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OVERVIEW

- Ministry of Health has declared Uganda free from the Marburg virus disease (MVD) after completion of 42 days of the post Marburg surveillance countdown period for the contacts of the last confirmed case, as per the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.
- President Yoweri Museveni calls on men to go for voluntary HIV testing in order to prolong their lives and avoid infecting others. The President made this call during the National Commemoration of World AIDS Day in Kole District on 1st December 2017 in a speech delivered by Vice President Edward Sekandi.
- The Government of Uganda has launched a new Green Growth Development Strategy as the blue print towards a inclusive development pathway for Uganda.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the European Union and the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) deployed the EU mobile laboratory at Kapchorwa District Hospital to improve sample testing and enable real-time reporting of results during the Marburg outbreak.
- UNIDO Uganda Country Representative Mr. Bruno Otto Tokwiny has reiterated calls by the UNIDO Director General Mr Li Yong for the enhancement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa.
- Uganda establishes a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) secretariat. State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Hon. Musa Ecweru presided over the first CRRF Steering Committee meeting.
- UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango, visits Uganda's National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC), to see first-hand the Centre and the support provided by the United Nations family in Uganda.
- UNIDO has been recognised for its efforts to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in Uganda
- Refugees in Kyangwali Settlement celebrate refugee youth-led organisation CIYOTA's nomination for the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- President Opens National Data Forum. The High Level National Data Forum for Uganda was organised by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) with support from the United Nations in Uganda, USAID and Development Initiatives.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Marburg Virus Disease outbreak in Uganda is over

By Edmond Mwebembezi World Health Organization

After completing two incubation cycles (42 days) without registering any new Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) case, the recent outbreak in Uganda has been officially declared controlled.

“Today, marks 42 days since the death of the last confirmed case which occurred on 26th October 2017, indicating that the MVD outbreak which occurred in Kween and Kapchorwa districts has been contained”, said Honourable Sarah Opendi, Uganda’s Minister of State for Health as she addressed journalists at Uganda’s Media Centre in Kampala. She appreciated the tremendous contribution of partners who have not only helped to contain the outbreak but, also “built the capacity of health workers in Kween and Kapchorwa to be able to respond to any future outbreaks.”



WHO Uganda

Burial team burning personal effects of deceased during the Marburg outbreak

To consolidate the gains and also prevent future outbreaks, the Minister appealed to the public

to avoid contact with wild bats especially in caves where they stay which will greatly reduce transmission chances of such diseases. Honourable Opendi further urged the public to avoid direct or close contact with suspected patients should any suspected cases occur in order to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission in the community.

She implored health workers to always have a high index of suspicion for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers and to always observe infection prevention procedures including, wearing gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment when taking care of ill patients.

The minister appreciated the invaluable support from partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Médecines Sans Frontières (MSF), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), World Vision Uganda, Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), WALIMU, FHI360, JMEDICC, and the media.

Speaking on behalf of the partners who participated in the response, the WHO Country Representative in Uganda, Dr Jack Andouille commended the Ministry of Health for leading a well-coordinated response that resulted in rapid containment of the outbreak, within six weeks. "I am glad to note that the response to the outbreak by MoH and partners was swift, focused and consistent with the WHO recommended strategy", Dr Jack said. "This has been achieved through a coordinated response in all pillars that is, enhanced surveillance, strengthened laboratory support, contact tracing, case management, social mobilization and psychosocial support", he added.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

WORLD AIDS DAY 2017: 'REACHING MEN, GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN TO REDUCE NEW HIV INFECTIONS

By Carol Magambo, UNAIDS

Every year, the world commemorates World AIDS Day on 1st December. It is an opportunity for every community to unite in the fight against HIV, show solidarity with people living with HIV, remember those that have died from AIDS, and join hands with the millions affected by the virus. The day also presents the opportunity to look back on our successes, acknowledge our missteps, and recognize the work ahead of us in our efforts to create an AIDS-free generation and ultimately end the AIDS epidemic.

In Uganda, the day was marked in Kole District, in Northern Uganda with the theme 'Reaching

men, girls and young women to reduce new HIV infections' which is aligned to the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative.

The national HIV prevalence stands at 6.2 % with 1,400,000 people living with HIV. The number of new infections in adults reduced from 99,000 in 2010 to 52,000 in 2016 while the number of new infections in children reduced from 26,000 in 2010 to 4,600 in 2016 and this is mainly because of increased enrolment of people on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART). This represents over 95 % reduction in HIV Prevention due to mother to child transmissions thanks to the efforts of the National Champion, the First Lady Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni who spearheaded the eMTCT campaigns in the country from 2012 - 2016.

"Men go for voluntary HIV testing in order to prolong your lives and avoid infecting others. If you find that you are sick take drugs. They will not cure you but suppress the virus and prolong your life and you won't infect others", said President Yoweri Museveni the Guest of Honour whose remarks were read out by the Vice President Edward Ssekandi.



Vice President Edward Ssekandi (third from right) addressing the National Commemoration of World AIDS Day in Kole District, 1st December 2017

Speaking on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator and UN family, Dr Karusa Kiragu UNAIDS Country Director emphasised the need to reach out to the men citing that more men are dying of AIDS than before. Out of the 28,000 deaths registered in 2016 in Uganda, 16,000 were men. Few men seek health care services and are less likely to visit health facilities to access services. "Responding to men in the AIDS response is an entry point to promote equity, education, dignity and justice, and to reduce poverty and inequalities among communities including those left behind. Inequalities happen everywhere in the world, but we must know that It will be impossible to End AIDS among certain groups if we don't want to reach out to them" said Kiragu.

Also present was Ambassador Deborah R. Malac of the US Government who gave remarks on behalf to the AIDS Development Partners. She assured the country of the Development Partner's continued support in the HIV response. To build and even sustain the gains made thus far, the Ambassador said, there is need to double down on efforts to increase domestic financing for HIV and AIDS control in the coming years. "I commend Parliament for its recent efforts to secure start-up funding for the AIDS Trust Fund as a major step in building sustainable financing for the HIV response. I hope that these funds will be allocated to the Trust Fund in the upcoming financial year. However, it is unacceptable that Uganda's overall health budget has declined in the last five years" she concluded.

The Minister of Health Dr Jane Ruth Aceng cautioned the men that the young people and Ugandans were relaying on them to live by example. On the other hand, she thanked the women for taking the campaign seriously and said that World AIDS Day should remind all Ugandans to play their role in the HIV response.



SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

UGANDA LAUNCHES ITS FIRST GREEN GROWTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

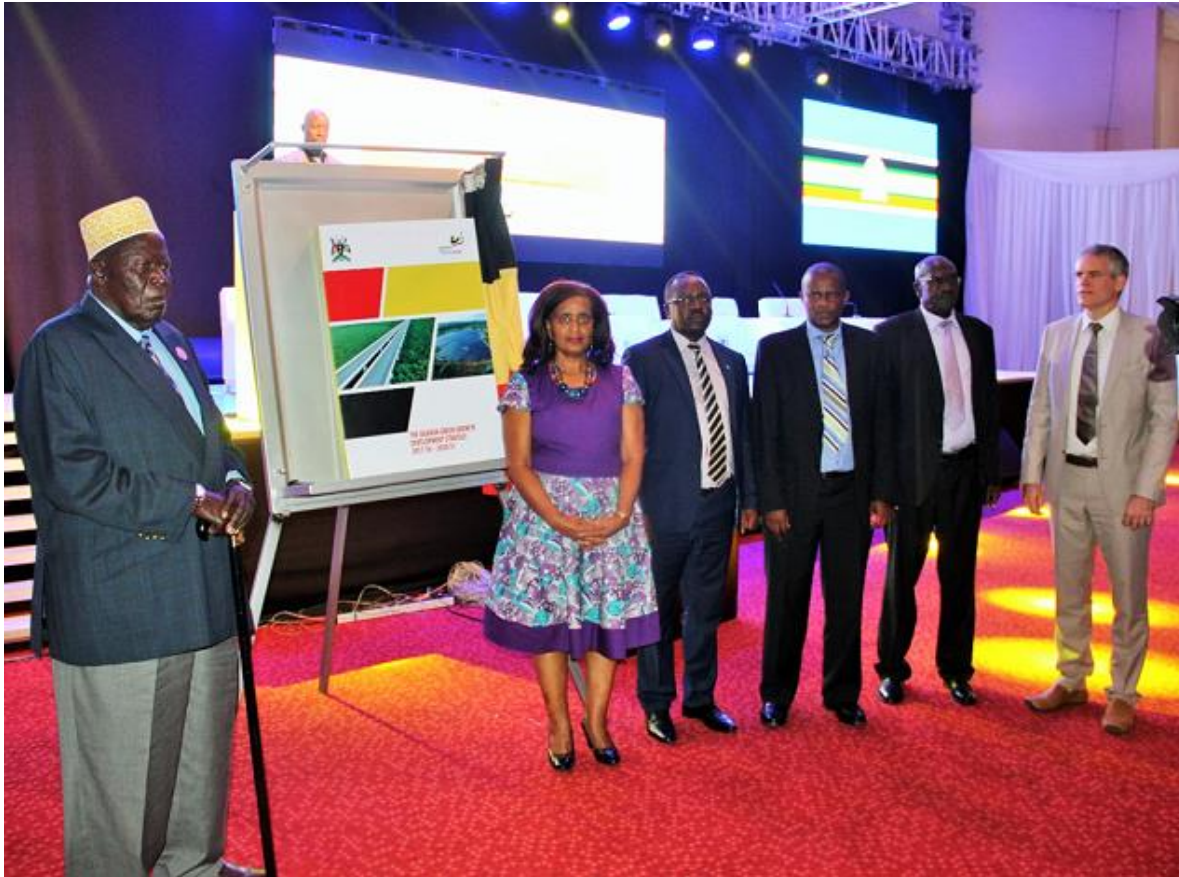
By Doreen Kansiime, UN Development Programme (UNDP)

The Government of Uganda has launched a new Green Growth Development Strategy to guide its development. The strategy serves as the blue print towards a socially and economically inclusive development pathway for Uganda as it endeavours to reach middle income status.

"This Green Growth Development strategy will be very instrumental in directing Uganda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and national goals at large while building Prosperity for All as has been reiterated by His Excellency the President," Hon. Moses Ali, the First Deputy Prime Minister said during the launch ceremony.

He said that the strategy provides a ray of hope for addressing these challenges, adding that; "it presents an opportunity to renew our political commitment to the principles of sustainable development which are already enshrined in our constitution, the NRM Manifesto, Uganda Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (NDP II)."

Green growth is described as an inclusive, low emissions economic growth process that emphasizes effective and efficient use of the country's natural, human, and physical capital while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations.



Hon. Moses Ali, the First Deputy Prime Minister together with Ms. Almaz Gebru, the UNDP Country Director after launching the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy. With them are officials from National Planning Authority (NPA), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGi) and the European Union in Uganda (Photo credit: UNDP Uganda 2017)

The strategy unpacks the key green growth issues contained in NDP II and Vision 2040 and provides the blue print for Uganda's transition into a green economy. It highlights areas with the highest potential for green growth's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employment, resource use efficiency, social inclusiveness and equity, as well as environmental sustainability. It focuses on five priority areas to promote green growth, including;

- Sustainable transport that promotes mass transport systems for urban areas among other things.
- Planned urbanisation/green cities providing linkage between industrial production in cities to the raw material production in rural areas.
- Sustainable energy with emphasis on greening the energy mix to include solar and wind, efficiency in use and ensuring equity in access to energy.
- Natural resource management with focus on green tourism, water resources

management and sustainable use of forests and wetlands, and lastly;

- Sustainable agriculture with concentration on solar powered irrigation, integrated soil fertility management and upgrade of value chains.

“UNDP has been working closely with the government, not only to develop this strategy but also to ensure that green growth concepts are incorporated into all its work,” Ms. Rosa Malango, UNDP’s Resident Representative and UN’s Resident Coordinator said in a speech read for her by Ms. Almaz Gebru, the UNDP Country Director during the launch of the strategy.

Ms. Gebru further said that UNDP together with the government have mobilised US\$ 24.1 million from the Green Climate Fund to implement the Presidential Initiative to restore wetlands – a green growth initiative that will promote community resilience through providing alternative livelihoods for those living close to wetlands.

The Green Growth Development Strategy will be implemented over the next 14 years and is estimated to cost USD 11 billion.

<http://www.ug.undp.org/content/uganda/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/11/23/uganda-launches-its-first-green-growth-development-strategy.html>



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

WHO DEPLOYS MOBILE LABORATORY TO SUPPORT MARBURG OUTBREAK RESPONSE

By Edmond Mwebembezi World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the European Union and the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) deployed the EU mobile laboratory bringing together experts from Marburg University and Berhardt Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine at Kapchorwa District hospital to improve sample testing and enable real-time reporting of results during the Marburg outbreak.

Additionally, the mobile laboratory will provide an opportunity to train laboratory focal persons in Kapchorwa and Kween districts in testing samples picked during the current outbreak and providing real-time results. Previously, samples had to be transported to Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) which is located in Entebbe, several hundred kilometres from Kapchorwa District, causing the delay in transmission of results.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng urged all health workers to embrace the training provided by the WHO in order to contain the current Marburg outbreak and prepare for future outbreaks. She said this during her visit to Kapchorwa District Hospital, to commission the Mobile Laboratory.

“The laboratory provides an opportunity for us to provide patients with their test results in the shortest time possible to avoid anxiety and unnecessary pressure,” she said.

Dr. Aceng further appreciated the support from WHO, UNICEF, MSF, Uganda Red Cross during the outbreak up until it is declared over. She particularly thanked WHO for providing leadership during outbreak responses adding that, Uganda is recognized as a model country in disease outbreak response due to the technical and financial support of WHO.



The Minister of Health Dr. Aceng (purple outfit) Ministry officials listen to Dr. Thomas Strecker from WHO during the commissioning of the mobile laboratory at Kapchorwa District Hospital

The Acting WHO Country Representative in Uganda, Dr. Jack Abdoulie commended Government and Kween and Kapchorwa districts leadership for effectively controlling the Marburg outbreak. He further commended the partners for working with Ministry of Health saying, “with this outbreak, we have witnessed what can happen if you have strong partnerships, coordination and commitment,” he said.

Dr. Abdoulie further pointed out that in order to control outbreaks such as the current one, capacity of health workers needs to be built, alluding to the mobile laboratory deployed in the district. He urged partners to build the capacity of local health workers before withdrawing from the districts.

Ministry of Health notified WHO of the Marburg outbreak on 19 October 2017. WHO and partners provided financial and technical support. This is through surveillance, case management, social mobilization, water and sanitation and logistical support. Further to this, community health workers and village health teams have been trained on the different aspects of the response. This is to build the capacity for the district health systems to respond to future outbreaks and also any other health emergencies of public health concern.



SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNIDO REITERATES CALLS TO ENHANCE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

By Judith Atim, UNIDO

UNIDO Uganda Country Representative Mr. Bruno Otto Tokwiny has reiterated calls by the UNIDO Director General Mr. Li Yong for the enhancement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa.

Mr. Otto made the call during celebrations to mark the Africa Industrialisation Day on 23rd November 2017 at Busoga Square in Jinja Town, Eastern Uganda under the theme "African Industrial Development: A pre-condition for an effective and sustainable Continental Free Trade Area."

He also emphasized that the Africa Continental Free Trade Area is expected to considerably benefit more than a billion people spread across the 54 countries that make up the continent including Uganda.

To realise this, Mr. Otto underscored the importance of industrialisation in Uganda and in particular the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 9 on infrastructure, Industrialisation and innovation.

"As a country, we must identify areas where we have a comparative advantage, fast-track industrialisation and promote value chains," Mr. Otto said.

In his message on 20th November 2017 in Vienna, Austria, Mr. Li said this year's Africa Industrialisation Day plays a special role in promoting the acceleration of inclusive and

sustainable development in Africa.



UNIDO Country Representative Mr. Bruno Otto (first from left); Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Hon. Amelia Kyambadde (with a hat on); and other Government officials marching to mark Africa Industrialisation Day in Jinja Town 23rd November 2017

“As we discuss Africa’s Continental Free Trade Area, it is imperative to consider how we can develop and enhance intra-African trade in manufactured goods,” Mr.Li said.

In Uganda, the day was observed on 23rd November 2017. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives Hon. Amelia Kyambadde was the chief guest.



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

CRRF SECRETARIAT ESTABLISHED IN UGANDA

By Yona Tukundane, UNHCR



Hon. Musa Ecweru presiding over the first Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Steering Group meeting in Kampala

The State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Honorable Musa Ecweru presided over the first Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group meeting in Kampala on October 12, 2017, where the governance structure of the CRRF in Uganda was firmly established.

The meeting followed several months' work on different levels involving the UN, donors, NGOs and the government. Supported by UNHCR, the meeting brought together approximately 37 participants, including representatives from government, national and international NGO's, refugee hosting district representatives and UN groups. A number of key issues were agreed upon, including the adoption of the Terms of References (TORs) of the CRRF Steering Group and the Secretariat, and the composition of the Steering Group. The CRRF Steering Group will

be led by the Government and facilitated by UNHCR. The membership includes national and district authorities (including elected officials), donors, development actors, humanitarian partners, the private sector and refugees. It will be the main policy making body for the CRRF in Uganda.



SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

STRONG UGANDA - UN COLLABORATION ON MANAGE DISASTER RISKS TO UNDERPIN NATION'S DEVELOPMENT

By Steve Goldfinch, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Rosa Malango, visited Uganda's National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC), housed at the Office of the Prime Minister's (OPM) Department of Disaster Preparedness and Management, to see first-hand the Centre and the support provided by the United Nations family in Uganda. Ms. Malango was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of OPM, Ms. Christine Kintu Guwatudde.

Hosting Ms. Malango, the Commissioner for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management Mr. Martin Owor highlighted the strong partnership between the Department and the United Nations, led by UNDP, in the establishment, operations and ongoing capacity building efforts. Mr. Owor noted, since its establishment in 2014, the Centre had received support from WFP through a 'GeoNetcast' ground station to enable real-time satellite data acquisition, from UNICEF through an interface of its U-Report mobile phone-based SMS system to enable direct messages from communities, and from UNDP through its sustained technical and financial support underpinning the Centre's operations.

Ms. Malango, noting that Uganda is leading Africa in establishing a centre of excellence to support both disaster management and risk-informed development, urged officials to continue to innovate and advance efforts to build Uganda's resilience to disaster risk by leveraging the knowledge and technical capacity the UN offers, both in Uganda and globally.

During the visit, Ms. Malango handed-over a compilation of hazard, risk and vulnerability maps UNDP supported OPM developed, aimed at providing district-level officials and communities with evidence to support better planning and investment decisions. Ms. Malango

also congratulated NECOC on its monthly 'National Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning Bulletin', available at www.necoc-opm.go.ug.



Ms. Rosa Malango, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, (in a maroon African wear) with senior officials at the Uganda's National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre in Kampala



SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

UNIDO WINS INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARD

By Judith Atim, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

UNIDO has been recognised for its efforts to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in Uganda.

During the 6th Business Summit Africa held at the Kampala Serena hotel on 14th October 2017,

UNIDO received the Innovation & Sustainable Development Award in recognition for the impact it has created in communities in Western Uganda through its Banana Livelihoods Diversification Project.

The project which is being implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is supporting over 500 people involved in the Banana Agribusiness value chain in eight districts in Western Uganda.

Speaking at the event, UNIDO Country Representative Mr. Bruno Otto Tokwiny emphasized that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is one of the most effective ways to eradicate poverty.

Mr. Otto who was the keynote speaker made a presentation titled "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world: the role of Industrialization."

He said that an early focus on labour-intensive and export-oriented industries accompanied by structural transformation towards manufacturing industries, is one of the most effective ways to eradicate poverty.



UNIDO's Rebecca Nanjala and Faith Akiror receive a plaque from the CEO of Primehouse Consulting Mr. Nicholas Ogola at the 2017 Business Summit Africa. UNIDO got special recognition in the category of Innovation and Sustainable Development

“In the past decades and until now, rapid industrialization has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, by providing them with jobs and an income. Yet progress has been uneven and many remain stuck in a poverty trap, particularly in areas where industrialization levels remain low or have stagnated,” he said.

This he added, highlights how inclusive and sustainable industrial development is key to poverty reduction efforts and to ensure that “no one is left behind” by 2030.

“The achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrialization (SDG 9) enables sustained economic growth, the creation of decent jobs and income (SDG 8); it helps reduce poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2) and inequalities (SDG 5 and 10), while improving health and well-being (SDG 3), increasing resource and energy efficiency (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12) and reducing greenhouse gas and other polluting emissions, including from chemicals (SDG 13, 14, 15). UNIDO, as the only entity of the United Nations mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, has extensive knowledge and technical experience in these areas,” he said.



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

CELEBRATING CIYOTA’S NOMINATION FOR THE UNHCR NANSEN REFUGEE AWARD

By Yona Tukundane, UNHCR

On Friday 20 October UNHCR staff, including Deputy Representative Kemlin Furley, joined refugees in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement to celebrate refugee youth-led organisation CIYOTA’s nomination for the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.

The prestigious humanitarian award was established in 1954, in memory of the first High Commissioner for Refugees, Fridtjof Nansen, and honours the commitment and dedication of those who support people displaced by war and conflict.



CIYOTA members raise the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award certificate handed to them by UNHCR Deputy Representative Kemlin Furley on behalf of the UNHCR High Commissioner, Filippo Grandi

COBURWAS (Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Sudan) International Youth Organisation to Transform Africa (CIYOTA), founded by young refugees of different nationalities in the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement in Uganda. Its mission is to transform the lives of young refugees, particularly girls, through education. The group first aided unaccompanied minors and conducted lessons themselves. Their activities quickly evolved, supporting primary and secondary education, securing scholarships to institutions worldwide and creating livelihoods programmes. CIYOTA is now an established NGO with a global reputation for excellence, led entirely by young refugees.



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI OPENS NATIONAL DATA FORUM

By Umar Weswala, UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

The High Level National Data Forum for Uganda was organised by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) with support from the United Nations in Uganda, USAID and Development Initiatives.

It is one of the five events that were organised to mark this year's African Statistics week under the theme: *Leveraging the data revolution for national development.*

In his speech, read for him by the Second Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja, President Museveni saluted UBOS and the UN in Uganda for holding the Data Forum, the first of its kind in Uganda.

"I am pleased to be associated with the initiative of taking time to reflect on how we are measuring the different sectors of our economy," the President wrote in his speech.

He particularly commended the forum organizers for capitalizing on the ongoing data revolution to spark development in Uganda and encouraged them to borrow lessons from the NRM revolution which he says sparked off wide spread economic development in Uganda.

"We have the resolve, capacity and opportunity to use evidence, through collecting and harnessing data," the President assured the nation.

Mr. Ben Paul Mungyereza, the UBOS Executive Director believes Uganda has all the right reasons to celebrate the African Statistics week because the country has made great strides in revolutionizing data.

"We are talking about revolutionized data. With data you do things better, you do things in ways that you were not doing them before," he told participants.



Group photo of delegates with the Second Deputy Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja in short sleeved shirt seated. Photo ©Evelyn Kiapi/UNFPA Uganda

Embracing the Data Revolution

Mr. Mungyereza said that Uganda is doing well in as far as statistical production is concerned and this is one of the reasons why in 2000, Uganda started celebrating a week rather than a day of African Statistics. "Uganda has long series of statistical data that is comparable to none

in the region," he said.

Mr. Alain Sibenaler, speaking on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda Ms. Rosa Malango said that with new technology, data is becoming bigger, faster and more detailed than ever before. "We are indeed in a data revolution which we must embrace and do things in a different way," he told participants. "In the UN, we believe that Uganda has an opportunity to achieve its transformational revolution, to embrace its national development plan and the Vision 2040 by linking the digital dividend with the demographic dividend."

The African Statistics Day is commemorated annually on 18th November with the objective of continuously raising awareness about the importance and use of statistics in the economic and social development on the continent.

We wish you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year

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