



UN Uganda Bulletin Vol 6 17th Feb 2017

OVERVIEW

- Three Ambassadors accredited to Uganda paid courtesy calls on the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango. These were the new High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, H.E. Mr. Peter West; Swedish Ambassador, H.E. Per Lindgarde; and the new Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Zheng Zhou Qiang. They discussed matters ranging from humanitarian to development issues.
- A delegation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) met with the UN Resident Coordinator at the UN offices in Kampala to discuss preparations for Uganda to host the Pan-African Forum on Migration this year. This is expected to lead to a common African position on migration as input for the New York Declaration global compact on migration.
- The United States Government has donated USD 25.2 million (89 billion Shillings) to support interventions for South Sudan refugees in Uganda in response to the UNHCR 2017 supplementary appeal. The US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Malac made the announcement at the Office of the Prime Minister on 14th February 2017.
- The total number of refugees from South Sudan is 745,472 according to the UNHCR Uganda Operation Update on the Emergency Response for 8th -14th February 2017 and the average daily arrival rate is 3,103 according to the UNHCR Uganda Flash Update of 17th February 2017.
- According to the FAO Food Price Monitoring & Analysis (FPMA) Global Bulletin of 14th February 2017, prices of maize in Uganda have followed a sustained upward trend in recent months, increasing in all monitored markets by 33-58 percent between August and December 2016.
- Highlights from the UN Area Coordination Offices
- Upcoming Events

KEY MEETINGS FROM THE PERIOD

On February 6, the UN Resident Coordinator met with H.E. Peter West, the new High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Uganda at the UN offices in Kampala. Their discussion focused on humanitarian and development issues including the ongoing response in refugee hosting districts and coordination arrangements in the country.

On February 14, the UN Resident Coordinator met with H.E. Per Lindgarde, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda. Their discussion focused on, among other issues, the need for a long-term development as well as gender perspective in the response to the needs of refugees and host communities.

On February 14, the UN Resident Coordinator met with H.E. Zheng Zhou Qiang Ambassador of China to Uganda at the UN offices in Kampala. Their discussion focused on, among other issues, new partnership opportunities for humanitarian and economic development for Uganda.



H.E. Zheng Zhou Qiang, Chinese Ambassador (right) receiving a gift from Ms Rosa Malango UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative (centre); and Ms. Lucy Wanjiru Ndungu, UNDP Peace and Development Advisor (left) UN Uganda Photo

On February 15, the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango met and discussed with a delegation from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) at the UN offices in Kampala, on the preparations for Uganda to host the Pan-African Forum on Migration this year. This forum aims to help develop a common African position on the migration issue as part of efforts to implement the New York Declaration commitments related to a possible global compact on migration.

US DONATES \$25 MILLION FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN UGANDA

The United States Government has donated USD 25.2 million (89 billion Shillings) to support interventions for South Sudan refugees in Uganda in response to UNHCR 2017 supplementary appeal.

The US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Malac made the announcement on 14th February 2017 at a meeting attended by the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Mr. Hillary Onek and the Deputy Representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Ajit Fernando at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala.

Ambassador Malac stated that the funds are earmarked for activities in Uganda in response specifically to the UNHCR 2017 supplementary appeal in support of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. She also noted that the funds will be used to support programmes targeting gender based violence, livelihoods, improved protection, water and sanitation and health services to refugees. Ambassador Malac called for more Nations to help fund Uganda's effort to host South Sudan refugees stating that the continuous influx of refugees is overwhelming.

Ajit Fernando UNHCR Deputy Representative noted that the funds have come at the right time. He welcomed Malac's call for more countries to join and support the massive refugee influx.



SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER

PRICES OF MAIZE AT NEAR-RECORD TO RECORD HIGHS

According to the FAO Food Price Monitoring & Analysis (FPMA) Global Bulletin of 14th February 2017, prices of maize in Uganda have followed a sustained upward trend in recent months, increasing in all monitored markets by 33-58 percent between August and December 2016. Subsequently, prices followed mixed trends in January, declining in the capital, Kampala, as the second season harvest increased supplies, remaining firm in Lira market, located in a major cereal producing area, and continuing to increase in Busia, a key cross-border hub with Kenya. Overall, maize prices in January were up to 75 percent higher than a year earlier and at near-record to record levels, as the upward pressure exerted on prices by a reduced second season harvest, affected by poor rainfall in southeastern parts bordering Lake Victoria, was compounded by a reduced first season harvest gathered last June/July and by sustained export demand from neighbouring countries, mainly Kenya and South Sudan. In Kampala, prices of beans and cassava flour, important staples, are also at high levels, and in January they were about 25 percent higher than 12 months earlier



UN Uganda Photo

**SDG 15 - LIFE ON LAND****UNDP SUPPORTS GREENING CHARCOAL PRODUCTION IN UGANDA**

The prolonged dry spell, which has led to increases in food prices, shows more than ever the need to protect the environment. To promote forest conservation, the Ministry of Energy and the National Forestry Authority, in close collaboration with UNDP, are training charcoal producers in four districts to adopt new, environmental-friendly technologies that enable them to spare the trees while still earning a living. To encourage producers to plant and grow their own woodlots for conversion into charcoal, participants received seedlings of fast-growing trees. Local communities view the project with enthusiasm, particularly women, who are actively involved in the charcoal business, both as producers and end-users. These initiatives increase the resilience of communities to food insecurity by providing alternative livelihoods.

In the Nakaseke District, northwest of Kampala, charcoal producers who had been using traditional earth kilns—where wood is covered with soil then left to burn for up to a week—

were introduced to new conversion kilns that are up to 40 percent more efficient in converting wood to charcoal. Women and youth entrepreneurs in 16 associations were trained in manufacturing charcoal briquettes and marketing them, significantly increasing their output and income.



The Tulina Esubi Tree Growers Association brings together 35 smallholder farmers, 20 of whom are women. The association started planting fast-growing trees for charcoal production after a few training sessions in conservation agriculture and forestry management provided by the UNDP- GEF "Green Charcoal" project.



Story/Photos by: Faris Khader, Adey Tesfaye, Simon Amunau and Andrea Egan

So far, close to five million trees were planted, more than 1,700 community members benefited directly from the project activities, while more than 300 indirect beneficiaries adopted conservation agriculture and tree planting. In some cases, agricultural yields have tripled as a result. Similar projects are run by UNDP in Kenya, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, among others. In the past 20 years, UNDP has supported more than 100 developing countries in providing sustainable energy solutions, and in advocating for energy to become a priority for sustainable development.



SDG 16 – PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS – REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

NEW WAYS OF WORKING TO OVERCOME NEW CHALLENGES

The total number of refugees from South Sudan is 745,472 according to the UNHCR Uganda Operation Update on the Emergency Response for 8th -14th February 2017 and the average daily arrival rate is 3,103 according to the UNHCR Uganda Flash Update of 17th February 2017. The influx shows no signs of abating, risk analysis of conflict dynamics in South Sudan indicate great concern about possibly increasing forced displacement. Since 1 January 2017, over 103,000 additional new refugees have fled from South Sudan to Uganda. At the rapid influx pace, the operation has to open in emergency mode at least two new settlements over the coming two months. In 2016, Uganda received the single largest refugee influx from South Sudan in its history with over 489,000 new arrivals, most of whom fled to Uganda between July and December 2016.

This unprecedented mass influx from South Sudan to Uganda puts enormous pressure on the country's resources, in particular on land, on basic service delivery systems, on the humanitarian partners' capacity to respond to the crisis, and on the ability to maintain Uganda's generous good practice refugee policy. Uganda pursues a non-camp refugee policy by which refugees are allocated land for living and agriculture in "settlements", have the right to work, freedom of movement, and can in principle access the same services as Uganda nationals, as far as they exist in these remote areas.

Based on this leading, successful policy, UN Uganda has developed a comprehensive strategy to build the resilience and self-reliance of refugees as well as host communities. In the unique policy environment in Uganda, emphasis is placed on strengthening the capacity in districts to provide life-saving services in a cost effective manner, and on incorporating livelihoods support from early on in the emergency response, as an enhancer of the sustainability of protection and life-saving services. As per Uganda Government policy, 30% of assistance

services, where appropriate and feasible, must benefit the hosting communities, which in turn will sustain and expand the asylum space.

In support of the Government of Uganda's transformative approach, the UN system in Uganda has committed to integrating a development-oriented approach from the onset of the emergency, for which reason life-saving emergency livelihoods feature as a strategically important component of the response. The ongoing emergency response and emerging development oriented action lay at the foundation of the UN / World Bank Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) framework, which aims to scale up support and funding for refugee hosting districts. ReHoPE, which includes the UNHCR Refugee Response Plans, will inform advocacy and resource mobilization efforts for the country going forward. The Uganda Solidarity Conference aims to mobilize resources in support of this new way of working.

UN AREA COORDINATION (UNAC) FIELD UPDATES

MOROTO UN AREA COORDINATION (UNAC) OFFICE

Japanese Ambassador's Visit to Karamoja: Between 6 and 7 Feb 2017, WFP Representative, Mr. El Khidir Daloum accompanied the Japanese Ambassador H.E. Kazuaki Kameda to Karamoja along with the Honorable Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. John Byabagambi John to hand over the Japanese funded Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme to the government.

Against the normal tradition of conducting the hand over in Kampala, the event took place in Karamoja this time and was graced by the UN Area Coordination (UNAC) Team members including UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, OHCHR, FAO, UNWOMEN and UNDP. Immediately after the handover ceremony, the UNAC team organized a meeting with the Japanese Ambassador to showcase the impact of Delivering as One (DaO) at the field level. The team demonstrated DaO impact through a common presentation on the joint programme on Gender and Women Empowerment including UNWOMEN, UNFPA and UNICEF; the Resilience Strategy with WFP, FAO and UNICEF; and agencies convergence around health and adolescent issues.

As an outcome, the Ambassador expressed gratitude for the level of convergence of the agencies in the field and noted that this is a departure from the past when agencies would compete for donor resources. He further encouraged closer system coherence, harmonization and integration for greater results.

Household Registration in Karamoja Region: WFP is currently supporting the Government of Uganda in conducting household registration and mapping (demographic information, development programmes and stakeholders' interventions, etc.). As registration centers have been established for this exercise currently covering Moroto and Napak districts, with plans to spread throughout the remaining five districts. It provides a platform for mass information

sharing, advocacy and community engagement for the UNAC team, development partners and government. In the last two weeks, taking advantage of this platform, OHCHR organized a three-day basic human rights awareness/sensitization session for community leaders around the right to access basic social services in alignment with the SDGs. The registration process is still ongoing and is expected to be concluded in Napak District by 2nd March 2017.

UN Area Coordination Team participates in the National Commemoration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM



Pokot girls call on everyone in their community to end FGM



Hon. Mutuuzo with Local Musicians who composed a song against FGM

On Friday 10th February, thousands of people travelled from all over Karamoja region, Sebei region and Kampala to Kalas Primary School grounds in Amudat District to participate in the national commemoration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The UN Area Coordination (UNAC) Team played a leading role in organising the national commemoration. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on accelerating FGM abandonment adopts a human rights-based, culturally sensitive approach and supports national and community efforts to end the practice. Interventions under this programme have influenced the strengthening of legal and policy frameworks necessary to eliminate the practice.

Speaking as Chief Guest, State Minister for Gender and Culture, Hon. Peace Mutuuzo commended the United Nations for partnering with the Government of Uganda and local communities in the struggle to end FGM. She urged elders and parents to stop demanding for a bride price in exchange for their daughters, a practice she believes fuels FGM. "We do not promote dowry anymore so that parents can know that marriage is not a source of wealth," said Hon. Mutuuzo. "By stopping the payment of dowry, communities that have been practicing FGM will stop the suffering of girls and help them stay in school."

During the event, men came out strongly to denounce FGM saying that they have seen the suffering of their women due to health complications as a result of FGM and they know that they can be arrested under the 2010 FGM Act. Globally, International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is commemorated every 6th of February.

MBARARA UN AREA COORDINATION (UNAC) OFFICE

The UN Area Coordination (UNAC) coordination meeting took place on 16th February 2017 in Mbarara and the major issues discussed were preparation for the field visit to the area as part of the Uganda Solidarity Conference to be held in March. The meeting reviewed the concept note and the draft community mobilisation plan taking into consideration feedback from the field teams. The meeting agreed that a technical team would visit Nakivale to look in to the possibility of identifying a landing site and engagement of Isingiro and Mbarara local district administrations.

A UNAC Team comprised of members from UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP paid a courtesy call to Isingiro Local District Administration on 17th February 2017. The team first met with the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) in his office and briefed him on the upcoming high level visit. The team also visited the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) Office. Similarly, the team visited Mbarara local district headquarters and briefed the CAO of the upcoming high level event. The team also informed the CAO that UNAC will continue engaging the district on regular basis. On Friday 17th February UNDSS and UNHCR security and staff safety adviser visited Nakivale.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Global Review Panel of UNAIDS 21st – 23 February 2017 – Uganda has been selected as the country to participate in the Global Review for UNAIDS. The visiting mission will be led by Global Review Panel Co-Chair Lennarth Hjelmåker, Sweden's Ambassador for Global Health and comprised of Dr. Anders Nordstrom, WHO Representative in Sierra Leone, as a special advisor and Mr. Kent Dieter Buse, UNAIDS Chief, Strategic Policy Directions. Ambassador Susan Eckey, Norwegian Ambassador to Uganda is also a member of the panel. The panel will hold consultations with Government, CSO, Development Partners and the UN Country Team representatives.

Regional Seminar on SDGs for Parliamentarians from Sub-Saharan Africa 1st– 3rd March 2017 The seminar is being organized by the Inter Parliament Union (IPU) and hosted by the Parliament of Uganda with support from UNDP. 49 Parliaments from across Africa have been invited to participate. The seminar is scheduled for 1st to 3rd March 2017 at Hotel Africana.

For more information, please contact:

Michael Wangusa
michael.wangusa@one.un.org
+256 (0) 771 005 988

Monicah Aturinda
monicah.aturinda@one.un.org
+256 (0) 772 147 505

UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)