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Nigeria Is A Country Where Africa's Promise Come To Life - Guterres



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (Left) and President Muhammadu Buhari (Right), at a joint Press Stakeout held on Wednesday 4 May 2022., the State House Abuja.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has acknowledged that "Nigeria is a country where Africa's promise and potential come to vivid life. I saw this first-hand in my meetings today with women and young people, whose vision and commitment were deeply inspiring."

The Secretary-General said this during a joint Press Stakeout with President Muhammadu Buhari, at the State House Abuja, on Wednesday 4 May 2022, during his official visit to Nigeria.

Mr. Guterres disclosed that he met with religious and cultural leaders representing Nigeria's beating multi-ethnic heart, and business leaders pushing Nigeria's economy forward.

"But I also went to see first-hand some of the enormous challenges facing this country. Violence continues to cast a shadow of death over so many Nigerians, and has sparked a crisis of displacement across the country and the neighbourhood. Yesterday, I came out of Borno with the sense that Nigeria is able to defeat this threat."

The Secretary General reassured that "We are very active in support of the humanitarian efforts of the Nigerian government, and that is why we have called for an additional \$351 million as part of the overall \$1.1 billion for the humanitarian response plan for Nigeria."...continue on page 2

HIGHLIGHTS

The Borno I Found Today Is A Borno Of Hope - Guterres... P. 3

Peer Education: Breaking The Cycle Of Violence In Nigeria...P.5

Farmers Benefit From IFAD Grant To Increase Productivity...P.10

UN Supports Training For Federal Ministry Of Labour And Employment...P.12

NISS, UN Review Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment For Nigeria ...P.14



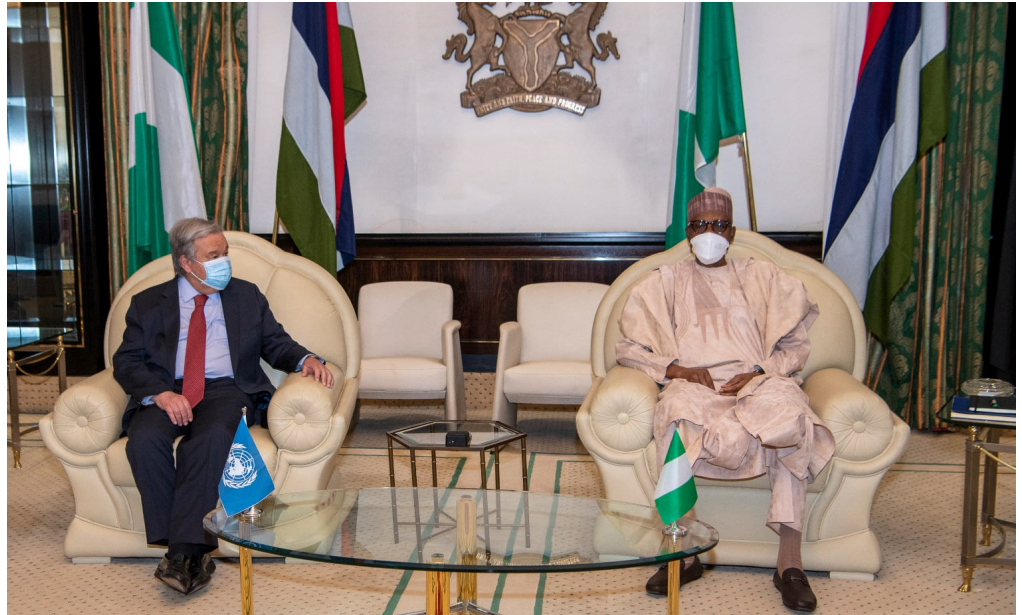
DECADE OF ACTION

UN Allocates \$15 Million To North-East Nigeria ... continued from page 1

..."However, Mr. Guterres noted that despite all they had seen and endured, the people he met remained hopeful and committed to returning to their communities and resuming their lives."

"To that end, I welcome the establishment of the Presidential Committee on the Repatriation, Returns and Resettlement of Displaced Persons in the North-East.

This spirit of hope amidst hardship – and solidarity in struggle – was also at the centre of my discussions with His Excellency the President today." He added.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (Left) and President Muhammadu Buhari (Right), at the State House Abuja.

Guterres Meets Development Partners, Advocates Support For Borno State Government



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (Right) engages with members of the diplomatic community and development partners during his official visit to Nigeria. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale (2nd from the right).

As part of his activities during his official visit to Nigeria on 3-4 May 2022, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, had an audience with development partners including members of the diplomatic community at the UN House Abuja on 3 May.

The Secretary-General made an appeal for more support for the Borno State government in its quest to develop the state and make it an environment fit for people to return to their homes.

"What is needed now is more co-ordination and more emphasis on non-military action. Support is needed for more civil and social activities for the young as they are most targeted for recruitment into terrorist groups." He said.

Guterres further emphasised the need to help Borno State government expand the reach of its reintegration initiatives.

Earlier, the Secretary-General had embarked on a field mission to Borno State to meet families deeply affected by violence and instability in the state, including people internally displaced.

The Borno I Found Today Is A Borno Of Hope - Guterres



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (Left) receives a plaque from Governor of Borno State, H.E. Prof. Babagana Zulum, at the State House, Maiduguri.

🗨️ The Borno I found today is a Borno of hope.

It's a Borno with future and I was very impressed to see the policy that is being applied here, recognizing that we don't fight terrorism just by military means," said the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in Maiduguri on Tuesday, 3 May during a joint press briefing with the Governor of Borno State, Prof. Babagana Zulum.

Guterres said this after he visited two field locations, Bulukuntu rehabilitation facility and Gubio Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp.

He noted that the Borno State he heard about when he was the High Commissioner for Refugees and afterwards was a Borno State of terrorism, of violence, of displacement, of despair. "This is not the Borno that I found today." He said further, "The fact that I came to Borno State is symbolic of our priority to the world to fight terrorism and to create solutions for the victims of terrorism."

Governor Zulum in his remarks, highlighted some of the major causes of Boko Haram insurgency, listing extreme poverty, unemployment and desertification, among other things.

He appealed to the Secretary-General to continue supporting Borno in its reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement processes, as well as the reintegration of thousands of repentant Boko Haram terrorists back into the society.

The governor used the opportunity to express gratitude to the UN secretary-general, members of the international communities, humanitarian actors and all stakeholders for their support to the people of the state.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (Left) acknowledges greetings by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at a camp in Maiduguri, Borno State capital.

"International humanitarian partners, civil society organisations and the federal government rapidly mobilised and supported Borno state government by providing the needed aid necessary for people to survive and have shelters over their heads.

He called on the United Nations to extend support to the state in areas of training youth volunteers fighting alongside the military and the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the resuscitation of the Lake Chad Basin, which, hitherto, provided livelihood to millions of people living around the lake.

"We Will Never Forget Them" - Guterres



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks and lays a wreath in honour of victims of the 2011 bomb blast at UN House Abuja.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, on Wednesday 4 March 2022, laid a wreath in honour of victims of the 2011 bomb blast at UN House Abuja.

"We will never forget them." He assured, "UN family stands in solidarity with the victims' families, women and men who work at UN House every day, to serve the people of Nigeria."

Mr. Guterres further expressed UN's solidarity with all Nigerians who had endured similar violence in their own communities.

"In our victim-centered approach, perpetrators must be held accountable. We remain steadfast in our commitment to support a peaceful Nigeria for all people." He added, and thanked the Government of Nigeria for its support in repairing the UN House which had enabled staff to return there.

UN Global Compact Presents Africa Strategy (2021 - 2023) To Boost Large And Small Businesses In Africa



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale (2nd from the left); Ms. Flora Mutahi, a board member of UN Global Compact; and other dignitaries at the CEO's breakfast roundtable in Lagos.

The United Nations Global Compact Network has presented a two-year proposed road map for effective business sector contributions for sustainable development in Africa.

Ms Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer of UN Global Compact group made the presentation on Tuesday, 17 May 2022, at a CEO's breakfast roundtable in Lagos.

Ojiambo, represented by Flora Mutahi, a board member of the group, said that African leaders needed to deal with the root causes of the challenges of the continent especially as it concerned business development.

The Strategy, she said was aimed at galvanising large and small businesses across Africa.

"The UN Global Compact is working to secure the commitment of Nigeria's private sector leaders to the implementation of Africa's strategy." She added.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale, underscored the importance of the private sector group in the achievement Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Dignitaries at the event included the following: Mr. Carl Cruz, Managing Director, Unilever West Africa; Ms. Flora Mutahi, Board Member, United Nations Global Compact; Ms. Naomi Nwokolo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network Nigeria and Chair, African Regional Network Council- United Nations Global Compact; Olajobi Makinwa, Chief, Intergovernmental Relations & Africa, United Nations Global Compact; and Matthias Schmale, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.



Spotlight Initiative



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

Peer Education: Breaking The Cycle Of Violence In Nigeria



Aminat, 15, had less than a year to be married off to her much older betrothed when she joined the peer sessions in her secondary school in Sokoto. This was a regular practice in her family, just a couple of years ago, her sister also had to drop out of school and get married, she now had 2 children.

Aminat was enthusiastic about the sessions so she opted to be trained as a peer educator where she learned the dangers of early marriage. “all that I heard was strange to me, I had never heard anything like that before”. When she got home, she pleaded with her parents to let her complete her secondary education before the marriage, but they turned her down. She recounted her ordeal to her teacher and with the help of the school principal, her parents were invited to school for further discussions.

After 3 months of constant follow up of Aminat’s parents, her father was convinced of the impending dangers of child marriage that the teachers talked about and the benefits of letting her complete her secondary education. He consented to the idea. Aminat’s parent’s hesitation is not strange, it is more the norm.

UNICEF describes child marriage as one of the biggest challenges in the West-African region with adverse effects on health, education and overall development of girls. Nigeria, the most populous country in the region accounts for 22 million of all child brides i.e. girls who were married before the age of 18. Projections for growth of child brides remains startling. UNICEF has predicted that if urgent action is not taken, we will have 29million child brides in Nigeria by 2050, There is need to act now.

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative uses the peer education approach to promote favorable social norms, attitudes and behaviors amongst adolescents and youths from aged 10 – 25 years in

school and out of school in several communities. In the last one year, the intervention reached 7337 adolescents across 6 states in Nigeria with at least 400 referred for sexually transmitted infections (STI), gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV services. Peer sessions are conducted in small groups with a trained peer educator using a manual to foster an environment where peers can learn from one another.

Every young person must make life-changing decisions about their sexual and reproductive health at one point in time in their life.

The peer sessions ensure that they are ready for those times in their lives. During one of the in-school sessions in Abuja, a 16-year-old female tested positive to HIV. Further counseling revealed that she suffered physical and sexual abuse at the hands of her guardian who sometimes forced her to sleep with other men for money. She had even had a child that was allegedly sold off at a certain time by her guardian. The case was referred to a center that has now involved NAPTEP and other relevant bodies to attend to the case.

In Cross River, a peer educator recounted her experience “during my out-of-school youth session, one of my peers said she had previously been engaging in unprotected sex with multiple partners because her friends told her that it had no consequence, but at the end of the topic “Sexually Transmitted Infections”, she understood the dangers of having unprotected sex”

The core drivers of VAWG are socially determined rather than biological, which means they CAN change. The Spotlight initiative believes that prevention efforts complement actions of the response system to avert repeated cycles of violence. Armed with relevant information, Young adolescent girls like Aminat are becoming more assertive to saying ‘NO’ to early marriage and other harmful practices.



Spotlight Initiative



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

UN, National Legislative Institute Collaborate In Gender Responsive Assessment Of Nigeria Budget



Participants at the training pose for a photo with Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman, the Director-General of the National Institute for Democratic Studies (NILDS), pictured, 4th from left. Photo: UN Women/ Faith Bwibo

Under the Spotlight Initiative, UN Women in collaboration with the National Institute for Democratic Studies (NILDS) in May 2022 organized a training on conducting Gender Responsive assessments of the Federal Government of Nigeria’s Budget.

The main objective of the training was to improve the capacity of research staff of NILDS in conducting Gender-Responsive Assessment of the Federal Government’s Budget and improve understanding and inclusion of Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) considerations for the Parliament. Gender-responsive budgeting is an approach to systematically integrating gender equality objectives into government policy, planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, and audit.

The training leveraged on the legal mandate of the Institute to provide a yearly assessment of and bi-annual performance review of the Federal Government’s Budget, which would enhance NILDS’s capacity to conduct yearly gender-responsive assessments of the approved budget to identify gaps and line items to be protected or strengthened in subsequent budgets.

The convening was officially opened by Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman, Director-General, NILDS who in his opening remarks lauded the partnership between NILDS and UN Women. “The Institute is undertaking a detailed analysis of the Federal Government budget to provide practical guidance to the National Assembly on all components of the budget to help improve understanding of critical issues that include the level of implementation of expenditure and revenue budgets and the struc-

ture of the budget. Over the years, this essential work of the Institute has significantly enhanced the legislature’s role in authorizing budget decisions and holding the government to account. It has also assisted the National Assembly in ensuring that government budget is inclusive, participative, and realistic” he stated.

A key objective of the partnership is to strengthen the capacity of the Research Staff of the Institute in the application of gender-responsive budgeting tools for programming around gender equality and women’s rights, drawing participants from the Department of Economic and Social Research, Democracy and Governance, Legislative Support Services, and Clerks of various committees at the National Assembly.

On his part, Lansana Wonneh, UN Women Deputy Country Representative applauded the initiative and encouraged continuous engagement through the partnership with NILDS, an institution with a core mandate to promote inclusive democracy in Nigeria. “We hope that through this training and other capacity development activities, Nigerian lawmakers will approve budgets that reflect and address the needs of different groups of people- men, women, boys, girls, people living with disabilities, populations in both urban and rural areas, among others. Another key focus of this training is intersectionality between Gender- Responsive Budgeting and programmes aimed at prevention, response, and elimination of violence against women and girls”, said Mr. Wonneh.

“This training comes at a crucial time and will equip us with the skills needed to conduct our work, in addition to supporting legislation of gender-responsive budgets, from the grassroots to the state levels”, commented Abraham a training participant.

National Steering Committee Endorses the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 For Nigeria



Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba (Right) discusses with UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Matthias Schmale (Left) during the meeting.

On 24 May 2022, the National Steering Committee on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), co-chaired by the Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba and the UN Resident Coordinator Mr.

Matthias Schmale, endorsed four general areas of work for the United Nations in Nigeria. The UNSDCF 2023 to 2027 is a framework that captures how the UN will support the development aspirations of government and people of Nigeria based on four pillars: Inclusive economic growth; Strengthening governance, justice and human rights systems; Human development and wellbeing; and Climate change resilience. The Minister noted that the areas the UN will focus on are in alignment with the Nigeria's National Development Plan. The Resident Coordinator stated that the UN will continue to prioritize support to the most vulnerable communities and leave no one behind while focusing on key transformative interventions to 'move the needle' for Nigeria.

Training Of Journalists On SDGs Moves To Lagos, South-West Nigeria



Director of UN Information Centre (UNIC), Ronald Kayanja, facilitates a session at the training of journalists on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Lagos.

The nationwide training of journalists on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria, being organised by the UN Information Centre (UNIC) and Media Awareness and Information For All Network (MAIN), in collaboration with Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the president on SDGs - OSSAP-SDGs Nigeria, was on 10 - 11 May 2022, taken to Lagos, South-West region.

Held at the American Corner Ikeja, the training workshop had 59 journalists from online, electronic, and print media in attendance. It featured intensive but interactive sessions on the con-

cept of sustainable development; the Implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in Nigeria: Progress and Challenges; Agenda 2030 and SDGs implementation in Lagos State; Sustainability Journalism; case studies, group work and presentations; among others.

The Director of UNIC, Ronald Kayanja, called on Journalism educators to support capacity building on sustainable development journalism, to groom future journalists who were already familiar with sustainability journalism.

He further charged media houses to develop beats for sustainable development reporting – just like we have made progress with conflict, gender or environment reporting.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Gbenga Omotosho, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Strategy, Mr Olusina Thorpe, commended UNIC and MAIN for the training and disclosed that all the 17 #SDGs have been aligned and mainstreamed into the Lagos State Strategic Development framework, T.H.E.M.E.S. which represents Traffic Management and Transportation; Health and Environment, Education and Technology; Making Lagos a 21st Century state; Security and Governance.

UN Nigeria Extends Deep Condolences To United Arab Emirates (UAE) On The Passing Of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed



Left: UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, Matthias Schmale signs the condolence book at the Embassy of UAE in Abuja. Right: Ambassador Dr. Fahad Al Taffaq welcomes UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, Matthias Schmale to the Embassy of UAE in Nigeria.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, Matthias Schmale has expressed the deep condolences of the UN Country Team to the Government and people of United Arab Emirates on the passing of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Mr. Schmale visited the Embassy of UAE in Abuja and was received by Ambassador Dr. Fahad Al Taffaq. The UN Resident Coordinator signed the condolence book.

Climate Change On Focus As UN Organises Educational Briefing for Pupils



Across-section of pupils displaying their 'Climate Action Super Heroes' exercise books distributed by UNIC at an educational briefing session

UNIC Knowledge Management Assistant, Bolanle Olumekor, briefed the pupils on the effects of Climate Change and the role of individuals in mitigating the effects. She introduced them to the Nigeria "Act Now: Climate Action Super Heroes" and spoke about Abike the Green Guide; Amina - Energy Expert; Efe - Water Wizard; Obi - Truth Talker; Oche - Veggie Vindicator; Adesuwa - Recycle Ranger; Ekanem - Fashion Fixer and Sultan - Fume Fighter, and encouraged the

To conserve, sensitize and get children inspired to foster change and act on the environment, the UN Information Centre (UNIC) Lagos has held series of educational briefings on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Climate change reaching 516 pupils in Primary 4, 5 and 6, across four Primary Schools in Lagos State.

The schools were Kuramo Nursery and Primary School, Victoria Island; Ikate Primary School, Lekki; St. Georges Primary School (Boys) Falomo; and St. Georges Primary School (Girls) Falomo.

pupils to emulate the Superheroes characters.

Like the Climate Action Superheroes the pupils were advised to emulate the climate action superheroes.

Ms Olumekor further enjoined them to work for the protection of the environment, take positive action to address climate issues in their schools and communities and be role models to look after the planet.

The Superheroes exercise books were distributed to the pupils. The Nigeria Climate Action Superheroes initiative is a collaboration of Green Hub Africa and UNIC.

Annual Flood Outlook for 2022: NIHSA Predicts 32 States, FCT as Highly Probable Flood Risk Areas



The Honourable Minister of Water Resources Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu FNSE, FAEng (centre), Director General Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency Engr. Clement Nze (immediate left), Director General NEMA, Mustapha Habib Ahmed (second left from centre), and other dignitaries unveiling the 2022 AFO.

On 12 May 2022, the Honourable Minister of Water Resources Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu unveiled the 2022 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) publication developed by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA).

The unveiling took place at a high-level event in Abuja attended by representatives of Ministries and Directors General of several Agencies including the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and National Water Resources Institute (NWRI). Other participants included Academia, Students, and Media personnel. Representatives from Agencies of the United Nations including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO which support NIHSA were in attendance.

In an opening statement, the Director General of NIHSA Engr. Clement Nze stated that the 2022 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) was the 10th Edition produced by the Agency and it is aimed at supporting sustainable Flood Management Practices and Food Security in Nigeria. The DG NIHSA stated that the 2022 AFO contains useful information on the areas that are likely to be flooded, the probable months of occurrence, and severity of the expected flooding.

The summary of the 2022 AFO was presented by the Honourable Minister of Water Resources who stated the 2022 AFO edition involved a disaggregation of expected annual flood events in three different scenarios, April- June (AMJ), July- September (JAS), and the months of October - November (ON).

According to the Honourable Minister, 233 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 32 States and the FCT fall within the Highly Probable Flood Risks Areas, while 212 LGAs in 35 States and the FCT fall within the Moderately Probable Flood Risks Areas. The remaining 329 LGAs fall within the probable flood Risks Areas. The Highly Probable Flood Risk States include Adamawa, Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross-River, Delta, Eboyin, Ekiti, Edo, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara,

Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba and Yobe, Zamfara and FCT.

States mentioned within the highly probable flood risk areas engage in agricultural livelihood activities including rain-fed agriculture, livestock farming and fisheries. These communities experience losses annually due to flooding, heat waves, intra-seasonal dry spells, and droughts. These extreme events contribute to reduced productivity across the country with significant impact on livelihoods, food security, and the economy of the country.

Through the Annual Flood Outlook, NIHSA provides Nigerians with information necessary to support the prevention of loss of lives and properties to flooding, and mitigate its effect on our settlements, business investments, livelihoods, infrastructure, and our socioeconomic well-being.

As a proactive measure, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on 20 May 2022, presented the Disaster Risk Management Implications of the 2022 Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP) as released by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and 2022 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA). This was at a technical meeting of experts organized by NEMA to review the implications of these seasonal forecasts and prepare the Disaster Risk Management plan for the various identified aspects at all levels.

All stakeholders are to take note of the flood early warnings and support mitigation and control measures as appropriate. Information on the extent and severity of the expected flooding have been detailed in the 2022 AFO publication which is accessible from the NIHSA website.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Farmers Benefit From IFAD Grant To Increase Productivity And Recover From COVID-19



IFAD-VCDP National Programme Coordinator, Dr Fatima Aliyu presenting agro-inputs to Mariam Abubakar, a beneficiary farmer of the RPSF in Kogi State.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has provided US\$ 1,105,916.00 in grants to vulnerable smallholder farmers in Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) states of Enugu, Kogi, Nasarawa, Anambra, Benue, Niger, Taraba and Ebonyi to sustain production and help them recover more quickly from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

VCDP is a project of the Government of Nigeria funded by IFAD and domiciled in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The project aims to improve incomes and food security of poor rural households engaged in production, processing and marketing of rice and cassava on a sustainable basis.

The IFAD's grant- the COVID-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) is in line with the UN support framework for socio-economic response to COVID-19 and to support the Government of Nigeria to buffer the disruptions on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable smallholders and national food systems.

The RPSF Agricultural stimulus and resilience packages includes agro inputs (certified seeds, NPK/Urea fertilizers and herbicides) to support smallholder production. Through VCDP-supported extension services, targeted farmers will benefit from trainings on good agronomic practices in the application of fertilizers and agro-chemicals as well as farm management and climate smart agriculture.

Speaking at the flag off ceremony of the agro inputs distribution to the vulnerable farmers in Kogi State, VCDP National Programme Coordinator, Dr Fatima Aliyu said the RPSF is expected to provide relief to 3,243 vulnerable smallholders across VCDP states.

"The support of IFAD in our quest to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic impact on the country's economy, particularly

on the agricultural sector is one which we both recognize and appreciate" said Dr Aliyu.

Dr Aliyu expressed gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) under the leadership of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Mohammad Abubakar, who is conscientiously implementing FMARD's COVID-19 Agricultural Mitigation and Sustainability Plan aimed at addressing the impact of the pandemic on Nigerian farmers.

"The Facility will ensure that farmers have timely access to inputs, information, and markets. By supporting smallholders to mitigate this crisis through a market-led approach, basic farming activities will be sustained, paving the ground for longer-term post-COVID-19 crisis recovery and resilience," said Mrs Dede Ekoue, IFAD Nigeria Country Director.

"I am very happy to be among the beneficiaries of this support by IFAD. The agro-inputs I received will enable me to cultivate the one hectare of rice I have. I will be able to increase my income and food security despite the COVID -19 pandemic," said Mariam Abubakar, a farmer from Kabawa Community, Lokoja in Kogi State.

Since 1985, IFAD has financed 11 projects in Nigeria for a total of \$ 1,136, 860,000 including \$ 510.56 million from IFAD's own resources, directly benefitting nearly 3.9 million Nigerian rural households.



Government Of Nigeria, Partners Launch New Programme On Just Transition And Green Jobs



A group photograph of participants at the launch

The government of Nigeria, representatives of employers' and workers' organizations and development partners have launched a new initiative to place jobs and social justice at the centre of the ecological transition. The project is being funded by the French government while the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is supporting its implementation.

This launch follows series of previous national consultative engagements including the inauguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on 27th January 2022, and the constitution of the projects' Inter-ministerial Technical Work Group (TWG) on 18th March 2022. The launch event serves to officially open the project and bring its importance to the attention of the public.

The overall objective of the project is to mobilize the government, workers' and employers' organizations and development partners to accelerate climate action with decent work and just transition for all. The more specific goals of the project include, to strengthen institutional and research capacity for the design and implementation of integrated evidence-based just transition policies; strengthen social dialogue mechanisms to help lay the foundations for a just transition and, develop and pilot just transition policies conducive of job creation. These policies include skills development as well as social security measures for workers in sectors impacted by climate change. It is also believed that lessons learned from this project will inspire other countries and institutions in Africa to initiate just transition mechanisms and policies.

The Chairperson of the steering committee, Dr Martina Nwordu, Director Special Duties/Projects at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, opened the event with a well delivered welcome address, she stressed that the

project is particularly important as it aims at providing micro policy interventions to ensure the development of new skills, creation of new jobs and social support to the vulnerable workforce in most affected sectors, as identified in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Nigeria. She also urged participants to look at various roles expected from them as part of their contribution towards achieving the project objectives and supporting local actions in the fight against climate change.

Other speakers at the event include the Director of ILO Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala, who restated that ILO, and its constituents are committed to ensuring that a just transition to a sustainable future takes place and meets the requirements of decent work in Nigeria. Olivier Chatelais, representing the French Ambassador affirmed the French government support to the project while emphasizing the high priority placed on climate change. The social partners including the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) also delivered welcome addresses and expressed support for the project in Nigeria.

Ms Daju, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, represented the Honourable Minister, Dr Chris Ngige, and delivered the keynote address. She noted that the essence of the just transition initiative is to ensure that no one is left behind. Ms Daju, on behalf of the Honourable Minister declared the event open which also signified the launch of the project in Nigeria.

With the successful launch of the project, capacity building initiatives including trainings and workshops on the Green Jobs Assessment Model (GJAM) will be rolled out for relevant institutions and stakeholders, also studies on linkages between just transition and social protection in Nigeria will be undertaken. The Just Transition and Green Jobs Project in Nigeria is expected to run until December 2024.

UN Supports Training For Federal Ministry Of Labour And Employment

In its continued efforts aimed at improving the employability of Nigerian youths, the ILO Abuja Office through its Employment and Reintegration Project and in collaboration with GIZ, supported the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment by building the capacity of its officials during a three-day Train the Trainers workshop.



A group photograph of participants at the three-day Train the Trainers workshop for officials of the Ministry drawn from various States of the Federation.

As part effort to empower the officials of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment officials to be able to equip unemployed youth with relevant skills for jobs, the ILO in collaboration with GIZ, organized a three-day Train the Trainers workshop for officials of the Ministry drawn from various States of the Federation.

The training took participants through a master class with a focus on modules such as Change Management, Emerging Job Opportunities in Nigeria, Facilitating Adult-Centered Learning, How to Hold a Career Clinic, Organizing Your Job Search, Professional Grooming Etiquette, Working with Emotional Intelligence and Job Placement Training.

The overall objective of the ToT workshop, which took place from 17-19 May 2021 at Sandralia Hotel, Utako, Abuja, was to enhance the technical capacity of staff of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to conduct employability training on a continuous basis for unemployed graduates across the country.

The ILO Country Director in her opening remarks, delivered by the Employment and Migration Officer, Dino Corell, reiterated the fact that efficient and effective employment services could play an important role in matching jobseekers with available vacancies, helping employers find the workers they need, and supporting both sides in adapting to labour market disruptions.

She further stated that the ToT training could be an important step in matching jobseekers with available vacancies by reinforcing capacity of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to conduct employability training with a particular focus on recent graduates.

Participants were trained on key areas such as profiling job seekers and preparing step down trainings that meet the specific peculiarities of each cluster that would be trained by the participants. The participants were also trained on mastering the art of delivering impactful training sessions capable of addressing the employability of youths that would benefit from the step-down trainings that would be conducted by the participants.

To improve on the ability of the participants to deliver on the step-down trainings, the workshop facilitators used a mix of facilitator led training sessions, group work sessions and game-centered tasks to drill down the training modules and equip the participants to develop their training facilitation skills ahead of the step-down trainings.

A total of forty-five participants attended the training and have begun the facilitation of step-down trainings at their various states of posting.



Partners Commend KOICA/UN Joint Project On Women & Girls In Borno State



Left: KOICA Nigeria Director Mr Son Sungil during the reflection meeting. Right: UNFPA Resident Representative Ms Ulla Mueller

On May 5th 2022, KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) and UNFPA brought together the Borno State Government and partners from the Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

They were brought together to track progress and reflect on the achievements made in the KOICA-funded project implemented by UNFPA. The partners commended KOICA and UNFPA for the impact in building resilient communities through the restoration of access to basic medical and social services in conflict-affected communities within Borno State.

The project had specific objectives focusing on 3 thematic areas: 1. to increase access to comprehensive maternal and child care; 2. Increase access to fistula care and improve capacity for results-based data management system, and 3. health systems strengthening and empowerment of women and girls. The latter has been achieved through knowledge transfer and skills acquisition programs that have built and expanded the resilience of community members within the humanitarian context.

The implementation of the project has been largely uninterrupted, despite the protracted armed conflict and humanitarian crisis, and the global COVID-19 pandemic. One of the key reasons for this is that the approach has been locally-driven and aligned to the Borno State Development Plan. This has ensured that interventions, activities and services has reached further and reached a higher number of women and girls.

Reflecting on the impact it has made within the state, the representative of the Minister of Health, Dr. Salma Anas-Kolo, commended UNFPA for being resolute, despite numerous challenges particular to the humanitarian context. According to her, the proper management and implementation of the project had added value, impacted lives and contributed to delivering the pledge of leaving no one behind. The project was aligned with the Borno State 25 years Development Plan, Federal vision for Universal Health Coverage and the SDG healthcare and equality targets as contained.

UNFPA Resident Representative Ms Ulla Mueller also spoke on accelerating action towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. Recalling how some of the national health data was still below acceptable levels, she said the Korean successful development process and experience in building resilience was a blueprint for partners to be inspired by, appreciating that while one size does not fit all, we must continue to learn from one another. She recommended that Borno and other states

took learning from the Korean experience and adopted the approach to make a difference when delivering on healthcare objectives. She also reiterated UNFPA's commitment to strong partnerships, with member states, with development partners, humanitarian partners and within One UN.

"Here we have a donor and partner who is sharing experiences and hoping they will be helpful as Nigeria and Borno decides how to make a difference," She said. "Strong partnerships make a difference and save lives. UNFPA remain committed to supporting Borno State and exploring and expanding partnerships. We have many experiences to build on and it is my sincere hope that KOICA will accept our invitation to continue the partnership."

One of the achievements is a newly constructed ultra-modern fistula centre in the Borno State Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri, where surgeries are ongoing. Another achievement is the Integrated Women Empowerment and Safe shelter that supports skill acquisition and economic development of vulnerable women and girls.

Five hundred and eighty-four Healthcare personnel have been trained in reproductive and maternal health services such as fistula surgery training and the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC), Family Planning and Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR), to adequately provide quality reproductive and maternal health as well as specialized GBV services in an integrated form.

There have also been behaviour change and life-saving messages on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services and Obstetric Fistula reaching 27,598 and 40,361 individuals respectively. Medical outreaches to offer health care services have also reached 126,099 individuals in the most affected communities of the state.



UN, EU Strengthen Rule Of Law-Based Criminal Justice Responses To Terrorism And Violent Extremism

On the 11th of May 2022, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) joined other development partners to commemorate Europe day in Nigeria.

Europe Day provides an important opportunity to reflect on the role of the European Union in the world and in Nigeria. The UNODC-EU-Nigeria partnership manifests itself most visibly in the many projects in the area of peace, governance and security. UNODC is proud to be the implementing agency for a considerable number of these projects - with one prominent example being the EU, Nigeria, UNODC and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) partnership project on “Strengthening Rule of Law Based Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism and Violent Extremism”.

For nearly a decade, the EU and UNODC have been working together with the Nigerian Government to prevent and respond to terrorism and violent extremism in the country. The third phase of this partnership began in 2018. This 8,100,000-euro project runs until 30 September 2022 and is benefiting a broad range of Nigerian counterterrorism and criminal justice partners, in Northeast Nigeria.

The focus of work is on providing policy and legislative advice, as well as related capacity-building support, on a wide range of topics, including investigative interviewing, effective prosecution and case management, confronting sexual and gender-based violence, and ensuring human rights compliance. Overall, the most recent phase of this project has delivered 197 capacity building activities, training 4,452 investigators, intelligence analysts, prosecutors, defense lawyers and judges from a total of 102 Nigerian institutions and has provided legal advisory services to Nigerian Lawmakers on the drafting of new counter-terrorism legislation currently awaiting Presidential assent.

We have also worked with the European Union to support the regular deployment of federal counter-terrorism prosecutors from the Complex Case Group of the Ministry of Justice to the Joint Investiga-



UNODC Country Representative, Oliver Stolpe unveiling the plaque marking UNODC's support at the Maiduguri Maximum Security Correctional Centre

tion Centre in North-east Nigeria to guide investigations and review case files. The project has been providing equipment

and logistical support to the Joint Investigation Centre, the Nigeria Police Force, and the Department of State Security Services. In addition, the project has supported the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON) in gaining access to suspected associates of Boko Haram currently held in federal custody to provide legal counsel.

As a result of this assistance, federal prosecutors have reviewed approximately 2,900 case files, resulting in the release of 1,800 adults and 580 children from custody, as well as the referral of 230 cases for trial before the Federal High Court.

The promotion of comprehensive screening, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies for suspected associates of Boko Haram has also been a key goal of our partnership with the EU. The project has worked closely with the Lake Chad Basin Commission to organize a number of meetings to bring together key criminal justice officers from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria to support efforts to develop targeted responses for those who have been associated with terrorism.

NISS, UN Review Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment For Nigeria

Representatives of 13 Government agencies, departments and Ministries joined the National Institute for Security Studies (NISS) and UNODC for the review of the draft Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment for Nigeria (NOCTA).

The workshop marked the culmination of two years of intensive work to develop an analysis on current and emerging trends related to transnational organized crime connected to Nigeria. Based on extensive field research the draft report features chapters dedicated to cultism; maritime crime; kidnapping and armed robbery; illicit drug trafficking; trafficking in persons; smuggling of migrants; and wildlife and forest crime.

The principal purpose of the NOCTA is to expand the evidence base related to these crime phenomena to help both policy makers and practitioners to better understand the illicit markets, the criminal operators, and their methods. Once finalized, the NOCTA will enable Government to identify more accurately the threats, prioritize resources, develop, and refine strategies, all to improve the effectiveness of crime prevention and the criminal justice response to transnational organized crime in Nigeria.

During the workshop, over 30 Government representatives together with senior experts from NISS and UNODC reviewed the various chapters of the draft enriching the findings of the NOCTA and starting to identify specific policy implications and possible recommendations. In doing so, experts drew on the recently launched UNODC Organized Crime Strategy Toolkit for Developing High-Impact Strategies.

Over the past decades, Nigerian transnational organized crime has evolved structurally, grown more sophisticated and



Cross section of participants brainstorming during the NOCTA workshop held in Niger State

become both more violent and better organized. Transnational organized crime affects Nigeria's people and economy. Its evolution continuous to be fuelled by a youth unemployment and poverty, porous borders, and a sometimes overburdened criminal justice system. While Nigeria has created a legal framework, established specialized law enforcement agencies, and gradually developed investigative and prosecutorial capacities as well as international cooperation arrangements to counter various forms of transnational organized crime, the present approach suffers from institutional fragmentation and imperfect domestic coordination. The NOCTA constitutes a critical element of UNODC's Strategic Vision for Nigeria and aims to help Nigeria protecting its people, the economy and the environment from transnational organized crime.

UN Partners with LaLiga, Nigerian Women Football League On Safe Migration



The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Nigerian Women Football League (NWFL) and LaLiga, the top professional football division of the Spanish football league system hosted a football tournament in Benin City on Saturday (14.05) as part of efforts to raise awareness on irregular migration.

Edo state is widely known for its high rate of irregular migration among young people. Data available under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (EU-IOM JI) show the Southern State of Nigeria accounts for 37% of the total number of returned migrants since the beginning of this project in April 2017. IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme has assisted the return of over 26,000 individuals with 20,625 supported by the EU.

120 migrant returnees from Edo State also joined the professional football players of the NWFL in a match at the Samuel Ogbemudia stadium. The tournament "Show your other side challenge" brought together famous NWFL players closer to the people and fans of football.

Sports, like football, contribute to youth development and empowerment, recreation, while promoting social cohesion and unity, irrespective of race, religion and background.

"Football matches is one aspect IOM engages in, to capture the attention of young people and provide them with adequate information on the risks of irregular migration and safe means to travel," said Ms. Cyprine Cheptepkeny, IOM Nigeria Awareness Raising Officer.

"Awareness raising projects are designed to foster behavioral change among potential migrants, their families and friends by helping migrants to make informed decisions about their journey and consider safer alternatives to migration," she added. IOM's social cohesion initiatives contribute to the reintegration of returned migrants into their communities and address vices such as stigma that most of them face upon their return.

In 2021, 68,000 returnees were sensitized on the dangers of irregular migration through awareness raising activities such as community dialogue, community theatre, school advocacy campaigns and peer education. Every year, many young African footballers are lured to Europe with promises of money and fame in professional leagues only to end up exploited or stranded abroad.

"What we have done and still doing at the NWFL is to create activities, programmes and strong platforms targeted at making football as a spotlight for promoting gender equality and safe migration which has seen over the years a great number of league players making it really big in most of the great leagues in Europe, Asia, America," noted Aisha Folade Chairperson of NWFL.

"Show your other Side Challenge" event at Benin City gathered more than 500 attendees who came to enjoy football games of A-level footballer players and engage in fan activities and side events.

"At LaLiga we are passionate about the development of women football in Nigeria, which is why we collaborated with the NWFL to help the League grow and reach its full potential. With IOM coming on board this year, shows that we are making progress," said Desmond Chiji, LaLiga Global Network Delegate for Nigeria and Ghana.

The partnership between IOM, LaLiga and the NWFL aims to promote safe migration choices and create social cohesion among potential migrants, government partners, civil society organizations and the private sector through football.

This initiative is funded by the European Union and Government of Netherlands.



Did you know that
States made a
historic agreement
in 2018?



#MIGRATION2022



IOM, Pan - Atlantic University Develop Course For Journalists On Migration Reporting In Nigeria



A group photograph of participants and resource persons at the training on reporting migration stories held in Lagos.

The relevance of media in all aspects of human endeavour cannot be overemphasised, especially in the area of better migration management. Media engagement is imperative given the pressing need to promote safe and regular migration as well as discourage irregular migration.

IOM's role goes hand in hand with a strong and impartial media towards enlightening, mobilising, and sensitising both the public and stakeholders in Nigeria. With support from the media, the International Organization for Migration is making efforts to address some of the challenges faced by migrants, returnees, internally displaced persons, refugees and potential migrants. Issues such as stigmatisation, misinformation and vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation can be tackled via mass media and community-based interventions.

IOM in partnership with the Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) developed a course curriculum for reporting migration stories as part of the Global Migration Media Academy (GMMA). The GMMA provides the platform for IOM as a global organization to standardise media training on migration and strengthen ethical, factual and accurate reporting of migration in mainstream media.

"The commitment of IOM to address irregular migration and fight against human trafficking in Nigeria aims at achieving sustainable impact through a comprehensive and holistic approach," said Ms Prestage Murima, IOM Nigeria Chief of Mission, a.i. "IOM will continue to work with media to shed light on the plight of the people, and the hidden opportunities that arise from migration. Governments, migrants, potential migrants, and average citizens are much more likely to hear about IOM's work through the media," she added.

The GMMA was created to bridge the gap in media trainings on the topic of migration. It is a learning hub that offers classroom and online courses in multiple languages to anyone interested in covering this complex topic. Currently, IOM missions in Nigeria, Mexico, Serbia, Morocco and the Philippines are part of the academy.

The GMMA is committed to providing fact-based, balanced and diverse viewpoints and promoting new voices in the field by eliminating barriers to professional development and learning.

"The production and promotion of positive narratives on migration has been identified as an effective way to counter misinformation and disinformation that incite fear and sow divisions that lead to stigmatisation and discrimination. As we establish the GMMA, it is key to have reputable academic institutions working with us to develop standardised training tools on media and migration," said, Lalini Veerassamy, IOM Ireland Chief of Mission Lalini Veerassamy.

Between 16–20 May 2022, 30 journalists from Lagos, Abuja, Benin City, Asaba, Maiduguri and Yola were trained by facilitators from the School of Media & Communication at PAU. The trainers tackled topics such as Migration & Climate Change Development Communication and Migration, Reporting Vulnerable Audience and Migration through Storytelling; Social Media and Migration Reporting, Media Ethics and Migration, Reporting on Data amongst others.

Earlier, a similar course module was delivered to students of the department of Media and Mass Communication of the Pan-Atlantic University. Five IOM volunteer migrants also took part in the training, and they shared their first experiences of their migratory journeys.

"The Global Migration Media Academy is an excellent platform that will enthrone ethical leadership and programme migration studies for better media reporting and understanding of the migration context in Nigeria and Africa. We are glad that we are partnering IOM on this," said Dr. Mike Okolo, Dean, School of Media and Communication, Pan Atlantic University.

The overarching goal is for these modules to be accredited by the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) to form part of the curriculum in departments of Media and Mass Communication of Nigerian Universities.

The partnership between IOM, and PAU aims to promote sensitisation on safe migration choices through ethical and fact-based reporting of migration stories in the mainstream media.



“My Cap Making Business Made Me Independent”

Alhaji (49), who resides in Damaturu, Yobe State, narrates how a WFP livelihoods project made him self-reliant and also business-oriented.

I have a small farm in Kasaisa Village, which has been a major source of food for me and my family.

I used to farm only to sustain my family, and I was happy that it helped us to eat everyday. I was just living an average and quiet life.

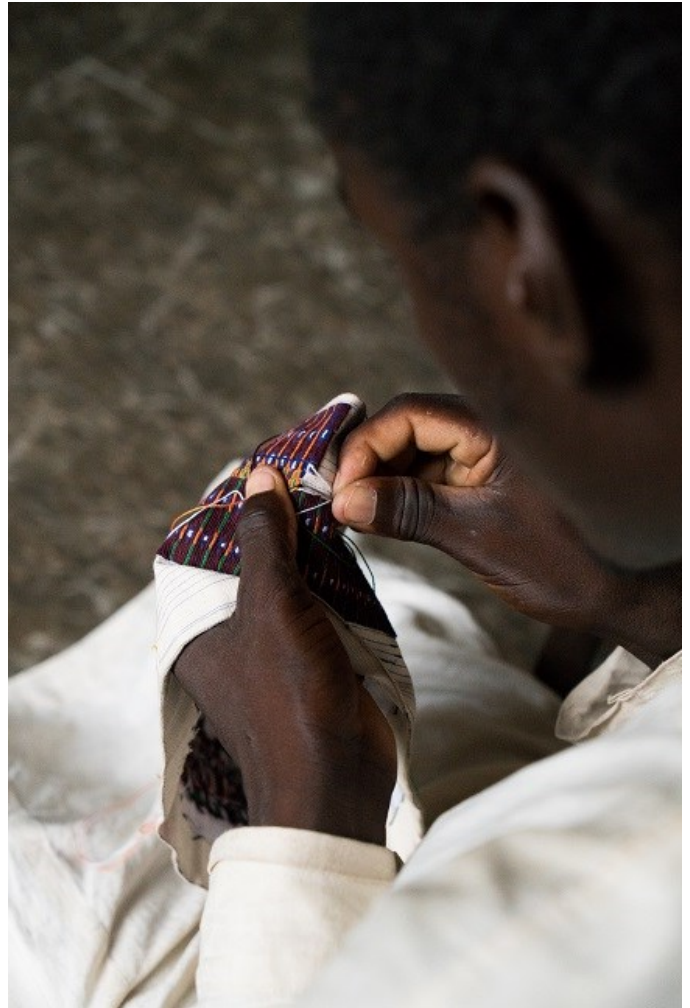
Then I came in contact with COOPI/WFP in 2019 and after intense training and mentorship provided by the COOPI team and professionals, I became very passionate about making the best out of what I received. I joined the cap-making group and since then, it has been a life-changing experience. We were given tools and materials to practice with and in no time, I noticed I just wanted to make caps, because I knew how the cap business is in Yobe State: if one knows how to make a good cap, customers will locate you.

I started making caps of different styles, designs and quality for different customers. I learnt from COOPI how to package and label my caps to attract more customers. Before I knew it, my business started growing. My friends and community members were bringing customers to me. That was how I started making caps for prominent people and also people that can't afford the expensive caps but can afford cheaper ones.

I sell the quality caps for N20,000 to N30,000 and the ordinary caps for N5,000 to N15,000. I supply to shops in major towns to help sell. I also get contracts to make caps for buyers. It has been a life-changing experience.

After deducting materials cost and labour costs, like washing and ironing, I am left with a reasonable profit. This has enabled me to save some money for myself and my family. I am also able to invest a little money into my business – I have bought new materials and threads to make different caps for potential buyers. I no longer depend only on my farm produce. I am also teaching my son how to make the caps so he can be self-reliant and responsible.

As you can see, we are gradually improving as individuals and a community. We are asking for more of this kind of intervention, like teaching us other trades and also assisting us with grants and materials to support our trade.”



UN Concludes Nationwide Training Of Journalists On SDGs At Enugu, Decorates Participants As SDGs Champions



L-R: UNIC National Information Officer, Oluseyi Soremekun; Prof. Sunny Udeze (Enugu State University); Prof Ifeoma Dunu (Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka); Chairman of MAIN, Prof Lai Oso and Prof Jide Jimoh. (Lagos State University)

The nationwide Training of Journalists on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) organised by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and Media Awareness and Information For All Network (MAIN), was concluded on 25 May 2022, at Enugu South-East Nigeria, with a decoration of participants as SDGs Champions.

They were decorated with SDGs-Wheel pins by the former Dean, School of Post Graduate Studies, Enugu State University, Prof. Sunny Udeze, and Prof Ifeoma Dunu of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

The 2-day training which started on 24 May 2022, was the sixth to be held under the project by UNIC and MAIN. In March, the training workshop was flagged off in Maiduguri (North-East) by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, H.E. Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, and was subsequently held in Kano (North-West); Abuja (North-Central); Uyo (South-South); and Lagos (South-West).

Prof. Udeze, a Professor of Mass Communication, charged the participants to always hold government accountable in their reportage by digging deeper and following up on the impact of those challenges on the people and the society.

In Maiduguri, Kano, Abuja, Uyo, and Lagos where the training had taken place, Journalists were decorated as Champions of SDGs, to acknowledge their commitment to promoting SDGs in their reportage while upholding the principles of sustainability journalism.

Nigeria Combs Communities To Protect Eligible Children Against Polio



Vaccination exercise at a remote nomadic settlement in Rivers State

ble children living within the borders are vaccinated will prevent the importation of the virus into the country.

Reaching the vulnerable Meanwhile, in Cross Rivers State, located in the South-South region, WHO in collaboration with the Cross River Primary Health Care Development Agency (CRPHCDA) conducted a vaccination campaign to cover children in underserved international border communities, refugee camps and host communities.

Six LGAs in Cross River State share a national border with Cameroon and a total of 4,888 children aged 0-59 months were vaccinated.

The State Immunization

When a team of vaccinators arrived in Obele, a boundary town between Nigeria and Benin Republic, to vaccinate children against the circulating Vaccine Derived poliovirus (cVDPV2), the community leader, Chief Babafemi Ogunmade was not surprised.

“We are aware that some vaccinators were coming to vaccinate our children against the polio and other diseases, and we have been expecting them.

Other community leaders joined me in sensitizing the people about the importance of immunization. We appreciate the intensified commitment from the government and partners, including the WHO, as the vaccination activities have reduced the number of complications and risks associated with measles and polio infections in our communities,” he said.

Obele is one of the many towns located in three Local Government Areas (LGA) (Imeko-Afon, Ipokia and Yewa North) of Ogun State (South West Nigeria) bordering the Benin Republic. The settlements are major cross-border transit posts for social and commercial activities.

Across the border settlements, 4,670 eligible children were vaccinated during the Outbreak Response (OBR2) campaign in the three LGAs from May 14th to 17th 2022. Leveraging the campaign, vitamin A supplements and COVID-19 vaccination were administered in the settlements to eligible children and adults.

Tracking underserved population

To ensure no child is left unprotected against all forms of polioviruses or suffers the consequence, the Government of Nigeria is supported by WHO to adopt an initiative to improve immunization activities in cross-border settlements and amongst underserved populations.

Buttressing the importance of effective immunization activities at the border settlements, the Executive Secretary, Ogun State Primary Health Care Board, Dr Elijah Ogunisola, said vaccination in the border communities is necessary because of its distance to the state capital, and the transiting population.

He appreciated WHO for its support in ensuring that all eligi-

ble children living within the borders are vaccinated will prevent the importation of polio and vaccine-preventable diseases into the state.

“Due to the crisis in southern Cameroon, including social, and commercial activities, there is frequent transiting of the population between both countries.

To guarantee all vulnerable groups are covered, WHO supports the state in ensuring that adequate vaccines are supplied to cover the target population, proper mobilization at the border settlements using the LGA SMOs, and effective training of the teams on strategies for vaccination at the border settlements, she said.

Similarly in Rivers State, WHO worked closely with the state government and leveraged the OBR campaign to provide other immunization services in the nomadic settlements. Speaking on the intervention, Dr Bose Ezekwe, the state coordinator, said targeting the eligible children at the nomadic pastoralist settlements of the state was vital as they live beyond the reach of established health care facilities.

As a result, these groups are often under-immunized and out of the reach of existing disease surveillance activities. WHO worked with the state government in training and deployment of the teams to the high-risk areas.

Stressing the importance of quality outbreak response and surveillance for polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases in the country, the Country Representative, Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo said, “WHO will continue to support government in its vaccination drive to shore up coverage and strengthen routine immunization in all the States.”

Nigeria and the African region were certified as wild polio-free in August 2020, but sustaining the feat is threatened by the high burden of cases of the cVPV2. Furthermore, Malawi and Mozambique this year notified cases of wild poliovirus (WPV1) raising great concerns about international importation.

Following the Regional Directors' advocacy, Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) prioritized ten non-endemic countries in Africa to sustain the gains made.

Support for Polio eradication in Nigeria through WHO is made possible by funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the GPEI partners.

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction

1. A group photograph of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with UN Nigeria staff members at the fore-court of the UN House Abuja.
2. R-L: The Ambassador of Denmark (to Nigeria) His Excellency Sune Krogstrup, UN Nigeria Resident Coordinator, Mr Matthias Schmale, Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen and UNFPA Nigeria Resident Representative Ms Ulla Mueller during the inaugural Event of the leadership of the committees of the Call to Action on protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies in Abuja on May 31.
3. L-R: Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba; Vice President Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Prof Yemi Osinbajo; a young boy; UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Matthias Schmale; and UNICEF Country Representative, Mr Peter Hawkins, at the launch of Reports on Situation Analysis of Children in Nigeria, Multidimensional & Monetary Child Poverty Analysis in Nigeria.

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