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OVERVIEW

- President Museveni calls for holistic approach to tackling violence against women and girls, at opening of the sixth Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) Annual General Meeting on theme "Combating Violence against Women and Girls: The Role of Security Agencies and Community" at Kampala Serena Hotel Monday 6th March 2017.
- UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango, addressed the National Celebrations of International Women's Day in Dokolo District, 8th March 2017. She called on everyone to promote women's rights because they are human rights
- The total number of refugees and asylum seekers from South Sudan in Uganda is 801,834; while the daily average arrival refugees and asylum is 2,226 since 7th July 2016 according to the UNHCR Flash Update on the South Sudan Emergency Response of 13th March 2017.
- The new Country Representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Mr. Alain Sibenaler presented to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Sam Kutesa, 10th March 2017.
- The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango was last week in West Nile Sub-region for a 3-day visit to appreciate first-hand and get a better of understanding the local humanitarian and development context, to engage local leaders and development actors, strengthen local collaboration, in preparation for the upcoming Uganda Solidarity Summit.
- Members of the Parliamentary forum on Malaria and the Health Committee of the Parliament agreed to support the ongoing Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net (LLIN) campaign through increased advocacy and sensitization of the masses.
- UNDP joined Uganda celebrations to mark World Wildlife Day 2017 organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. The UNDP Country Director, Ms. Almaz Gebru has commended the Government for the excellent work they have done to promote wildlife conservation in the country.

NEW UNFPA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sam Kutesa, received Credentials from the new Country Representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Mr. Alain Sibenaler on 10th March 2017.

Mr. Sibenaler, a national of Luxembourg has worked in the UN system since 1996 and holds various degrees from the University of Montpellier III, the University of Paris and University of Stellenbosch specializing in Migrant Labor, Political Science and Management. He has previously served as UNFPA Country Representative in Sri Lanka and Cameroon, UNFPA Country Director in the Maldives, and as Deputy Representative in Afghanistan.



Mr. Alain Sibenaler (right), the new UNFP Country Representative presenting his credentials to Hon. Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs on 10th March 2017

Hon. Kutesa welcomed Mr Sibenaler to Uganda and said that UNFPA has distinguished itself as a useful partner to Uganda. He stated that Uganda's young population and large numbers, whilst recognized as an asset, raise their own challenges. He hoped that the

partnership with UNFPA would focus on taking advantage of the roadmap offered in the AU Agenda 2063 theme of Harnessing the Demographic Dividend.

Mr. Sibenaler expressed his pleasure at the new post appreciating the tremendous support the Government of Uganda had extended to his predecessors. Mr Sibenaler further expressed gratitude to H.E the president on his commitment to different aspects of family planning and selected reproductive rights. Honorable Kutesa wished him a pleasant term of duty in Uganda.



SDG 5 – ZERO GENDER EQUALITY

UN RESIDENT COORDNATOR ADDRESSES NATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

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

On 8th March, Uganda joined the rest of the World to celebrate International Women’s Day. This year’s theme was on “Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030” which aimed at recognizing the contribution and the different roles women play in the development process of our Country’s development.

About 10,000 people from different institutions including Government agencies, International agencies, private sector, civil society, Diplomats and locals gathered at Dokolo Technical Institute grounds in Dokolo district in North Eastern Uganda to celebrate the day. While speaking at the event, the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango recognized Uganda’s efforts in championing SDG 5 on gender equality and the exemplary leadership exhibited by Government in creating policy and legal environment that promotes women’s participation and empowerment in the changing world of work.

Uganda’s Constitution upholds the principle of equality and protection of the rights of men and women with regards to employment opportunities, rights to safety and health and freedom from discrimination. Such laws include the Employment Act (2006); the Occupation Safety and Health Act, Labour Union Act, 2006, Workers’ Compensation Act and the attendant Regulations, and Sexual Harassment Regulations (2012).

Ms. Malango called on Government to adopt bills such as the Marriage and Divorce bill, the Minimum wage bill and Transitional Justice bill that are key in helping and protecting women.

In his remarks, the Chief Guest President Yoweri Museveni pledged support Women in Dokolo by teaching them how to work and set up more factories in the region to create more jobs where women can work and earn money to support their families. He encouraged women to get vocational training to compete favourably with men in the available job market.



Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator addressing the National Celebrations of International Women's Day in Dokolo District, 8th March 2017

Ms. Malango called on everyone to promote women's rights because they are human rights; help a girl and a woman to either stay in or return to school, or benefit from vocational training; donate time or equipment to help women and girls access ICT; mentor a girl; teach her to protect the environment; ensure your work place has concrete goals on women empowerment; be an advocate to end violence against women and girls at home, work, school, and encouraged parents not to marry their girls off.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR HOLISTIC APPROACH TO TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

By Bernard Amwine, UN Human Rights

Ideology, education, economic empowerment, legislation, sensitization and awareness are the major issues that need to be tackled in a holistic approach in order to end violence against women and girls. Women are attacked, they are oppressed, they are disempowered, especially economically, and many are not educated.

"You need a holistic approach to talking violence against women and girls" President Museveni said. He was speaking at opening of the sixth Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) Annual General Meeting is "Combating Violence against Women and Girls: The Role of Security Agencies and Community" at Kampala Serena Hotel Monday 6th March 2017.

He said that talking and legislating are not enough in protecting women from violence, they need to have policies on women economic empowerment. He pointed out that in Uganda, legislation that protects women from being beaten was passed long ago, but they were still being beaten, "because legislation alone cannot deal with the problem without dealing with culture, education and economic empowerment," the president advised.

The president said many female victims of violence fear to report because the men who beat them are the ones who feed them. "Why should a person attack a woman? President Museveni said that in many African communities there are beliefs that women must be beaten so that they behave properly. "It is because of wrong beliefs, sometimes rooted in old culture which is degrading women," said the President. He said cultural advancement through sensitisation and education was important in saving women from oppression. "It is easy to oppress uneducated women, but it is difficult to oppress an educated woman – that is why we rolled out education for all...especially for the girl-child," said President Museveni.



Dr. Uchenna Emelonye, UN Human Rights Country Representative, delivering a speech at the sixth Kigali International Conference Declaration (KICD) Annual General Meeting on behalf of the UN in Uganda

In a speech read on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango, the UN Human Rights Country Representative Dr. Uchenna Emelonye, said, a violence-free environment is everyone's right! And pressed for a society where we no longer read or hear about the abuse of women and children, where homes are safe; schools are safe; streets are safe; work places are safe; and social media is safe - a society where women and girls do not have to worry about any form of gender-based violence.

Her statement indicated that the United Nations System in Uganda working together under the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) pledged to continue supporting Uganda to reduce incidence and impact of Violence Against Women, underpinned by a strong institutional, societal and media response. The support would continue to focus on developing and updating policies, strategies and national standards for prevention, early identification and case management; advocacy for sustainable funding mechanisms; promotion of and support to innovative multi-sectoral and community-involved prevention and response services, and strengthened capacity for coordination and information management.



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR VISITS WEST NILE SUB-REGION

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

The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Rosa Malango was last week in West Nile Sub-region for a 3-day visit to appreciate first-hand and get a better of understanding the local humanitarian and development context, to engage local leaders, humanitarian and development actors, strengthen local collaboration, and assess conditions in anticipation of the upcoming Uganda Solidarity Summit on refugees and host communities.



Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator (centre with blue hat) inspecting a solar powered water pump used to pump water uphill at Bidibidi Settlement, Yumbe District. Looking on with is Ms. Almaz Gebru, UNDP Country Director (with brown hat).

Ms. Malango while on the mission drove through new villages where Ugandans and refugees co-exist with a shared ambition of providing a better life for their children. She met and interacted with Ugandans in host communities, refugees, local government authorities,

security personnel and experts. She met women and girls eager to complete their education, scale up their businesses, learn how to read and write. She met with the youth eager to learn new skills and work to help Uganda achieve its development objectives and improve the quality of life of their families. She met women and girls, victims of gender based violence, who are recovering from the trauma, looking for new ways to generate income and anxious to be safe.

Ms. Malango and team visited a cross section of projects in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement including a Primary School in Zone1 where she shared SDG branded backpacks, WASH Motorized Water System project, Pwajiji Supplementary feeding and Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme, GBV prevention and Response/Protection Info Desks and a women's safe space project, the CBTT UNWOMEN Economic Group and the Adolescent Girls programme.

Addressing the National Celebrations of International Women's Day in Dokolo District, 8th March 2017, Ms. Malango recognized the incredible effort that is being made to address the lifesaving needs of those seeking protection in Uganda as refugees and to address the poverty conditions of communities hosting refugees.

She further called on Ugandans and partners to invest in innovations as a way of creating jobs, support small scale entrepreneurs and empower the youth to become contributors to Uganda's development.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA PLEDGES SUPPORT TOWARDS TACKLING MALARIA IN UGANDA

By Edmond Mwebembezi, WHO

Members of the Parliamentary forum on Malaria and the Health Committee of the Parliament agreed to support the ongoing Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net (LLIN) campaign through increased advocacy and sensitization of the masses. In addition, they agreed to follow up discussions on tax waivers on medical devices such as malaria rapid diagnostic tests, lobbying for increased financial resources for health and enforcing accountability in parliament.

This was at an advocacy meeting for the members of the 10th Parliament convened by the Ministry of Health (MoH) with support from partners to brief them about the National

Malaria control interventions including the ongoing mass distribution of LLINs recently launched by the Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda.



Left to right-Dr. Daniel Kyabayinze (WHO consultant), Dr. Jimmy Opigo (Malaria Programme Manager), Dr. Tarande Constant (WHO Representative), Hon. Rebecca Kadaga (Speaker of Parliament – Yellow top) at the parliamentary advocacy meeting

The Guest of Honor at the advocacy meeting, the Right Honourable Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga thanked MoH for involving the parliament in this campaign because their influence especially at the district and community levels will greatly impact on the success of the LLIN campaign. She called on the MPs to intensively rally their constituencies to properly and consistently use the nets in order to reduce the malaria burden in Uganda.

On the situation of Malaria control in Uganda, the National Malaria Control Program, Program Manager Dr. Jimmy Opigo briefed the Members of Parliament (MP) and partners about the progress made in implementing the Uganda Malaria Reduction Strategic Plan (UMRSP), 2014- 2020, and the plan to accelerate elimination of the disease from the country adding that malaria deaths have reduced by 40%. He further said that Ministry of Health intends to distribute 24 million nets countrywide and called on the MPs' support to rally the population to rightly use the long lasting insecticidal nets.

The Acting World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Uganda, Dr. Tarande Constant Manzila highlighted the need for increased advocacy to increase resources and sensitization of the population to sustain the gains made in Malaria reduction. He commended Uganda for the tremendous progress made in Malaria control highlighting the reduced malaria disease and death rates between 2010 and 2014 which saw the country win the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) award received by His Excellency, President Y.K. Museveni at the 28th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa.

Dr. Tarande pledged continued technical support from WHO to the Ministry of Health to guide interventions, partner coordination for unified action and data generation and analysis to guide decision making. To achieve malaria free world goal by 2030, WHO Global Technical Strategy for malaria advocates for universal access to malaria prevention including consistent use of LLINs, diagnosis and treatment as some of pillars of interventions. It also encourages countries to accelerate efforts towards elimination and attainment of malaria-free status, and to transform malaria surveillance into a core intervention.



SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

UGANDA CELEBRATES WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

By Doreen Kanssiime, UNDP



The UNDP Country Director, Ms. Almaz Gebru delivers her remarks during celebrations to mark World Wildlife Day 2017

Kampala - The UNDP Country Director, Ms. Almaz Gebru commended the Government for the excellent work they have done to promote wildlife conservation in the country.

She made this commendation during celebrations to mark World Wildlife Day 2017 organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

"I salute the excellent work done by the Government, Members of Parliament, law enforcement officers, wardens, guides,

customs officials and park rangers in the protection of wildlife. The combined efforts of these institutions have led to an increase in wildlife numbers attracting more tourists to Uganda and contributing to the national resource purse through foreign currency," Ms. Gebru said.

Hon. Moses Ali, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament complemented this saying that because of the peace in the country and the Government's conservation efforts the wild animal population had grown.

Currently, Uganda's Elephants have increased to

5,346 up from 2,000 in 1983, Mountain Gorillas have increased to 400 from 298, Buffalos to 36,953 from 25,000 while the Uganda Kobs have risen from 40,000 to 77,759.



Hon. Moses Ali, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament (3rd from left), Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of Torusim Wildlife and Antiquities (2nd from the left) and H.E. Kristian Schmidt, EU Ambassador to Uganda visit an exhibition stall at celebrations to mark World Wildlife Day 2017.



Young children prepare to entertain guest at celebrations to mark World Wildlife Day 2017. The day's theme focused on

Ms. Almaz Gebru called on Government to review and pass the Wildlife Act which can address several emerging issues that affect wildlife conservation have come up including the exploration and yet to start production activities of oil, escalating human wildlife conflicts, escalating levels of illicit wildlife trade and trafficking, institutional changes

among others.

With the global theme calling

for us to; “Listen to the Young Voices” and the national theme focusing on “Mainstreaming the Youth in Wildlife Conservation.”

Ms. Gebru added that for the sector to grow, young people need to be a part of it. “Today’s theme is a clear indicator that the time is now to educate and encourage young people as tomorrow’s leaders to join in efforts to conserve and protect wildlife,” she said. She further stated that investment in young people will ensure the continued survival of wild animals and plants, help in the fighting against the devastating illicit trade in wildlife and enable us to achieve Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 1 on poverty reduction, SDG 13 on climate action as well as SDG 15 – life on land.

Young people can be included through:

- Education - Young people should be taught about wild life and its importance both in school and outside school so that they are aware. Education should also extend to our cultural practises such as the clan totem systems which promote protection of various wild animals.
- Policy makers and youth leaders should engage the youth in alternative income generating activities that will ensure they do not engage in activities like poaching or deforestation of wild animals and cutting of wild plants.
- They can also join wildlife clubs, through music, dance and drama and can compose songs, dances and drama based on their knowledge of wild life to create public awareness while generating incomes.
- They can also engage in tourism, which provides a great opportunity for youth employment.

“Young people can also use their knowledge of new digital media to advocate for wildlife conservation, monitor and report wildlife crime and create awareness about the importance of protecting our wild animals, plants and their habitats,” Ms. Gebru said.

Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu thanked all the partners including UNDP for the supporting the sector and said that the sector was intent on including young people as well as address issues that affect it currently such as poaching.

“We have acquired and trained sniffer dogs to detect ivory that is being smuggled through different border posts,” Hon. Kamuntu said.

Uganda Wildlife Authority showcased how the dogs would be used to detect ivory smugglers during the celebrations.

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