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NEWSLETTER



UN-Eni Partnership Provides Safe Water For IDPs And Host Communities In North-East Nigeria



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Adamawa State Government's Chief of Staff, Prof. Maxwell Gidado (with the microphone) commissions one of the five (5) water schemes at Koh Community in Yola, Adamawa state. On his right is the State Commissioner for Water Resources, Hassan Kaigama; and the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mrs Dorothy Augustine. Others on his left is the Girei Local Area Chairman, Judah Hamisa; FAO's Representative in Nigeria and to ECOWAS, Mr. Fred Kafeero, and FAO's Programme Officer, Usman Abdullahi.

Others in attendance at the function included Adamawa State Government Commissioner for Water Resources, Hassan Kaigama, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mrs Dorothy Augustine and Girei Local Area Chairman, Judah Hamisa, among others.

Water has remained the most sought after commodity on earth, as massive quantities are required to feed into the daily needs of human beings and environmental sustainability. In most conflict-affected communities in north-east Nigeria, water scarcity affects both domestic and agricultural needs of the people.

Prof. Gidado said that the water project was one of the many interventions in the state that are supported by FAO and other development partners.

In its efforts to ensure access to safe water for the people, the Federal Government of Nigeria requested development partners operating in the country to support the presidential initiative to assist the displaced people and their host communities in the north-east region by supporting the drilling of wells.

On his side, Mr. Kafeero pointed out that the project is geared towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those aimed at eradicating poverty; hunger; ensuring clean water and sanitation; climate action and on fostering public-private partnerships.

Eni, through its Nigerian subsidiary, Nigerian Agip Exploration with Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation as the concessionaire, is one of development partners that positively and timely responded to the call. So far Eni has drilled and commissioned more than 20 boreholes in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states and the Federal Capital Territory in Abuja with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

According to him, the use of water for domestic and agriculture needs of households is one sure way to achieve enhanced food security, nutrition and ultimately zero hunger.

In Adamawa state alone, over 20,000 internally displaced people and their host communities are benefiting from five (5) water schemes sited in Dong, Garkida, Koh, Kikang, and Tudun Wada Bazza communities.

A special event for handing-over and commissioning the water points was recently held at Koh community in Girei Local Government Area in Yola, Adamawa State. It was presided over by the Adamawa State Executive Governor Alhaji Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Prof. Maxwell Gidado. The FAO Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Fred Kafeero, was also present.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Institutionalising Social Protection Through The Establishment Of Regional SDG Innovation Hubs



Group Photograph of dignitaries at the zonal consultative meeting.

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is facilitating the establishment of SDG Innovation Hubs across the country.

On October 28, 2021, the Joint OSSAP-SDGs - UNDP Team concluded the zonal level consultative phase towards the establishment of the proposed SDG Innovation Hubs. The six selected states include *Sokoto* (North-West), *Gombe* (North-East), *Enugu* (South-East), *Delta* (South-South), *Lagos* (South-West) and *Nasarawa* (North-Central). The consultations in the six geo-political zones were conducted in close partnership with the identified State SDG Offices. These states were selected based on predisposing conditions, such as well-established framework for social protection; robust SDGs implementation mechanisms; accessibility and levels of security challenges. All six identified focal states have committed to providing their SDG offices for the establishment of the zonal innovation hubs.

The SDG Innovation Hubs will serve as a coordinating platform and resource centre on SDGs implementation and innovation for the respective geo-political zones. Due to Nigeria's diversity, as well as structural challenges faced by sub-national SDG offices, the hubs will focus on the use of innovation and technology to drive and showcase solutions that address some contextual developmental challenges within the zones. Thus, the hubs are expected to develop innovative solutions using social protection to overcome bottlenecks and expand financing options capable of fast-tracking the achievement of the SDGs.

To effectively establish and sustain the SDG Innovation

Hubs, the commitment of key private sector actors is crucial, especially in mobilizing expertise and financial resources in support of the hubs. During the zonal consultations, the commitment of the organized private sector was secured. For instance, in Lafia, the Nasarawa state capital, where the sixth stakeholder consultation was held with key stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and the media, ASG Solar Tech Limited made a commitment to train 1,300 youth on solar energy infrastructure and repairs across the state, in addition to pledging to provide solar energy technology to power the North-Central SDG Innovation Hub. Likewise, in Delta state - Dennis Osadebe University, Asaba pledged to offer their premises towards the establishment of the SDG Learning Centre for the zone.

This initiative is one of the components of the UN Joint Programme on Institutionalizing Social Protection for Accelerated SDG Implementation in Nigeria - a two-year programme targeted at strengthening social protection in Nigeria. This joint programme is being implemented by four UN Agencies: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF); International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and World Food Programme (WFP) - with each agency having a specific component towards realizing the overall outcomes.

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals has the mandate to coordinate the overall implementation of the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels. This includes advocacy; partnership development; resource mobilisation; and monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, safeguard the planet, and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity by the year 2030.



North-West Nigeria: Free Health Insurance Scheme Boosts Access To Health Services



Hajiya Hammatu Yusuf, Special Adviser to Sokoto State Governor on the State's Health Contributory Insurance Agency, presents a health insurance scheme card to a beneficiary.

was present when 270 women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities from four local communities received their health insurance cards at the Gumbi Primary Healthcare Centre. He said the people of the village are now happy they can have unhindered access to health services.

"In this village, some people can't afford to go to the hospital when sick because they have no money. When we had a cholera outbreak, we needed medical help and got some, but it wasn't enough because many of our people didn't have money to pay their health bills. We are relieved that help has now come," said Farouk A. Gumbi, 31, a spokesperson for the Village Head of Gumbi.

When 35-year-old Rubabatu Lauwali, mother of four, lost her teaching job, her loss of income meant she couldn't afford basic things in life, including paying for healthcare services for herself and her children.

But all that has now changed. Lauwali recently became a beneficiary of an insurance scheme for vulnerable families funded by the UN Sustainable Development Programme (SDG) Joint Fund. The programme is being implemented in Sokoto State, north-west Nigeria, as a pilot.

A total of 5,500 people will eventually benefit from the health insurance scheme. Out of this number, 5,344 have so far been enrolled in the programme.

"When I first learned about the scheme, I wasn't enthusiastic about coming forward to enroll because I didn't believe it was going to be real. But now that I have my enrolment slip in my hands, I'm convinced and feel happy to be taking part," said Lauwali.

"I've been told that I can visit the clinic anytime I'm sick and present this card and I'll be treated without having to pay anything," said Lauwali, waving her health insurance card.

Amina Hassan, 30, a mother of six children, also expressed relief and joy that she and her children have been enrolled in the free health insurance scheme and can now benefit from health services without paying for them.

"Before, it was difficult for me and my children to access medical services because of our family's lean finances. My father had to come in at one time to help off-set a medical expense of 15,000 Naira. Being enrolled in this scheme is a big relief for all of us," said Hassan.

Mallam Abubakar Mualledi, the Village Head of Gumbi,

"My advice to families is that they should keep their insurance cards very well and turn up at the clinic with them anytime they are sick. With free health services guaranteed under this scheme, they have no excuse anymore not to go to the hospital when sick," said Farouk.

Hammatu Yusuf, Special Adviser to the Sokoto State Governor on the State's Health Contributory Insurance Agency, expressed appreciation for the free health insurance scheme now available to local families, saying she would advocate to the Sokoto State Government to replicate the scheme in all LGAs of the State.

"We will also work with community and traditional leaders, and the media, to raise awareness with communities about the importance of taking advantage of all the services provided under this scheme," said Yusuf.

Isah Ibrahim, Social Policy Specialist at the UNICEF Sokoto Field Office, who represented the UN at the distribution of the health insurance cards in Gumbi, also stressed the importance of community members taking advantage of the benefits of being enrolled in the scheme and going to the hospital with evidence of their enrollment to access services.

Funds for the scheme are provided by the Joint SDG Fund, which is helping support four UN agencies - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF - to carry out the project.

The two-year UN joint programme, which started in January 2020, aims to strengthen social protection at the federal level in Nigeria, and to contribute to expanding cash transfer and universal health insurance schemes to improve social protection in Sokoto State, especially among vulnerable groups.



UN Advocates For Sokoto State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (SOCHEMA), Trains Management Staff On Technical Preparedness



A group Photograph of participants at the training to enhance capacity of the agency management staff on healthcare financing, technical preparedness, and leadership and management.

Through funding received from the One UN SDG Fund, United Nations agencies are implementing a joint programme - "Institutionalizing Social Protection for Accelerated SDG Implementation in Nigeria" -, to strengthen social protection in Nigeria. The participating agencies are ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP. The programme aims to strengthen the right-based approach to social protection by supporting the institutionalization and legislation of Nigeria's social protection system.

The programme aims to generate impact by combining the policy and legal framework, building capacities, and implementing tangible interventions focusing on innovative financing mechanisms for greater access to social protection, health, and nutrition for vulnerable groups with Sokoto State as the pilot State.

To ensure universal health coverage for all residents of Sokoto state and the operationalization of the Sokoto state contributory healthcare management scheme, In October 2021, The International Labour Organization (ILO) organize training to enhance capacity of the agency management staff on healthcare financing, technical preparedness, and leadership and management. The objective of the exercise is to acquaint the participants with the operational guidelines of the agency, Roles, and responsibilities of each department and how each department contributes to the achievement of legal and effective health coverage for all, social health protection, Health Financing and the overview of the scheme as anchored in the law that establishes the agency.

During the opening of the training , the Technical Assistant and the representative of the Special Adviser to the Governor of Sokoto State. Dr. Abubakar M. Sokoto commended the ILO and

stated the importance of the training. The training is needed at a time like this, where the scheme is yet fully operational. At the end of the training, I expect the agency's management staff to have enhanced capacity needed to operationalize the scheme. Naturally, we will continue to advocate for the release of the equity fund and the deduction of contribution from the civil servant salary. Still, while we await all these, we would like to start with the enrolment of the informal sector. The sector constitutes the more significant part of the state workforce.

During the training, participants identified the operational steps, requirements, and challenges that hinder the scheme's operationalization. The Head of Program. Dr. Abubakar Alhassan. Identify communication and awareness as part of the responsibilities of the department he currently heads. The operational next step needed for communications includes engagement meetings with stakeholders to sensitize them about the scheme, Collaboration with media houses to further educate the populace about the program's benefit, the flexible payment arrangement, and payment with produce harvested if farmers are unable to convert same to cash. Dr. Abubakar also indicated a need to constitute a verification team and develop a verification tool to ensure that enrolled beneficiaries are well captured.

The team was trained by the ILO Health technical specialist based in Geneva, Ms. Mathilde Mailfert and Mubarak Ahmed, with the support of Segun Tekun, National Project Officer. Speaking at the training, Ms. Mathilde hopes that the training will enhance the team's capacity and provide the guidance needed to operationalize the scheme. The next step from this training is to ensure that each departmental head develops a concept note detailing the department's concrete planned actions.



Spotlight Initiative



EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls

UN Trains Forum of Women In Film And TV On Advocacy To End GBV



A group Photograph of Professionals from the Nigerian Forum of Women in Film and Television International and UN Women Experts. Photo Credit-UNWomen-Faremi Lanre

UN Women, under the EU-UN joint Spotlight initiative, conducted a 2-day training for Women in Film and Television International, Nigerian Chapter. The training with women professionals from the Film/ TV Industry provided them with important methods of advocating for the elimination of Violence against Women and Girls and the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill.

Hon. Senator Biodun Olujimi commended UN Women for this initiative, as she said, "It is imperative that we constantly engage with the industry because it possesses a grand outlet with all the tools to roll out timely, relevant and accurate products relating to our message in the Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill. Equally important is the fact that we still also need to collectively, in collaboration with Nollywood, advocate for an end to Gender-based Violence in our communities".

"As a creative industry, there is limitless space to design and release products embedded with information and visuals about violence against girls and women and to also create products that propagate will gender equality in Nigeria".

UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Comfort Lamptey in her keynote address said, "Women will be collaborating with senior leaders of WIFTI, Nigeria Chapter, to leverage on the momentum towards the second reading of the GEOB, as well as the 16 days of Activism to launch this network.

She said that the collaboration will position the network to advocate for an increase in women's political representation and address violence against women and girls as women in film and television and the wider society, adding that the collaboration will also seek to leverage on WIFTI's convening power to support the film and TV industry to structure products to champion gender equality in Nigeria.

"The workshop will serve as a platform to increase awareness of the Bill and garner support toward its's successful passage. In the same vein, the workshop will focus on advocacy around ending gender-based violence and violence against women and girls, looking at concepts of gender in Nigeria as well as effec-

tively integrating key advocacy messages, transformative storylines and powerful portrayal of women and girls in TV, film, and media.

The Chair, WIFTI Nigeria Chapter, Ms Ajoke Silva said WIFTI is convening alongside UN Women through the Spotlight Initiative to let people within the entertainment industry and women understand the gender issues and all that is behind the Gender and Equal opportunity Bill.

The Veteran filmmaker said the reason for the workshop is to educate other filmmakers on the issues of gender and the equal opportunity bill which can be injected into their works and messages.

"Most of the people in the room are writers, directors and producers. Most of them work behind the scenes but they are the people who put together the project, the performance they present to the public. The performers are the faces of the project that these people put together. So, the strategy is to let the people who actually craft the messaging understand the issues behind the message." she said.



Nigeria Joins The World To Mark 2021 World Food Day



Women from Koh community in Adamawa drawing water immediately after the launch of the water scheme. Photo Credit ©FAO/Emmanuel Kihale

Nigeria joined the world in celebrating the World Food Day for 2021, commemorated in more than 150 countries globally making it one of the most celebrated days in the UN calendar.

Hundreds of events and outreach activities brought together governments, businesses, NGOs, the media, and general public. These activities promoted worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all.

On Friday October 15, 2021 the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Dr. Mohammad Mahmood Abubakar held a ministerial press conference in Abuja as part of the activities for celebrating the World Food Day (WFD) 2021 in Nigeria.

During the event, Hon. Dr. Abubakar outlined the various efforts by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, in ensuring food security and nutrition in the country. He also appreciated development partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for their support in realizing that goal.

In his remarks at the event, FAO Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Fred Kafeero, said that WFD (October 16) every year is an important day since it is when FAO was born.

According to him, as a specialized Agency of the United Nations on agriculture, FAO is committed to support its member countries including Nigeria in improving agriculture and food production in order to achieve food security, nutrition for all and environmental sustainability.

The year's theme 'Our actions are our future. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life' is aimed at raising awareness on the need for supporting the trans-

formation of a more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

The activities provided a platform for the government, the UN and its Agencies, private sector, development partners, civil society and academia to reflect on UN's work in the past 76 years towards food security and nutrition.

They promoted interaction and affirmation of further actions for improving agriculture, food security and nutrition in the country. Besides, they were meant to reiterate FAO and UN's commitment for supporting Nigeria in collaboration with development partners to ensure that the country attains Zero Hunger by 2030 through joint efforts.

FAO in Nigeria led preparations and holding of a series of activities in the week leading up to the day in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), United Nations Information Centre, Office of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Food Programme and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

They ranged from a joint ministerial press conference in Abuja to launch the week-long celebrations, commissioning and handing-over of water points to internally displaced people and their host communities in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, to handing over of IT equipment to FMARD and Kano, Adamawa, Lagos and Cross River states together with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to support food security and nutrition-related SDGs monitoring.

Others included the signing of a Technical Cooperation Programme between FAO and Ministry of Water Resources to support drip irrigation farming in Nigeria, a field visit and awarding best performers in the School Gardening Project, a high-level panel discussion and participation in the national agricultural show, among other activities.

Food Ration Cuts Loom In North-East As Severe Hunger Reaches 5-Year High



Newly arrived women and mothers attend a WFP famine assessment and nutritional needs exercise in an IDP camp in Bama, Borno state in North-Eastern Nigeria. Photo: WFP Nigeria/Siegfried Modola

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warns that it may soon be forced to cut food rations to more than half a million women, men and children in north-eastern Nigeria unless urgent funding is secured to continue life-saving operations in crisis-ridden Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states.

The cuts would come just as severe hunger reaches a five-year high in the country in the wake of years of conflict and insecurity – a situation that has been worsened by the socio-economic fallout from COVID-19, high food prices and limited food supply. Moreover, the number of internally-displaced surpassed two million in September 2021 – reaching another grim milestone.

“Cutting rations means choosing who gets to eat and who goes to bed hungry. We are seeing funding for our life-saving humanitarian work dry up just at the time when hunger is at its most severe,” said Chris Nikoi, WFP’s Regional Director for West Africa following a recent visit to Nigeria.

If at least US\$ 55 million is not received in a matter of weeks, WFP will have no choice but to cut food rations and reduce the number of people it serves – where assistance is already prioritized for the most vulnerable – as early as November.

“Our food assistance is a lifeline for millions whose lives have been upended by conflict and have almost nothing to survive on. We must act now to save lives and avoid disruptions to this lifeline,” Nikoi added.

The number of internally displaced people – people forced to flee their homes in search for safety - in northeast Nigeria has been rising steadily and reached a new all-time high of over 2 million in September 2021, while current food security analyses show that 4.4 million people in northeast Nigeria do not know where their next meal is coming from. Additionally, over 1 million children are malnourished.

Continued attacks on communities by non-state armed groups, harsh lean season conditions amid an economy dealing with the fallout from the COVID-19, high food prices and a severe reduction in household purchasing power – all contribute to a bleak outlook for the most vulnerable people in northeast Nigeria.

Despite increasing needs, WFP may soon be unable to sustain life-saving operations in conflict-riddled north-eastern Nigeria. Without additional resources, the food assistance agency will run out of funds for emergency food distribution and nutrition support by the end of October 2021.

“Cutting food assistance will be a painful decision for humanitarian as it will negatively affect children, women and men uprooted from their homes due to continued violence” said Edward Kallon, United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria. “As we call upon our partners to step up their support in response to the growing needs, I would like to say thank you to those who have stood with us over the years in providing the much-needed humanitarian assistance in the country.”

For five years, WFP has provided life-saving food and nutrition assistance to severely food insecure people, displaced families in camps, and to vulnerable people living in host communities thanks to generous contributions from Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the United States of America, and private donors.

This year, relying on the continued generosity of donor partners, WFP ramped up its response to address rising food insecurity and the impact of COVID-19, targeting 1.9 million displaced people in Nigeria with life-saving food assistance. To sustain humanitarian operations in northeast Nigeria until March 2022, WFP urgently requires USD 197 million.

Saving Baby Iliya

To save her sick child, a mother defies all odds to access nutrition services at a UNICEF-supported centre in Maiduguri

When Aisha Garba's 13-month-old son Iliya stopped eating and developed a fever, she realized he needed urgent medical help. However, with the nearest facility in Maiduguri, north-east Nigeria a dangerous 196-kilometre journey from her home in the fishing town of Baga, she struggled to find transportation.

"The area is very insecure and there were no escorts for several days. No vehicle could leave Baga without escorts, so I kept going back to check," she said.

With insecurity rife on the roads, the route to Maiduguri had been dangerous and difficult for months. With each passing day, Garba worried that the worst could happen to her son. Fortunately, she was finally successful.

"I was lucky on the fourth day after he started to get sick, when there were escorts. The journey cost N6,000, which my husband borrowed from his friends at the fish market. But nothing compares to my son's life," said Garba.

Iliya arrived at the Umaru Shehu Hospital Stabilization Centre in Maiduguri extremely weak and malnourished. He weighed a mere 6.4 kg and measured just 10.5 cm on the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tape. A healthy child of the same age should weigh between 9 and 10 kg and have an upper-arm measurement of at least 12.5 cm.

He came in with a high fever and a stomach massively distended. He was severely malnourished, passing loose stools and had a bad cough," said Dr. Umami Saleh Galadima, the physician in charge of the Centre.

Opened in 2015, the UNICEF-supported facility caters to children with severe acute malnutrition. Patients are referred from outpatient therapeutic centres and health facilities in internally displaced persons' camps and communities across Borno State in north-east Nigeria.

With funding from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UNICEF provides free life-saving treatment for children aged 6 months to 5 years with severe acute malnutrition in dozens of stabilization centres across north-east Nigeria. The support includes laboratory tests, treatment with ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), medical equipment, and three daily meals for mothers throughout the course of their child's treatment. Families are also given 'discharge rations' of rice, beans and oil.

Aisha Garba initially thought her son was suffering from a teething problem, but his situation was much more serious.

"He had lost appetite and there was no neck control. He couldn't sit up at all," said Dr. Galadima. "We placed him on anti-malarial and anti-bacterial drugs. He had protein and energy deficiencies, but we couldn't immediately place him on the nutrient-dense ready-to-use therapeutic food until he was stabilized. We had to place him on F-75, a milk-based therapeutic solution instead. Once he regains sufficient strength and the stooling stops, we will place him on RUTF."

As most in Borno State are farmers or fishers, increasing cases of severe child malnutrition come with planting seasons, when food items are scarce and sales of farm products are low.

But Dr. Galadima said the number of cases and their severity are getting worse. "The number of cases we had in August were the highest since I started work here," she said.

"Seventy percent of admitted children present with a history of diarrhoea and vomiting and the cases keep increasing every year. Almost all the children are from displaced families who have deserted their farmlands because of insecurity. And the mothers too are malnourished and without jobs. Sometimes I ask myself if we have truly exited the acute emergency phase," she said.

While Iliya has regained neck control and is gradually recovering at the stabilization centre, Dr. Galadima fears that other children who have difficulty accessing the centre quickly might not be so lucky.

"I am a mother, sometimes I cry"

The doctor has worked at the centre since 2016, over which time the number of beds has increased from 24 to 30 to accommodate rising admission rates.

"We still have to send babies back for lack of bed space, even as of this morning," she said. "As we discharge babies, there are others waiting to take up the beds.

There are months where we have over 120 cases admitted."

Between October 2020 and August 2021, the Centre recorded more than 1,000 severe acute malnutrition cases and nine deaths.

Dr. Galadima often switches with other doctors at the 50-bed Mas-hamari Stabilization Centre located at the other end of town. She says the situation there is similar, with beds constantly full.

"This is my fifth year here," said Dr. Galadima, her voice barely rising over the din of crying babies and busy mothers. "We have to eradicate poverty, and well-to-do Nigerians must rise to the occasion. We must stop insurgency and deal with the issue of family planning and child spacing. This is very important."

Walking back to Iliya's bedside, Dr. Galadima said she wishes mothers would emulate Aisha Garba, who defied all odds to seek help for baby.

"Instead of bringing their children to the hospital early, most parents delay at home, giving local concoctions to their children. Sometimes the children arrive when it is too late. This can be very traumatizing. I am a mother; sometimes I cry. Losing a patient to follow up is also never easy. You will be forever wondering if the child survived," she said.

According to the World Health Organization, undernutrition, a dangerous form of malnutrition, is linked to 45 per cent of child mortality cases globally. Wasting (children being too thin for their height) and stunting (children too short for their age) are two key forms of malnutrition in children under five.

With a national prevalence rate of 37 per cent, Nigeria has the second highest burden of stunted children in the world. Most affected are children in north-east Nigeria, which bears the brunt of the protracted conflict that has robbed millions of families of their primary source of livelihood - farming. Experts say that a combination of food insecurity, measles and diarrhoea are some of the factors driving the latest spike in severe acute malnutrition cases in the region.

According to the Food and Nutrition Surveillance System report conducted in September 2021, the worsening malnutrition situation is similar to pre-emergency levels of 2016 across north-east Nigeria and in Yobe State even worse than pre-emergency levels. Worse, the report noted rising admission cases, even though there were 15 per cent fewer reporting sites compared to the previous year. The sad implication is that the gains of emergency programmes have been wiped away.

"It is a challenging situation," said Phuong T. Nguyen, UNICEF Chief of Field Office in Maiduguri, north-east Nigeria. "We will continue to support children with the services they need to survive and thrive. We came out of this crisis before and we will work hard to attain that normalcy again. We are partnering with the government and we hope that security will improve to allow life-saving services to reach more children currently living in inaccessible areas."



Free movement Of People, Top Priority - ECOWAS Member States

Free movement of people and goods, and fighting human trafficking should be top policy priorities, members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) agreed at talks convened with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Network for Migration and the African Union.

Three days of consultations in Abuja this week offered the first chance for ECOWAS members to collectively assess progress in implementing the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives and to decide key recommendations to be put to next year's International Migration Review Forum.

Integrated migration governance should be a key goal and Amrose Dery, Minister of Interior for Ghana, the Chair of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of States and Governments, said it was essential African nations addressed trafficking in persons and its devastating consequences on migrants.

"Vile stories on international media concerning migrant slavery, as well as mistreatment of young African domestic helps in some Gulf States, call for a reflection on appropriate actions to be taken with a view to finding a lasting solution to this persistent problem that leads to the loss of young Africans, without whom the continent cannot build a prosperous and peaceful future," Dery said. "In Ghana, the contribution of migrants has played a great role in shaping our national development."

Governments must address the root causes of trafficking and ensure the free movement of people in a safe, orderly and dignified manner. ECOWAS representatives emphasized the need to join forces and align approaches to prevent and counter smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons to promote rights-based management of migration.



The meeting, which ended Thursday, also heard that policies must be effectively applied by border officials to ease free movement while combatting trafficking in persons.

Aissata Kane, IOM's Senior Regional Adviser for Sub Saharan Africa, said the Global Compact for Migration was a landmark, multilateral document. "It aims to catalyze and boost combined support and assistance for addressing legal and humanitarian challenges of migration and foster its positive social, cultural and economic dividends within and outside the ECOWAS region."

IOM has been working with all stakeholders at intergovernmental and national levels, as well as within the UN Network for Migration, to promote safe, orderly and dignified free movement of people and economic exchange among ECOWAS Member States.

IOM celebrates Two decades of Impact to People of Nigeria

In 2001 the first stranded Nigerian migrants from Rome, Italy returned home safely with assistance by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), marking the beginning of IOM's work in Nigeria. Today, IOM through its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme has assisted the return of more than 22,500 migrants from 20 countries across North Africa, Middle East and Europe.

IOM commenced operations twenty years ago, upon the signing of the Cooperation Agreement with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The agreement permits IOM to implement programmes in Nigeria related to the migration of persons and provision of humanitarian aid.

From a hand-counted team in early 2001, IOM Nigeria has grown into a 1,500-strong mission, with presence in five locations (Abuja, Benin City, Lagos, Maiduguri and Yola) and is among the biggest IOM Missions on the continent and one of the biggest UN Agencies in Nigeria.

"I am proud of my colleagues in Nigeria, who have worked tirelessly and tenaciously, some at the frontlines, in an ever-changing working environment with passion and ingenuity to support the Federal Government of Nigeria respond to the needs of its people," said IOM Chief of Mission Frantz Celestin. IOM's emergency programming portfolio is diverse spanning from emergency response, transition and recovery to migration management and migration data.

As of September 2021, more than 1.5 million individuals benefitted from IOM WASH, shelter, non-food items, livelihoods, camp coordination and management interventions and various Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services and activities in the North-east. IOM operates and manages two of the enablers to the humanitarian efforts in the region, the Humanitarian hubs, which provide a safe space for all humanitari-



an actors in the deep field and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) which is responsible for determining trends and patterns of mobility, the characteristics and

needs of the affected populations.

"IOM has been very strategic to the humanitarian response in the North-east. They are the key players and leaders in establishment of the Humanitarian hubs. They are playing a critical role in providing that space for humanitarian actors to be able to respond in a very complex operational environment," said Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator during a video interview with IOM.

In 2021, more than 4,800 aid workers from 135 organizations utilised all nine humanitarian hubs and their vital services. As a result of the unprecedented challenges in sustaining and delivering quality health care during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, IOM offered its medical laboratories and staff to support the establishment of the UN Severe Acute Respiratory Isolation and Treatment Facility. To date, over 7,500 individuals from UN agencies and the diplomatic community have used the testing and facilities in Abuja, Lagos and Maiduguri for diagnostic and travel purposes.

IOM Nigeria's footprint in the country has expanded considerably in the past 20 years with generous support from more than 20 donors and development partners.

"IOM has the power to continue changing people's lives, changing attitudes and realities. We are really looking forward to continue working with IOM," said Cecile Tassin-Pelzer, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS during a video interview with IOM.

Collaboration Among Arms Of Government To End Violence Against Women And Girls In Edo State

Ending Gender-Based violence was paramount in deliberations among High court judges and judicial officers as Governor Godwin Obaseki declared open UN Women's Sensitization and Capacity Building Workshop on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Edo State.

Under the UN Women and Italian Government Programme on Preventing Forced Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls in Nigeria, a Sensitization and Capacity Building Workshop was carried out with High Court Judges and Judicial Officers of Edo State to deepen their knowledge on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence issues in Edo State and to also ensure their actions are in line with International Best Practices.

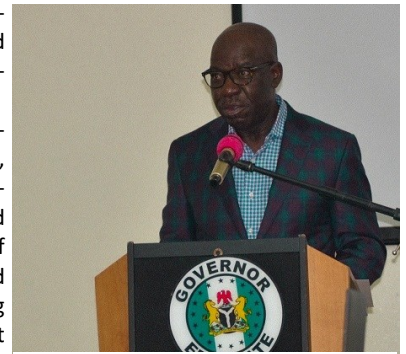
UN Women Country Representative, Ms Comfort Lamptey, in her opening remarks, welcomed the Governor and dignitaries present, stating, "following two high-level trainings for the members of the State level GBV Committee to support the implementation of the Amended VAPP Act which held in August and September, UN Women deemed the importance of a capacity building workshop for members of the Judicial system in Edo State, which is why we are here today".

"The Judicial branch is crucial to support the implementation of the VAPP Act and the sustainability of all efforts made by key stakeholders to ensure a victim-centred approach during trials. We expect to provide a solid basis for the responsiveness from all the arms of the Government to facilitate prevention, protection,

prosecution and partnerships concerning GBV and trafficking issues in Nigeria".

The Deputy Representative of the Italian Embassy, Mr Tarek Chazli appreciated the hospitality received from the Government of Edo State and commended Gov. Obaseki for signing the Amended VAPP Act into Law. He also stated that Italy appreciates the successful five years of partnership with the Edo State government in implementing several programmes and envisaged future collaborations due to the impact of this project in the state.

The importance of the workshop was at the pinnacle of messages from dignitaries present; the Governor declared the seminar open, reiterating his commitment to protect the rights of GBV victims. Governor Obaseki said, "In Edo State, we have tried to seek justice for survivors by strengthening the law and other related agencies, establishing approaches to grant justice to girls, women and vulnerable persons. I hope that efforts derived from this partnership will contribute to Edo State Government generating substantial results in eradicating GBV in the State".



Governor Godwin Obaseki giving his opening remarks at the GBV Sensitization workshop for high court judges and judicial officers in Edo

UN, WISCAR Call For Private Sector's Recommitment To Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

The Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) has been on the margins of engagements and commitments by private sector organizations in Nigeria. However, it is finally beginning to gain ground and recognition.

Under the Spotlight Initiative in partnership with Women in Successful Career (WISCAR), UN Women executed a Private Sector Leaders Forum on the Women's Empowerment Principles.

Introducing the WEPs to private sector leaders, Executive Director of WISCAR Ms Fabia Ogunmekan stated that empowering women across all sectors of the economy is crucial to building a resilient and just economy. That is why the WEPs - a joint initiative of the United Nations Global Compact and UN Women was established to empower women in the Workplace, the Marketplace, and the Community.

Founder and Chairperson of WISCAR, Mrs Amina Oyagbola, in her opening remarks, emphasized the need for private sector leaders to commit to the WEPs,

"Today's forum provides you and your organization an opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of why you should seriously consider becoming a signatory to the UN Women & UN United Nations Global Compact - Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and champion this cause".

Asks to participating companies was to sign up to the WEPs, as this would accelerate the achievement of the SDG5 before 2030. Those who are already WEP signatories continue to initiate and implement policies that achieve gender equality and women's empowerment across their organizations.

In her goodwill message, UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria Ms. Comfort Lamptey said, "credit to the private sector in Nigeria, as many women are in positions of senior leadership, we see this as a real opportunity to transform the state of



A group photograph of participants and resource persons

the representation in Nigeria's leadership - to make it more inclusive of women's perspectives and demonstrated capacities".

Ms. Lamptey stated that she believes the private sector is in a unique position to influence national policies that ensure women's rights and development, including the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB), which UN Women is supporting.

The event drew over 25 stakeholders for this engagement, such as General Electric, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Wema Bank, First Bank, Shell, Accion Microfinance Bank, Coca Cola, Business Day, Airtel, TVC News, Schneider Electric, Union Bank, Total, PZ Cussons and a host of other companies.

Participants stated how their organizations embed gender-inclusive and friendly policies into their business operations, such as the introduction of maternity leaves, mentorship programmes for women, among others.

The engagement concluded with remarks from WISCAR's founder Mrs. Oyagbola, "by being here today; you have demonstrated your commitment to serve for the betterment of others. We look forward to furthering productive discussions, towards the realization of our collective goal as espoused by UN Women Nigeria to build an inclusive and prosperous economy that works for all".

UN Releases The State Of The Climate In Africa 2020 Report

Changing precipitation patterns, rising temperatures and more extreme weather contributed to mounting food insecurity, poverty and displacement in Africa in 2020, compounding the socio-economic and health crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new multi-agency report coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The State of the Climate in Africa 2020 report provides a snapshot of climate change trends and impacts, including sea level rise and the melting of the continent's iconic glaciers. It highlights Africa's disproportionate vulnerability and shows how the potential benefits of investments in climate adaptation, weather and climate services and early warning systems far outweigh the costs.

Temperatures: The 30-year warming trend for 1991–2020 was higher than for the 1961–1990 period in all African subregions and significantly higher than the trend for 1931–1960. Africa has warmed faster than the global average temperature over land and ocean combined. 2020 ranked between the third and eighth warmest year on record for Africa, depending on the dataset used.

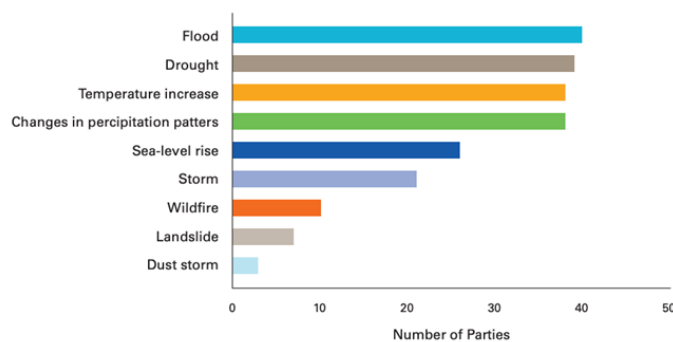
Sea level rise: The rates of sea-level rise along the tropical and South Atlantic coasts and Indian Ocean coast are higher than the global mean rate, at approximately 3.6 mm/yr and 4.1 mm/yr, respectively. Sea levels along the Mediterranean coasts are rising at a rate that is approximately 2.9 mm/yr lower than the global mean.

Glaciers: Presently, only three mountains in Africa are covered by glaciers – the Mount Kenya massif (Kenya), the Rwenzori Mountains (Uganda) and Mount Kilimanjaro (United Republic of Tanzania). Although these glaciers are too small to act as significant water reservoirs, they are of eminent touristic and scientific importance. Their current retreat rates are higher than the global average. If this continues, it will lead to total deglaciation by the 2040s. Mount Kenya is expected to be deglaciated a decade sooner, which will make it one of the first entire mountain ranges to lose glaciers due to human-induced climate change.

Precipitation: Higher-than-normal precipitation – accompanied by flooding - predominated in the Sahel, the Rift Valley, the central Nile catchment and north-eastern Africa, the Kalahari basin and the lower course of the Congo River. Dry conditions prevailed in the northern coast of the Gulf of Guinea and in north-western Africa and along the south-eastern part of the continent. The drought in Madagascar triggered a humanitarian crisis.

High impact events: There was extensive flooding across many parts of East Africa. Countries reporting loss of life or significant displacement of populations included the Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Nigeria (which also experienced drought in the southern part), Niger, Benin, Togo, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Burkina Faso. Many lakes and rivers reached record high levels, including Lake Victoria (in May) and the Niger River at Niamey and the Blue Nile at Khartoum (in September).

Food insecurity: The compounded effects of protracted conflicts, political instability, climate variability, pest outbreaks and economic crises, exacerbated by the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, were the key drivers of a significant increase in food insecurity. A desert locust invasion of historic proportions, which began in 2019, continued to have a major impact in East and the Horn of Africa in 2020. Food insecurity increases by 5–20 percentage points with each flood or drought in sub-Saharan Africa. Associated deterioration in health and in children's school attendance can worsen longer-term income and gender inequalities. In 2020, there was an almost 40% increase in



Hazards of greatest concern for the African Region. Source: WMO analysis of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of 53 countries in Africa

population affected by food insecurity compared with the previous year.

Displacement: An estimated 12% of all new population displacements worldwide occurred in the East and Horn of Africa region, with over 1.2 million new disaster-related displacements and almost 500 000 new conflict-related displacements. Floods and storms contributed the most to internal disaster-related displacement, followed by droughts.

Investments: In sub-Saharan Africa, adaptation costs are estimated at US\$ 30–50 billion (2–3% of regional gross domestic product (GDP)) each year over the next decade, to avoid even higher costs of additional disaster relief. Climate-resilient development in Africa requires investments in hydrometeorological infrastructure and early warning systems to prepare for escalating high-impact hazardous events.

Early warnings: Household surveys by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, the Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania found, among other factors, that broadening access to early warning systems and to information on food prices and weather (even with simple text or voice messages to inform farmers on when to plant, irrigate or fertilize, enabling climate-smart agriculture) has the potential to reduce the chance of food insecurity by 30 percentage points.

Adaptation: Rapid implementation of African adaptation strategies will spur economic development and generate more jobs in support of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuing the common priorities identified by the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan would facilitate the achievement of the continent's sustainable and green recovery from the pandemic while also enabling effective climate action.

The State of the Climate in Africa was released at a high-level event on 19 October which highlighted the need for urgent climate action in Africa and for coordination and implementation of weather, water and climate-related strategic frameworks to support the continent's socio-economic development.

Prof. Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary-General, H.E. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission and Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) all made opening statements which were followed by a high-level panel discussion. WMO wishes to thank all the international partners and individual experts who contributed. A full list is provided in the report State of the Climate in Africa 2020 (WMO-No. 1275).

UN Supports Government Of Nigeria To Convene National Conference On Employment Promotion



On the 12th and 13th of October 2021, the International Labour Organisation CO-Abuja, under the framework of the Promoting Employment in Nigeria 'PEN' Project, collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to convene a National Conference on Employment Promotion at the Sheraton Hotels, Abuja, Nigeria. The two days conference provided a platform for multi-level and multi-sectoral stakeholders to deliberate and canvass global best practices aimed at addressing employment and labour market reintegration in the post-COVID-19 era.

Opening the conference, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, represented by the Director of Employment and Wages Department of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment – Mr. John Nyamali – recognized the peculiarities of convening a conference during a time that the Country is managing the ongoing public health and the socio-economic crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that the challenges being experienced gave validation for a conference that would allow stakeholders to discuss the impact of the pandemic on employment as well as strategies in building back better. In furtherance, the Permanent Secretary assured social partners, stakeholders and development partners that the action plan that will emanate from this conference would inform the forthcoming review of the National Employment Policy (2017).

The Director of the ILO Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms. Vanessa Phala, called for the creation of opportunities to attract business activities and employment in the Nigerian economy following the impact of COVID-19. Commending employment stakeholders for their involvement and contributions in bringing different expertise and resources together, Ms. Phala encouraged relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to foster meaningful partnerships and collaboration without relenting. Noting the 2021 report of the National Bureau of Statistics, which pegged the current rate of unemployment in Nigeria is at 32.5%, The ILO Country Director implored employment stakeholders to adopt innovative and creative ways to combat unemployment, involving best practices. In the same vein, she emphasized the need to assist the transition from the informal to the formal economy, as well as build sustainable partnerships amongst Government and social partners.

Giving her remark, the representative of the German Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ambassador Birgitt Ory, reiterated that the issues to be discussed at the conference

were at the heart of Nigeria's economic growth. She informed the stakeholders of Germany's consolidated and strong long term partnership with Nigeria. She highlighted that the main objective of all German-Nigeria corporations was to foster the creation of employment, particularly for women and young Nigerians for sustainable growth, including initiatives to readmit and reintegrate returning migrants. She further encouraged all hands to be on deck, as the time to test partnerships had presented itself.

Similarly, the GIZ Country Director, Ms. Ina Hommers stated that GIZ had been focused on sustainable economic growth, sustainable economic development and employment creation which reflected the priorities of the Nigerian Government. In her remark, Ms. Hommers highlighted GIZ's bilateral corporations with international organizations and continually aims to build the capacities of beneficiaries through demand-oriented vocational training ventures while also supporting the Nigerian Government in creating an enabling environment for micro, small and medium enterprises.

Representing social partners, the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), (represented by Ms. Adenike Adebayo-Ajala, Deputy Director of the Association), the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), represented by the President, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) (represented by its 1st deputy president, Comrade Olanasoye Oyinkan) in their goodwill message all pledged support for government initiatives to improve employment in Nigeria, with particular focus on youth employment and formalisation of the informal economy. I

Delivering the Key Note Address, the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment Senator (Dr) Chris Nwabueze Ngige, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Dr. Tarfa Yerima, highlighted key initiatives launched by the Federal Government of Nigeria following the impact of COVID-19 including the approval of the N23 trillion Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan (NESP) in July 2020. Briefing participants, he said the programme sought to execute labour-intensive programmes in key areas like housing, roads, agriculture, facility maintenance, and direct labour interventions with local materials largely in use. He enjoined stakeholders to make committed contributions to the quest at hand.

Technical sessions of the Conference started by the ILO-led paper presentation titled – The Current state-of-play of Employment in Nigeria and Impact of COVID-19 on Labour Markets and Employment. The presentation evaluated the condition of the economic and labour market situation in Nigeria as well as strategies for job preservation/creation given the impact of COVID-19.

The Conference also provided an opportunity for stakeholders at the Federal and State level to deliberate on key areas of employment promotion systems including public employment services, labour market information systems and jobs exchanges, labour migration (impact of COVID-19 on the sustainable reintegration of return migrants), youth employment and best practices in employment promotion. The Conference ended with a capacity-building session on Designing and Implementing National Employment Policies headlined by the ILO CO-Abuja (under the Promoting Employment in Nigeria 'PEN Project') in collaboration with the Employment Policy Department of the ILO HQ.

Overall, technical sessions at the conference identified bottlenecks, challenges, success rates of past and ongoing employment initiatives and resolutions to indeed foster the implementation and promotion of employment at the national and sub-national levels in the post-COVID-19 era in Nigeria.

UN Volunteers Nigeria Empowers 450 Persons With Disabilities



A group Photograph of UNV participants in Project REACH, a capacity-building initiative for persons with disabilities.

UNV Nigeria successfully implemented Project REACH in Lagos State and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. Project REACH is a capacity-building initiative for persons with disabilities to execute sustainable community development initiatives that contribute to SDGs 3, 5, 6 and 10. Through this initiative, UNV support UN partners to expand diversity and inclusion of persons with disabilities in their workforce. The UNV Nigeria team led the implementation of Project REACH in partnership with UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNIC, Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) and Joint National Action of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD).

The Project commenced from 23rd to 25th August 2021 at Ifako Ijaye LGA. It concluded in the Federal Capital Territory from 20th to 21st October 2021 in 3 districts of Lokogoma, Central Business District and Asokoro Village, Abuja.

PROJECT REACH benefitted 450 persons with disabilities who were trained on Leadership, inclusive and transformative volunteerism. The training focused also on how they can become contributing members of their communities, and develop their leadership capacities to lead targeted SDGs-related community development initiatives. Trained participants facilitated and led community outreaches focusing on the prevention of sexual transmitted diseases including HIV, gender-based violence, and COVID-19 preventive measures.

Fifty women and girls with disabilities also benefitted from the 50 hygiene kits donated by UNFPA. The team distributed over 14,000 UNFPA-donated male and female condoms, reaching out to community leaders, market women, public bus drivers, small shop owners/traders etc. They also conducted sanitation activities in public schools, marketplaces and the streets. In contributing to a greener environment, 50 trees and flowers were planted where a representative of the group made the

following statement: "As a pledge to protect and beautify the environment and as well contribute to an improved climate, we are very happy to participate in the tree and flower planting, knowing that by this single act, we are making our environment greener and we are proud to know we are active contributors of the sustainable development goals".

Speaking on the two events: "persons with disabilities made commitments to become active volunteers in their various communities, they believe they have the capacities as one of the drivers of the SDGs and will continue to be advocates of ensuring that the world Leave No behind".

Globally, UNV programme is working to bring more qualified professionals with disabilities on board to contribute to development, peacekeeping and humanitarian challenges. In 2020, at least 71 UN Volunteer with disabilities were deployed with UN Agencies.



UN volunteers during a tree-planting exercise.

Strengthening Criminal Justice Response To Terrorism And Violent Extremism



A group Photograph of dignitaries at the launch of a User's Guide to the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011 (TPA) as amended by the Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 (TPAA) .

On 21 October the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, working in close partnership with the European Union Delegation and the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), launched a User's Guide to the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011 (TPA) as amended by the Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013 (TPAA) for use by law enforcement, security and judicial officials in their work to counter-terrorism in Nigeria.

The materials assembled by UN and Nigerian experts for the User's Guide are designed to serve as a quick and practical reference work for investigators, prosecutors, public defenders, and judges working in this complex field. The Guide sets out clearly the elements of each offence and the evidential standards that must be met to successfully secure a conviction under the provisions of the Act. It also explains in detail all of the ancillary powers set out in the Act.

Within the context of the EU-Nigeria-UNODC-CTED Partnership Project to Assist Nigeria to Strengthen Rule of Law-based Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism and Violent Extremism, UNODC has been actively supporting the work of the Complex Case Group of the Federal Ministry of Justice to help prosecutors prepare cases against suspected members of Boko Haram currently held in custody that can be presented before the Federal High Court. It has also been working with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON) to ensure that these defendants have opportunity to mount a proper defence, and with the judges of the Federal High Court who will adjudicate these cases. Promoting further legal education is an important aspect of this support.

Cécile Tassin-Pelzer, Head of Cooperation in the EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, commented: "The criminal justice system in Nigeria has made great strides in the past few years in

bringing suspected members of terrorist organizations to justice, but there is always room for improvement in this most challenging of arenas. It is our earnest hope that the User's Guide will greatly assist criminal justice professionals as they prepare their cases for court, and thus help to advance the swift and effective administration of justice for victims of terrorism."

Professor M. T. Ladan, Director General, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies added: "The risks and threats posed by terrorist activities require the adoption of proactive, integrated, multisectoral and multidimensional approaches to effectively combat it. It is, therefore, imperative for prosecutors, investigators and the Courts to understand and familiarise themselves with the provisions of the TPA, as amended."

Mr. Oliver Stolpe, Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, welcomed the launch of the User's Guide: "UNODC has been partnering with the European Union for almost ten years now to support the Nigerian's government's efforts to hold terrorists to account for their crimes, and the publication of this User's Guide is just one more in a series of initiatives to support that goal. We hope that the Guide we are launching today will help in the administration of swift and effective justice in this most critical of public arenas."



Nigeria Moves Towards Ratification Of ILO Convention C190

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment with a view to ensure wide spread acceptance and facilitate a smooth ratification of ILO Convention 190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), organised a stakeholders sensitization workshop as an integral part of the preliminary activities towards ratification of the convention.



A group photograph of dignitaries at the national stakeholders' sensitization workshop on ILO Convention 190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190)

The ILO supported the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment in organising a national stakeholders' sensitization workshop on ILO Convention 190 - Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) on 21 and 22 September 2021 at the Sandralia Hotel, Jabi, Abuja.

The Director, ILO Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala represented by the ILO Abuja Senior Programme Officer, Ms. Chinyere Emeka-Anuna speaking at the occasion of the sensitization congratulated the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and the social partners for organizing sensitization workshop for the relevant stakeholders.

Ms Vanessa stated that the year, 2019 was a significant year in the fight against Violence and Harassment especially the Gender Based Violence and to this end, the world took a stand on eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work with the adoption of the ILO's Violence and Harassment Convention No. 190 and its accompanying Recommendation No. 206. The Convention was adopted by the ILO Constituents - Governments, Workers and Employers' representatives, with a common agreement that violence and harassment are unacceptable and incompatible with decent work

She further stated that the Convention and Recommendation resulted from an in-depth process of tripartite inputs and negotiations, with not only Governments but also representatives of workers and employers at the table. Convention No. 190 provides an opportunity to show the value added of tripartism and its distinct contributions to the achievement of SDGs 5 and 8 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In addition, Convention No. 190 offers a strategic opportunity to create a new paradigm and make the current COVID-19 responses and recovery an opportunity to build forward a better world of work based on dignity and respect for all. She noted that the social and economic costs of harassment and violence at the workplace is huge and ratifying and implementing the convention would help address these issues and would accelerate action towards prevention and seeking redress for the victims.

She also commended the Government of Nigeria for taking steps to ratify C190 amongst other conventions and pledged ILO's continuous support to Nigeria as it embarks the journey for the ratification and implementation of C190.

Ms Phala concluded by reiterating ILO's continued commitment to the Nigerian Government, the Social Partners and other relevant stakeholders in making Decent Work, everyone's collective and mutual goal, a reality for all Nigeria Workers.

In an address by the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Senator (Dr) Chris Ngige OON represented by the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Yerima Peter Tarfa in his keynote address noted that The Convention therefore recognizes that Violence and Harassment in the World of Work refer to a range of unacceptable behaviours and practices that aim at, may result in, or are likely to cause physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm which constitute human rights violation.

He emphasized that according to the convention the term "gender-based violence and harassment" means violence and harassment directed at persons because of their sex or gender or affecting persons of a particular sex or gender disproportionately and includes sexual harassment. Such violations include physical abuse; sexual violence; verbal abuse; bullying; economic and financial abuse; and sexual harassment. GBV disproportionately affects women, inhibiting their economic empowerment. It is one of the most prevalent yet hidden human rights violations and a primary barrier to achieving gender equality, particularly in the World of Work.

The Permanent Secretary represented by the Ag Director, Productivity Measurement and Labour Standards, Ms Juliana Adebambo in his welcome address noted that addressing violence and harassment in the world of work has been a priority for the ILO, and the work in this area has become even more relevant than ever. He further stated that the usual practice for the ratification of ILO Conventions, in line with Article 19 of the ILO Constitution, Member States are obligated to submit new Conventions and Recommendations to Competent Authorities of the States for information purposes, which in the case of Nigeria is the National Assembly. He said that the Ministry, following the approval of the Federal Executive Council has forwarded the Convention to the National Assembly for information purposes only, after the National Labour Advisory Council (NLAC), at its meeting held 22nd – 24th March 2021, gave absolute approval to ratify Convention 190.

The sensitization workshop formed a technical platform to be driven by the Federal Government comprising of key stakeholders to take the ratification process to the next level. Apart from Abuja, the sensitization workshop also took place in Lagos (South-West) and Uyo (South-South). Further sensitizations would take place in Enugu (South East) and other locations for North-East and North-West).

Shock-Sensitive Gender And Inclusive Social Protection Training For Staff Of Ministry Of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management And Social Dev't.



A group photograph of participants and dignitaries

International Labour Organization (ILO) is committed in supporting the government of Nigeria in strengthening national social registry as basis for comprehensive social protection system. This has become evident with the COVID 19 pandemic that requires shock-responsive programme to ensure inclusion of all social group in social protection programmes. The ILO recommendation 2012 (202) provides guidance in building comprehensive social security systems and extending social security coverage by prioritizing the establishment of national floors of social protection accessible to all in need.

It is against this background that, that the European Union funded ILO on the “Strengthening and expanding the national social registry for shock responsive social protection system.” The project aims to increase access to social assistance for Nigerian extreme poor and vulnerable individuals, in particular those affected heavily by the COVID-19 crisis.

The project supports activities to strengthen the NSR system with mechanisms for interoperability with humanitarian relief and health insurance. This is complemented with capacity building activities with social protection partners to implement and monitor shock-sensitive gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive social protection systems and programmes.

In collaboration with National Social Safety Net Coordinating Officer (NASSCO), this training on shock-sensitive gender and social inclusion is for the staff of the federal ministry of humanitarian affairs, disaster management and social development.

The outline of the training is centred on concept on Gender, Social Inclusion & Gender-Based Violence, Overview of Social Protection & Shock-Responsive Social Protection, Mainstreaming Gender and Vulnerable Groups into Social Safety Nets Programmes, Operationalising Gender and Social Inclusion in Social Protection, Monitoring Shock Sensitive gender and Socially Inclusive Programmes.

The deliberations were on programme development and implementation that ensure most vulnerable population who are the poorest of the poor in the community are included in social protection programmes.

This capacity building session for the staff of the ministry is for shared understanding on the content and skill required for stepdown to zonal and state offices. Action plan will be developed as the next step required by the participants.

In conclusion, the learning from the two-day training provides

opportunity for ILO to further support the government in facilitating strategies and activities for a shock-responsive social protection programme. This is in addition to supports provided so far to the government in development of framework for data integration from other databases into the national social registry.

Working Together, Key To Turning COVID-19 Into Generational Opportunity – Kallon

“Working together is key to turning COVID19 into a generational opportunity to build back better for a healthier and greener recovery. The UN is committed to supporting Nigerians living in poverty and to build back a more resilient society during the pandemic recovery,” said the Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Nigeria Mr Edward Kallon, represented by Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo, WHO Country Representative in Nigeria, at a symposium organized to commemorate the UN Day by the UN system in Nigeria on the theme ‘Building Resilience Through Hope to Recover from COVID19, Rebuild Sustainably and Respond to the needs of the Planet’

He noted that the “UN Day offers the opportunity to re-assess and amplify the purposes and principles that have guided the UN since the entry into force of the UN Charter 76 years ago. In Nigeria, the UN system works together for a shared vision of a better future for Nigerian people.”

The Minister of State for the Environment, Mrs Sharon Ikeazor, represented by Engineer Hassan Musa, stated that Climate change required dimensional and multi sectoral mitigation and adaptation initiatives and highlighted various actions, initiatives and several holistic and multi-lateral approach of the ministry to improve the environment and tackle climate change.

Cross River State Leverages Polio Campaign Structure To Integrate COVID-19 Vaccination



A member of the public gets vaccinated in Cross River State

Bassey Eyo, a mother of three, living in Cross River State was delighted that she and her child could receive the COVID-19 vaccine and the novel Oral Polio Vaccine (nOPV2) respectively at a health center in Big Qua.

She had travelled 5 miles to get to Big Qua town with the hope of accessing both vaccines.

"I am happy that I had the opportunity to receive the COVID 19 vaccination and polio vaccine for my eligible child within the same health facility. We do not have access to the services in the village where my family lives. It was my husband who directed me to Big Qua Town (his hometown). I received the COVID-19 vaccine, and my child got his polio vaccination, and we are both doing well," she said.

For Joan Ewah, an N-Power staff, the availability of both vaccines at the health center where he took his COVID-19 jab encouraged him to take his children to receive the polio vaccine.

"I am excited that both vaccines are accessible as they would encourage many people who bring their children for the Polio vaccine to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. As a parent, I would not like to have a child that is deformed," he said.

To encourage the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination, the Cross River State Government, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), leveraged the polio vaccination campaign by integrating the Covid-19 vaccination.

On 25 August 2020, Nigeria and the WHO Africa region was certified polio-free after achieving the wild polio virus-free status. However, Nigeria is still combating the Circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus Type 2 (cVDPV2), and as a result, necessitated sustain nOPV2 vaccination across the country. From January to September 2021, 22 states reported 327 confirmed cases of cVDPV2. However, Cross River State has not reported any case. Nevertheless, for preventive measures, the Cross River State Government, supported by partners, implemented a four-days outbreak response (OBR) as a proactive measure to protect all eligible children (0-59 months).

Also, Nigeria is currently combating the COVID-19 pandemic, with 209 546 cases reported and 2838 death as of 19 October 2021. Of which, Cross River state has reported 614 cases.

At the vaccination campaign flag-off, the Commissioner for Health, Dr Betta Edu, said the concept was to provide service to the eligible children and their parents in an integrated manner to ensure that the parent gets access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

The 4-day exercise (02 - 05 October 2021) targeted to reach 887 162 children with the nOPV2 vaccine in the 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs). At the end of the campaign, 926732 children had received the nOPV2 vaccine, and 124,524 and 59,843 eligible persons received the first and the second dose of COVID 19 vaccines.

Speaking on the importance of the integration of the vaccination campaign, Dr Edu said the approach would avail parents who bring their children for nOPV2 vaccination to obtain the COVID-19 shot.

Both polio and COVID 19 vaccines are available across the health centers. We have advised that the service should use an integrated approach to reduce missed vaccination opportunities.

In her remark, the Director-General, Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency Dr. Janet Ekpenyong, said prevention of infectious diseases is a fight everybody must join.

To ensure that we do not record any case of cVDPV2 in Cross River state, all hands must be on deck. We are currently responding to COVID- 19 outbreak, and we would not like to combat any other vaccine-preventable diseases. We have introduced the high impact interventions to bridge existing vaccination gaps, and we encourage eligible persons to present themselves for vaccination, she said.

Representing the WHO Acting State Coordinator, Dr Biniam Getachew reiterated the importance of the OBR campaign and implementation of routine immunization to interrupt vaccine-preventable diseases in Nigeria.

Appreciating the vaccination teams for their coordination, he said, "WHO will continue to provide the necessary support to scale up provision of integrated service delivery towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage."

UN DAY 2021



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Advisory: United Nations Country Team (UNCT)

All correspondence should be directed to **The Editor, UN Nigeria Newsletter. United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) c/o United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Lagos. E-mail: lagos@unic.org**