kanobe; heads of local government institutions and representatives from civil society organisations. The launch of this new centre for the network coincided with the training of 30 youth peacemakers; 15 women and 15 men, who were trained as trainers in peacebuilding. The 30 participants were selected through a rigorous selection process that involved their community leaders. Over the next two years they will be involved in activities to promote peace in their communities.



(Right to left) - UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango; UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation, Mr. Forest Whitaker and UNESCO Programs Coordinator, Ms. Victoria Kisaakye Kanobe, at the Launch of the Youth Peacemakers Network in Gulu on 2nd May 2017

Speaking at the launch UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango said, 'Peacebuilding comes from the heart and it was about respect and dignity.' She called on the youth peacemakers as ambassadors on a mission to identify and take advantage of existing opportunities to overcome challenges and transform their communities.

Mr. Whitaker thanked partners including the Gulu District Local Government, the United Nations Systems in Uganda, NGO partners and the other supporters of WPDI for joining hands with him to support the Youth Peacemaker Network.

During his mission Mr. Whitaker also visited the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, where he commissioned the building of offices and sports facilities of the WDPI within the settlement. He was accompanied by representatives from Western Union and Ericsson company who are also investing in youth in these areas.

For more information, please contact:

Michael Wangusa

michael.wangusa@one.un.org

+256 (0) 771 005 988

UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

Monicah Aturinda

monicah.aturinda@one.un.org

+256 (0) 772 147 505