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### OVERVIEW

- On 17 February, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda launched the second universal coverage campaign for Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) under the theme "Consistent use of LLINs" with the aim of reducing the overall malaria parasite prevalence to below 7% nationally. The campaign estimated cost is USD 120 million.
- During the past week, the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Silvia Alejandra Fernández de Gurmendi, paid a courtesy call on the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango. The ICC President was in the country to familiarize herself with conflict prevention, peacebuilding and justice issues.
- Updates from the field – a story about nutrition for refugee children by UNICEF and partner
- The total number of refugees from South Sudan is 755,040 with an average daily rate of 1,367 according to the UNHCR Uganda Operation Update on the Emergency Response for 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017. WFP last year increased the number of people it provided humanitarian assistance to by nearly half a million, mostly due to an unprecedented number of refugees who arrived after fighting broke out in South Sudan in July 2016.
- The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and High Commissioner of Kenya H.E. Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Okanga paid a courtesy call on the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango to discuss partnership possibilities going forward.
- The HIV situation in Uganda calls for renewed and urgent action. This was highlighted at the end of a UNAIDS Global Review Mission to Uganda, which held multi stakeholder consultations in Uganda 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2017.
- UNDP Uganda received special recognition for its support to the tourism sector during the Uganda Tourism Excellence Award Ceremony organised by the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) as part of activities to mark the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo 2017 on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017.
- WFP last year increased the number of people it provided humanitarian assistance to by nearly half a million, mostly due to an unprecedented number of refugees that arrived in the country after fighting broke out in South Sudan in July.
- Upcoming Events

## KEY MEETINGS DURING THE PERIOD



### SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## ICC PRESIDENT PAYS COURTESY CALL ON UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



***Ms. Silvia Alejandra Fernández de Gurmendi, the President of the International Criminal Court – ICC (centre) with Ms Rosa Malango UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative (left) UN Uganda Photo***

On February 24th, the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ms. Silvia Alejandra Fernández de Gurmendi, paid a courtesy call on the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango at her office. The ICC President was in the country to familiarize herself with conflict prevention, peacebuilding and justice issues. They discussed national mechanisms for transitional justice and opportunities to reinforce national capacities. The ICC President highlighted the importance of both formal and informal mechanisms of justice. She pointed out that the ICC complements national mechanisms and only gets involved as a last resort, when the national mechanisms are incapable of or unwilling to prosecute perpetrator of

international crimes. She noted that Uganda has a sound mechanism for preventing and responding during conflicts having emerge from periods of turbulence.

The UN Resident Coordinator expressed desire for stronger partnerships between the ICC and national institutions such as Parliament to exchange knowledge and information on the court and its linkages to national institutions. She thanked the ICC President for visiting Uganda and called for closer cooperation with Uganda and African states as part of Agenda 2030 and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. She noted the importance of reinforcing national institutions to ensure peaceful societies that can improve the quality of life of their citizens and protect their environment.

#### DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS PAYS COURTESY CALL ON UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR



***H.E. Maj Gen. Geoffrey Okanga, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and High Commissioner of Kenya (right) receiving a gift and information from Ms Rosa Malango UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative (centre); and Ms. Lucy Wanjiru Ndungu, UN Peace and Development Advisor (left) UN Uganda Photo***

On February 21st, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Uganda and High Commissioner of Kenya H.E. Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Okanga paid a courtesy call on the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango at her office. They discussed partnership options and areas for closer collaboration between the United Nations System in Uganda and the Africa Group of Ambassadors. They also discussed opportunities to exchange analysis and data on matters relevant to development in Africa such as trade, green economic development, local peace and security mechanisms, as well as regional integration. Ambassador Okanga also expressed a desire for exchanges between Nations States on issues of common interest such as the implementation of SDGs and responding to food insecurity.

### UPDATES FROM THE FIELD



### **SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER**

### ESTHER SMILES AGAIN AFTER HER ONE-YEAR OLD BABY IS CURED OF SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION BY UNICEF AND PARTNER

By Irene Nabisere, UNICEF Uganda

Esther Amony (20 years) and her family are part of over 150,000 South Sudanese refugees living in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District, West Nile. Dressed in a coffee brown skirt with patterns of white, orange and brown and a black blouse, Amony is at her new home, preparing a meal for her family as she waits for the husband who enrolled in primary school with their two children to return. Esther has 3 children, her first born is 5 years delivered at 15 years. The second born is 4 years. Even after getting displaced by the war in South Sudan, she is happy her family is alive and healthy while in Uganda.

As the situation deteriorated in South Sudan in July, Esther and her family had to seek refuge and their destination was Uganda. Her last born, Lakot James aged one and half years suffered from severe acute malnutrition. "We walked for over eight hours from Serotonya to Madi Opei border in Lamwo District. We lacked food for several days and did not have enough breast milk for Lakot," narrates Amony. At the screening point in Nyumanzi transit centre in Adjumani district, Lakot was found to have marasmus upon her arrival on 10 August, 2016 and was referred to a health post. He was given Vitamin A to boost his immunity and deworming to prevent worm infestation.

Due to congestion at the centre, Amony and the family were relocated to Bidibidi settlement in Yumbe district a day after their arrival. As soon as they reached Bidibidi reception centre,

Lakot's condition worsened. He was admitted to the UNICEF and Concern Worldwide Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centre (ITC) where he stayed for 8 days.

Lakot weighed 6.6kgs with a mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of 10.9cm, suffered severe diarrhoea, vomiting and fever. He was given therapeutic milk, amoxicillin, rehydrated with RESOMAL (Rehydration salt for the malnourished and weighed daily). After two days, Lakot's situation worsened. He lost appetite and stopped feeding. The clinicians and nutritionists introduced nasogastric tube (NGT) for nutritional feeding support with stronger antibiotics to ensure continued feeding; and to stop any other underlying infections. On the fifth day, Lakot started to recover. On the eighth day, Lakot was transferred to Out-Patient Therapeutic feeding centre (OTC) where he was given plumpy nut, antibiotics and the mother received counselling on infant and young child feeding. "I fed Lakot as was told by the nutritionist. I took my recommended food rations and was able to breast feed Lakot again in addition to the plumpy nut and antibiotics," said Amony, Lakot's mother. Within two months, Lakot was discharged from OTC through supplementary feeding program for monitoring. He was weighing 8.7kgs with a MUAC of 13.0cm.



***Esther Amony stands in front of her house in Bidibidi refugee settlement, Yumbe District, © UNICEF Uganda***

Charlotte Nakate, a nutritionist with Concern Worldwide a UNICEF partner they were amazed at how fast Lakot responded to treatment. "It usually takes a child three months to recover but Lakot's mother did everything as recommended hence the quick responsiveness to treatment," Nakate says. At ITC, Mothers who had witnessed Lakot on admission were astonished by the quick recovery and requested for the NGT even those that did not need it. Mothers were sensitised on the ITC programmes.

Amony has a backyard garden where she planted beans, maize and potatoes in order to supplement food rations provided by other partners also to ensure nutritious food intake for her family. She is able to harvest the dark green leafy vegetables for a nutritious diet.

Wilson Kirabira, UNICEF Nutrition Officer, Gulu Zonal Office says that the UNICEF curative and preventive nutrition programmes help to have healthy children. The curative programme includes Children in ITC and OTC are able to respond quickly due to quality treatment, monitoring and follow up of cases to household level by UNICEF and its partners Concern Worldwide and District Health staff. Preventive programme includes maternal, infant and young child feeding counselling, micronutrient supplementation through vitamin A to boost immunity and deworming to avoid worm infestation and counselling mothers on proper feeding habits. Majority of the children enrolled are cured.

The nutrition situation among the South Sudanese children has seen improvements from 2014 when they first arrived in Uganda to date. In 2014 GAM (Global acute malnutrition) was at 19.5% with a SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) at 4.5 %. Based on the latest Food security and Nutrition assessment in refugee settlements, GAM is now at 9.4% below the WHO emergency threshold. Thanks to support from UNICEF, WFP and other partners. In 2016 UNICEF was able to provide treatment to estimated 5600 children with SAM (about 90%) of the caseload. UNICEF provides technical, financial and material support to districts to support these nutrition interventions.

UNICEF supports refugee children in humanitarian action with WASH, Education, Health and Child Protection services as stipulated by the UNICEF core commitments for children in humanitarian action global framework that promotes predictable, effective and timely collective humanitarian action to fulfill the rights of children affected by humanitarian crisis.



### SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## UGANDA LAUNCHES THE SECOND CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSAL COVERAGE OF LONG LASTING INSECTICIDAL NETS

**Apac District** - Uganda launched the second universal coverage campaign for Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) with the aim of reducing the overall malaria parasite prevalence to below 7% nationally on 17th February 2017. The campaign follows a successful universal coverage campaign in 2013 and 2014 which saw 22 million nets distributed across the country contributing to a reduction in malaria parasite prevalence in Uganda from 42 to 19 percent. That reduction demonstrated the high effectiveness of LLINs alongside other recommended WHO malaria control interventions, in protecting communities from malaria.



*The Right Honourable Dr Ruhakana Rugunda flagging off the Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) Universal Coverage Campaign*



***Dr Tarande Constant Manzila Constant (centre), Acting WHO Country Representative to Uganda and Cyriaque Sobtafo United Nations Area Coordinator for Northern Uganda & Chief UNICEF Gulu Zonal (left) at the launch***

The campaign, estimated to cost USD 120 million including procurement and distribution costs, was launched by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda the Right Honourable Dr Ruhakana Rugunda who represented President Yoweri Museveni at a ceremony held in Apac district, northern Uganda under the theme “Consistent use of LLINs”.

During six months the campaign will distribute 24 million free nets across the country targeting over 40 million people. This will translate into one net for every two registered people in each household. Communities will also be taught how to use them effectively. According the Minister of Health, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, this national LLIN distribution campaign “directly responds to the UMRSP strategic objective of achieving and sustaining protection of at least 85% of the population at risk through recommended malaria prevention measures”. Dr Aceng therefore called upon all Ugandans to ensure that all households are registered to receive LLINs and to turn up to collect the LLINs on the distribution days.

“The launch of the second Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) Universal Coverage Campaign today, marks yet another step on the journey to the goal of malaria elimination” said President Museveni in a speech read by the Prime Minister. “I wish to express my gratitude to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Against Malaria



Foundation of the UK, President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) of the United States, DFID and all partners that contributed to the 24 million mosquito nets whose distribution is starting today in Apac, and will scale up to the whole country in the next 5-6 months" he added.

The President urged Ugandans to use the nets properly and not "for catching fish, harvesting *Nswa* (blind ants), tethering goats or sieving *Malwa* as has been the case in some communities". He thus implored all local leaders to monitor and ensure that the nets are put to the correct use and used consistently. Universal coverage with LLINs is key pillar of Uganda's Uganda Malaria Reduction Strategic Plan (UMRSP). In this plan, the country commits to reducing annual malaria deaths from the 2013 levels to near zero; malaria morbidity to 30 cases per 1000 population; and malaria parasite prevalence to less than 7% by 2020. The United Nations was represented at this launch by Dr Tarande Manzila Constant, Acting WHO Country Representative to Uganda and Cyriaque Sobtafo United Nations Area Coordinator for Northern Uganda & Chief UNICEF Gulu Zonal Office. The UN delegation reconfirmed the UN commitment in support of this campaign.

#### HIV SITUATION IN UGANDA CALLS FOR RENEWED URGENT ACTION

The HIV situation in Uganda calls for renewed and urgent action. Young people, especially girls aged between 15 and 24, are disproportionately affected by HIV infections. Among adolescent girls, every hour 2 young women are getting infected. "Uganda as a country is committed to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and we the Uganda Aid Commission welcome action taken to review and re-invigorate the joint UN family to support us and realize this goal at the country level," said Professor Vinand Nantulya, Chairman Uganda AIDS Commission.

Uganda registers 230 HIV new infections a day and despite widely available anti-retroviral therapy, 76 people die of AIDS-related causes every single day. Having served as a model country for the world during the 1980s and 1990s, Uganda now needs to take urgent action to reverse the current trend and be able to attain the target of ending AIDS by 2030. In order to accelerate the national response, it is important to increase national budgetary allocations for health and education sectors. This will help invigorate the fight against HIV/AIDS that will be complemented by international support. 'I would like to use the opportunity to call on His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni to once again take back his direct leadership in this area, so that Uganda can once again show the world that the end of AIDS as a public health threat is possible," said Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator.

These facts were presented by stakeholders from government, civil society, development partners and the United Nations System to the UNAIDS Global Review Panel Mission to Uganda led by Ambassador Lennarth Hjelmåker, Sweden's Ambassador for Global Health. He was accompanied by Dr. Anders Nordstrom, WHO Representative in Sierra Leone and Special Advisor to the Global Review Panel; Dr. Kent Buse, UNAIDS Chief, Strategic Policy Directions

and Ambassador Susan Eckey, Norwegian Ambassador to Uganda who are also members of the Global Panel.



***Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator (second from left); Ambassador Lennarth Hjelmåker, Leader UNAIDS Global Review Panel Mission (second from right); Ms. Amakobe Sande, UNAIDS Country Director (left); and Norwegian Ambassador Susan Eckey, Member of the UNAIDS Global Review Panel (right) at a Press Conference held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017.***

“The work of the Global Review Panel cannot be carried out in Geneva alone. Hence I am grateful that partners engaged in these inclusive consultations. Uganda has an important story to tell. Country perspectives need to be better understood in order to refine and reinforce the work of the unique Joint Programme on AIDS at the global level,” said Ambassador Lennarth Hjelmaker, the mission leader. The Global Review Panel has been tasked with reviewing the current business model and making recommendations that will enable UNAIDS to be sustainable and fit-for-purpose going forward. During its visit to Uganda, the Panel elicited possible lessons from Uganda’s experience and heard suggestions on modalities to strengthen collaboration to keep the epidemic under control.



## SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

### UNDP RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SUPPORTING THE TOURISM SECTOR

On 19 February, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda received special recognition for its support to the tourism sector. This award was given during the Uganda Tourism Excellence Award Ceremony organised by the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) as part of activities to mark the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo 2017.

A special recognition award was handed to the UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango by the Uganda Vice President, Hon. Edward Ssekandi who thanked the organisation for promoting inclusive tourism as a powerful vehicle for spurring sustainable economic growth.

The three-day Tourism Expo was intended to market Uganda as a tourist destination. Over 200 tour and travel exhibitors from the East African region and beyond attended. Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in Uganda with great opportunities for green growth and employment for youth and women in particular.



***Ms. Rosa Malango UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator receives the special recognition award from the Vice President, H. E. Edward Ssekandi (left). Looking on is the Minister of State for Tourism, Hon. Ssubi Kiwanda (right).***

UNDP is proud to have partnered with the Government of Uganda to improve the tourism sector. Key areas of support by UNDP have contributed to strengthen the policy and

regulatory environment in this sector through the revision of the Tourism Policy 2015, preparation of the 10-year Tourism Development Master Plan and regulations for the Tourism Act 2008.

UNDP will continue to support efforts to build inclusive business models - a promising approach to bringing the benefits of economic growth directly to low-income people by including them within tourism value chains. This is key for Uganda's sustainable development and efforts to ensure that no is left behind.



## **SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER**

### **WFP INCREASES ITS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN UGANDA**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) last year increased the number of people it provided humanitarian assistance to by nearly half a million, mostly due to an unprecedented number of refugees that arrived in the country after fighting broke out in South Sudan in July.

"More than 400,000 South Sudanese refugees entered Uganda in just six months," said El Khidir Daloum, WFP Country Director. "The majority of them were women and children, arriving with almost no means at all for finding nutritious food by themselves." In total in Uganda, WFP provided humanitarian assistance to more than 1.3 million people, compared to 880,000 in 2015, Daloum said. These included more than 840,000 refugees and more than half a million Ugandans in the Karamoja and Teso regions.

In Karamoja, WFP provided school meals to 122,000 children and treated 155,000 children and adults suffering from acute malnutrition or at risk of chronic malnutrition (stunting). WFP reached around 200,000 food-insecure people through asset creation activities to help strengthen resilience to climatic shocks such as drought. Projects focus on livelihood and soil and water conservation activities such as terracing and construction of ponds and sand dams, alongside irrigation and agricultural production at household level. In Teso, more than 37,000 infants at risk of vitamin and mineral deficiencies received powders fortified with 15 vitamins and minerals on a monthly basis.

WFP's humanitarian work in Uganda would have been impossible without the support of its donors, who gave generously despite the competing emergencies around the world. "We want to thank our donors who enabled us to deliver life-saving food rations and livelihoods support among refugees as well as critical development assistance in Karamoja," said Daloum. "Their continued commitment to WFP enabled us to provide support to those most in need."



***Bidibidi: Distribution of WFP food as the Government established the Bidibidi settlement in August. WFP/Lydia Wamala***

Small-scale farmers benefited from WFP's non-humanitarian support. Through the organization's NGO partners, 57,000 farmers were trained in post-harvest loss reduction, farming as a business, group marketing dynamics and other skills to strengthen their capacity to access large quality grain markets such as WFP.

WFP was forced to reduce rations for some refugees in August and came close to making further cuts towards the end of the year due to insufficient funding. But donors enabled the organization to avoid deeper reductions while prioritizing the newest, more vulnerable refugees. WFP assists refugees in Uganda in close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Uganda Government.

In its efforts to find sustainable solutions to humanitarian needs in Uganda and more closely align with the Uganda Government priorities, WFP expanded its use of cash for food assistance last year, and re-introduced the modality in Karamoja for the resilience building programme. Cash allows people to choose what they eat, access fresh foods and diversify their diets, and boosts the local economy, facilitating peaceful co-existence between refugees and Ugandan nationals.

A study conducted last year by the University of California, Davis and WFP in the Adjumani and Rwamwanja refugee settlements found that humanitarian assistance given to refugees produces a significant 'income multiplier' mostly for the benefit of Ugandans who live around the settlements. When WFP provided cash assistance, each dollar increased real income in and around the settlements by an additional US\$1 and US\$1.50.

WFP has been expanding its cash-based assistance gradually to enable markets adjust to the increased demand. We conduct in-depth feasibility studies together with our partners before we introduce cash and regularly monitor the local markets to understand the price variations and their impacts on local communities. In 2016, the following donors contributed to WFP in Uganda (in alphabetical order): Canada (US\$577,800), the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) (US\$8.2 million), Ireland (US\$2.4 million), Japan (US\$6 million), Republic of Korea (US\$300,000), United Kingdom (US\$24.8 million), the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (US\$9.3 million) and the United States (US\$58.7 million). Funding was also received from multilateral donors (US\$7.6 million) and private donors (US\$1.6 million).

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Launch of National Food Security Assessment Report 28 February 2017** – The Prime Minister will launch the National Food Security Assessment report on 28 February from 9:30 to 12:30. Hon. Hilary Onek, Hon. Vincent Ssempijja and Hon. Musa Ecweru are expected to attend. Senior representatives from the World Bank and the Chinese Ambassador to Uganda are expected to speak.

**Regional Seminar on SDGs for Parliamentarians from Sub-Saharan Africa 1st– 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) in Kampala 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>March 2017-** In line with the implementation of the Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) on "The role of Security Organs in Combating Violence Against Women and Girls" for which Uganda is a member, Uganda Police Force will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting scheduled to take place from 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Kampala.

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