

AUGUST 2022



UNITED NATIONS  
NIGERIA



# NEWSLETTER



## Traditional, Religious Leaders Commit To Supporting Women's Participation In Elections And Preventing Electoral Gender-Based Violence



Leadership of Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) in Nigeria and other influential high-level traditional leaders convened by UN Women and the Resident Coordinator's Office to deliberate on women's participation in politics and prevention of gender-based violence in forth-coming 2023 elections in Nigeria.

As the 2023 elections draw nearer, traditional and religious leaders in Nigeria have pledged their commitments to supporting women's participation in all elections including the 2023 elections and preventing electoral gender-based violence.

This was contained in the communique issued by the Zonal Representatives of the Traditional Rulers in Nigeria at the end of a one-day dialogue on Ending Electoral Violence against Women in elections held on 29 August 2022 in Abuja.

The Office of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UN Women convened the leadership of Council of Traditional Leaders of Africa (COTLA) in Nigeria and other influential high-level traditional leaders to engage and pledge commitments for supporting women's participation in all elections including the 2023 elections and beyond, including preventing electoral gender-based violence.

"Traditional rulers shall be intentional about encouraging women to participate in politics by mobilizing participation that can be backed up by religious obligations supporting participation of women in politics;" says the communique, "Traditional rulers shall lead community awareness and sensitization efforts to enhance perception of women's participation in politics; and they "shall address religious...continue on page 2.

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## Traditional Leaders Commit To Preventing Electoral Gender-Based Violence *(Continued from page 1)*



L-R: UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale; Etsu Nupe Bida Emirate, HRH Alhaji yahaya Abubakar, CFR; and UN Women Country Representative in Nigeria and the ECOWAS, Beatrice Eyong.



Head of Cooperation, Canadian High Commission, Djifa Ahado, speaking at the occasion.



UN Women Country Representative in Nigeria and the ECOWAS, Beatrice Eyong, addresses the participants.

...misconceptions within their domain that inhibits women's unfettered participation in politics."

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale, noted that "Violence is still a major factor that threatens citizen's participation, especially women who are most vulnerable in conflict situations and suffer from GBV. In times of crises, the numbers rise, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic."

He emphasised that violence against women in politics and in elections must be addressed with a sense of urgency, especially as Nigeria approaches the 2023 general elections. "This type of violence", he continued, "has far-reaching consequences and is manifested in several forms: physical violence, sexual violence, threats and coercion, and gender hate speech."

Schmale thanked the traditional leaders in Nigeria for their commitment to promoting peace in their domains and their fight against gender-based violence.

UN Women Country Representative in Nigeria and the ECOWAS, Beatrice Eyong, noted that there were very qualified women in and out of Nigeria. "It is only the private sector that has up to 20% Women in executive positions. The statistic for Women in executive positions in public institutions is by far lower." She said.

Traditional leaders, Eyong said, could organize strong advocacy campaigns with government and political parties for appropriate laws, policies and protective measures; organize meetings with Women aspirants from all parties and encourage them as well as open support for Women in politics; and support gender-responsive electoral management.

The Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Ambassador James Christoff, represented by the Head of Cooperation, Djifa Ahado, said Canada firmly believed that supporting the empowerment of women and girls was the best way to have a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous Nigeria.

According to him, having women at the table to play a greater role in decision making, particularly at the political level was a key part. Christoff added that the Canadian government recognised that women considering political participation faced a number of challenges – whether as a candidate, a political supporter, an election administrator or a voter.

# World Humanitarian Day: Honoring Our Humanitarian Village



Participants at this year's World Humanitarian Day event on 19 August all shared on this collaborative poster what inspires them to take part in humanitarian action.

On the occasion of World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2022, the humanitarian community in north-east Nigeria honored the aid workers stepping up to respond each day to the crisis in the region by providing life-saving assistance to millions of women, children and men.

This year's theme #ItTakesAVillage built upon the metaphor, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' At an event commemorating World Humanitarian Day in Maiduguri Mr. Matthias Schmale, United Nations (UN) Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria stated, "Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a whole community to help people in need; to provide urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, transportation, security, water and much more."

The humanitarian 'village' in north-east Nigeria proudly includes volunteers and paid staff from civil society, national and international NGOs, government, the United Nations and crisis-affected people themselves. The vast majority of aid workers in Nigeria – including those who are exposed to the most risk – are Nigerians.

"Despite the many challenges in this crisis, we should all be immensely proud of the impact humanitarians have in north-east Nigeria. Through our combined effort our humanitarian 'village' delivered assistance to five million people last year. That assistance saved countless lives, improved living conditions, and protected the most vulnerable people," said Mr. Schmale. Part of this assistance continues to be empowering affected people as part of this village to help themselves.

World Humanitarian Day also advocates for the safety and security of aid workers, who often work in volatile and

unpredictable environments. Since 2016, 35 aid workers have been killed in north-east Nigeria, according to the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB). Twenty-two have been wounded and 28 kidnapped. So far in 2022, six aid workers have been kidnapped and one has been killed in the region (AWSDB).

The humanitarian crisis has continued unabated in north-east Nigeria, with 8.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance this year, according to the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview. The deteriorating food security and nutrition situation is one of the most concerning areas of this crisis. Mr. Schmale highlighted that, "As we celebrate this day, we must remember that 4.1 million people across the north-east are facing hunger, trying to cope with its dangerous repercussions. We must put them, and all crisis-affected people, at the center of World Humanitarian Day."

To respond to the food security and nutrition crisis and other urgent needs, the humanitarian community in north-east Nigeria works jointly as one 'village,' taking collective to get help where it's needed most.

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly designated 19 August as World Humanitarian Day to raise awareness about humanitarian assistance worldwide and to pay tribute to the people who risk their lives to provide it. World Humanitarian Day was commemorated for the first time on 19 August 2009.



## UN Values Unique Views And Ideas Of Young People – Schmale



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale (Centre) addresses the audience.

In commemorating the International Youth Day, the United Nations in Nigeria, has organized an ‘Open Door Dialogue’ with young people on 12 August 2022, at the UN House, Abuja.

Organised by the UN Inter-Agency Group on Youth and hosted by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale, the dialogue provided an opportunity for Nigerian youths to have a conversation on the theme, “Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”.

In his remarks, the Resident Coordinator emphasized that the UN valued the unique views and ideas of young people as the future of the world, and “thus works strategically with young people as key stakeholders in policy review and formulation to capture their unique perspectives, foster ownership and provide them the opportunity to shape the discourse.”

Participating young people had asked many questions ranging from youth inclusion in programme planning and implementation; to UN working with youth networks; supporting young social entrepreneurs; as well as opportunities available for youth advocates.

Schmale highlighted three critical steps to address ageism and promote intergenerational solidarity. These are Policy and Law, Educational Intervention, and Intergenerational contact interventions.

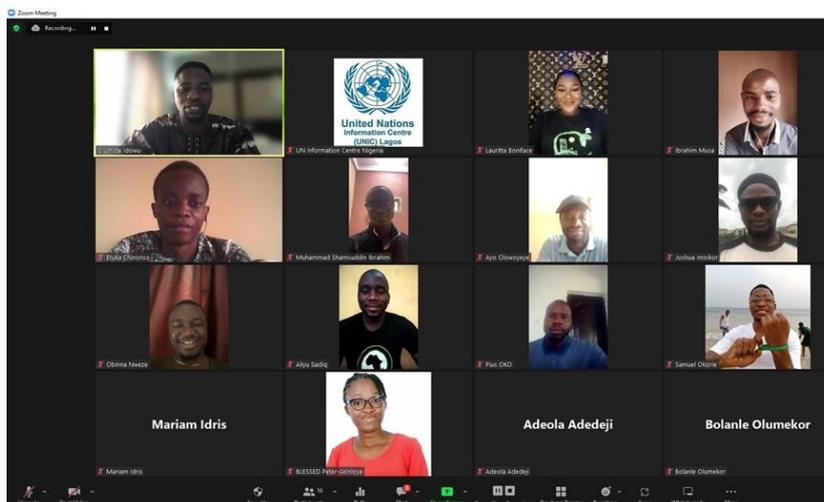
He shared some of the interventions of the UN for the Nigerian young people: The UNDP’s Jubilee Fellows Programme with Government which provides jobs for 20,000

young people; the UNIDO’s Nigeria Start-Up Centre which helps young entrepreneurs to deploy technology to start their own digital enterprises; ILO’s work with International Telecommunication Union to enhance skills of youths to start tech businesses; and UNICEF’s Generation Unlimited which aims to support 20 million young Nigerians transition from learning to earning by giving them digital skills.

Others are UNFPA-supported revision of National Youth Policy to ensure needs of youth are met; and UNESCO’s training of 1,045 youths under the YouthMobile Initiative on mobile apps development skills; among others.



# Nigerian Youth And Road To COP 27 Dialogue Series: Youths Call For Legal Framework To Enforce Peoples’ Right To A Healthy Environment



In its quest to create awareness, deepen knowledge and mobilise support for the COP 27 amongst young people as a critical stakeholder in ensuring effective climate action in Nigeria, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in collaboration with International Climate Change Development Initiative (ICCDI), has organized a monthly programme titled, “Nigerian Youth And Road To COP 27 Dialogue Series”.

At the third edition, held on 25 August, and which focused on ‘A healthy Environment for a thriving earth is a human right’, Nigerian youths called on the government to provide a legal framework to enforce the right of the people to a healthy environment in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right.

The panelists comprising of Musa Ibrahim, a Land Hero of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Lauritta Boniface, co-founder of Ecocycle Limited, echoed the UN General Assembly call upon States, international organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders to

“scale up efforts” to ensure a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all.

Moderated by Olumide Idowu, Executive Director ICCDI, the panelists highlighted the environmental threats currently faced by humanity which include climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

They stated that the United Nations General Assembly resolution declaring access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a universal human right is a catalyst for action to empower communities, youths, CSOs and people to hold government accountable to implement the rights to a healthy environment and to bring about positive changes to improve the lives of people while increasing their life expectancy.

They enjoined youths to take their advocacy beyond using the digital tools, but to take responsibility and to translate their actions to building community champions, engage communities to promote behavioural change for a healthy and sustainable environment.

The discussion advised that government should take the necessary steps to ensure the presence of a legal framework to enable people enforce their rights to a healthy environment.

## Summer Holiday: UN Engages Pupils on SDGs and Climate Action

As part of its education outreach activities, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) has leveraged on the summer holiday to improve the knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the “Act Now Climate Action Super Heroes Campaign” amongst pupils.

During the just concluded summer holiday, the UN Information Centre in collaboration with Transforming Ajegunle Projects Group briefed over 200 pupils from various schools in Ajegunle community in the Ajeromi-Ifelodun Local Government Area of Lagos State about the Climate Action Superheroes.

During the summer holiday, UNIC and partners had organized educational outreach activities in 16 primary schools in Lekki, Surulere and Lagos Island, in Lagos State.

The pupils were sensitized on SDGs and the importance of keeping their environment clean by taking action on the environment to become superheroes for the environment.



UNIC Lagos Knowledge Management Assistant, Bolanle Olumekor, disseminates SDGs to pupils in Lagos.

## UN Urges Increased Use Of Social Dialogue Mechanism For Productivity And Competitiveness

*As part of effort to enhance the capacities of Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP) to address industrial disputes in Nigeria, the ILO provided technical assistance for a three-day Capacity Building Workshop on “International Labour Standards and Dispute Resolution in Nigeria”*



Hon Minister of Labour, Senator (Dr) Chris Ngige (Right); Director of the ILO Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala (3rd from the left); and other dignitaries at the capacity building workshop on International Labour Standards and Dispute Resolution in Nigeria.

The Director of the ILO Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala, has advocated more application of Social Dialogue tool in industrial relations to create the conditions of competitiveness and productivity. She stated this at the opening ceremony of a three-day Capacity Building Workshop on International Labour Standards and Dispute Resolution in Nigeria.

The three-day workshop took place in Abuja from 2nd to 4th August 2022. Jointly organized by Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP) and International Labour Organization (ILO), the workshop's objectives include to understand the role of IAP in labour disputes, prevention and resolutions as envisaged under the ongoing labour reforms in Nigeria; deepen knowledge of members and management of IAP on recent trends and new development; and to improve IAP members' knowledge and skills in the use of ILO International Labour Standards and instruments in labour disputes prevention and resolutions to promote industrial peace and harmony in Nigeria.

According to her, social dialogue presented people the opportunity to interact efficiently to protect their particular and common interests, thereby becoming a useful tool of the governance of labour market. She stated that the consolidation of social peace is a condition of productivity and competitiveness of economies, a way of thinking together about how to distribute the fruits of the growth. Emphasizing the importance of social dialogue, she stated that social dialogue enables actors to implement vision and goals and one of those goals was decent work for all.

Advocating for the use of structural approaches in the resolution of industrial crisis in Nigeria, as a way forward, she said "Structural approaches are those that allow actors to settle in a sustainable perspective of prevention and management of concerns and crises. They offer actors permanent frameworks, mechanisms, and tools capable of taking charge of the relation-

ships and crises they generate. They range from the reformation of existing frameworks to the creation of new frameworks and the implementation of strategic instruments and collective agreements."

In his keynote address, the Hon Minister of Labour, Senator (Dr) Chris Ngige stated that Arbitration was one of the statutory stages in trade dispute resolution commencing with internal mechanism where they existed in any organization. He highlighted the procedure to include mediation, conciliation, arbitration, and adjudication by National Industrial Court of Nigeria with Appeal Court as the final arbiter.

The Honourable Minister described the workshop as one of the ongoing reforms in his ministry aimed at assisting arbitrators to understand the mandate of the Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP) to discharge their duties diligently. He stated that to ensure decent work and social justice, Nigeria had ratified all the eight core conventions covering four thematic areas of: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The Chief Registrar of IAP, Abduhamid Ibrahim, echoed similar sentiments stated by the Honourable Minister by adding that the workshop provided a unique opportunity for members of IAP and its management staff to acquire sound knowledge and experience in new approaches and skills regarding labour disputes prevention and resolution in line with International Labour Standards (ILS).

Facilitated by Specialists from ILO Labour Administration and Social Dialogue and NORMES departments, the opening ceremony brought together important stakeholders from House of Representatives Committee on Labour and Employment; Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA); Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC); Trade Union Congress (TUC) of Nigeria; National Industrial Court of Nigeria; and Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA)

## With UN Support, IDPs In Northeast Nigeria Learn New Skills To Change Their Lives



Mrs. Onochie explains the processes at the Aquaculture Training Centre. Photo: WFP/John Maina

Internally displaced persons camps in various parts of Maiduguri, Borno State, northeast Nigeria, bubbled with livelihood activities just before they shut down in August 2022 – as the men and women perfected new skills that would help them to feed their families when they returned to their home communities.

The UN World Food Programme worked with partners and government authorities to assist the IDPs to learn new skills in farming, aquaculture, food processing, tailoring, shoe-making, soap-making, carpentry and other activities that will enable them to generate income and rebuild their lives even as they return to their home communities. These livelihood activities, delivered by WFP and its partners to IDPs, are a major aspect of WFP's mandate of "saving lives and changing lives" among the vulnerable people and communities it serves in Nigeria.

At the Aquaculture Training Centre in Malakyarari village, in the outskirts of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, healthy, matured catfish bobbed up and down in tens of large fish tanks – gulping food and water intermittently. The farm, managed and operated by WFP-supported beneficiaries, contained over 2,500 fish altogether, raised from seedlings to maturity by the participant-beneficiaries.

"This is an integrated artificial Fish Farming project and Aquaculture Training Centre," said Mrs. Nana Christopher Onochie, the Christian Aid Aquaculture Programme Officer who managed the project. "The participants received N17,000 WFP cash each per month and worked 15 days monthly in the fish farm."

The Aquaculture Training Centre covered a full range of activities including training of some 94 participant-beneficiaries; Fish farming (from fish seedlings to maturity); Fish-feed formulation and production (with feed-pelleting machines); and Fish processing (like fish-smoking, etc.).

The trained participant-beneficiaries pass on their skills to others, thereby increasing the number of persons with sufficient skills to produce fish for their immediate family food needs and to generate some income by selling their surplus fish in the local markets.

Indeed, over 930 households (some 4,600 individuals) benefitted from some 20 WFP-sponsored income generating activities in Malakyararai alone since the project started in the community last year. The beneficiaries received WFP cash plus inputs and training in the different income generating activities. The beneficiaries also received some basic training in business and financial management and records keeping – to empower them with the knowledge to manage their small businesses. They were linked with markets to ensure that they could sell their products both within and outside their communities. They were also linked with Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) where they could get some revolving loans to scale up their businesses.

Hajara Abubakar, 50, is a widow with seven children. Hajara and her family were displaced several years ago from Jere Local Government Area in Borno State when armed fighters attacked her community. Her uncle lost his life in the attack; her youngest son was abducted and she has not seen him again. "There is nothing that my eyes have not seen. The pain is too much," Hajara said. However, as one of the beneficiaries of the WFP-supported Income Generating Activities programme in Malakyararai, Hajara has rebuilt her life and is taking good care of her family.

Hajara makes bean cakes and pan-cakes which she sells in the community. "Everybody buys my bean cakes and pan cakes," Hajara said. "Yes, we all buy from her," chorused her friends and neighbours who sat together with her on a mat in their compound.

"The Income Generating Activities (IGA) Programme has had a very high rate of positive impact in the household incomes of the people of this community," said Michael Adzembah, IGA Officer with Christian Aid, a WFP partner. "We are looking to achieve a sustainable source of livelihood for the beneficiaries so that they can be self-reliant and improve the economic well-being of their households".

## UN And Partners Commemorate The World Day Against Trafficking In Persons



Lead Project Officer, Human Trafficking, Abimbola Adewumi speaking during a press conference to commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

The Internet has become a vital lifeline as the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted travel and kept people apart. But the advantages and potential of digital technologies to bring us together and better our lives are also being increasingly exploited by criminals.

This year's theme for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - "Use and abuse of technology" - focuses on the role of technology as a tool that can both enable and stop human trafficking. For people on the move, online resources can become a trap, especially when it comes to phony travel arrangements and fake job offers targeting vulnerable groups.

The 2020 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, reported that the use of internet has been integrated into the business model of traffickers and it facilitates ensnaring victims into sexual exploitation, forced labour and other forms of exploitations. Through the internet, traffickers easily gain access to an increased pool of customers, particularly sex buyers. One court case is particularly illustrative: a single trafficker, working alone, managed to sexually exploit and connect one victim with over 100 sex buyers over a period of 60 days using online advertisement.

The Executive Director of UNODC, Ms. Ghada Waly in her message on World Day Against Trafficking In Persons highlighted how traffickers uses technology due to the borderless nature of information and communications technologies which enables traffickers to expand their reach and profits with even greater impunity.

As part of build-up of events in Nigeria towards the World Day against trafficking in persons, UNODC, FIAP, Expertise France and IOM under the overall coordination of NAPTIP, concluded a 5-day bootcamp for state task forces on human trafficking. The purpose of which was to enhance cross-fertilization of information amongst the state task forces and

between NAPTIP and the state task forces on collaborative efforts to address human trafficking at the state and community level.

Speaking at the event, the Country Representative of UNODC, Oliver Stolpe, emphasized the need for cooperation between state and non-state actors to enhance capability to collect and share intelligence and develop "protocols for action."

In Nigeria, state task forces on human trafficking embarked on series of sensitization and awareness campaigns through road shows, school sensitizations, high-level advocacy visits to government to amplify the message of combatting human trafficking.

At the press conference to flag-off activities to commemorate the 2022 World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Dr. Fatima Waziri-Azi, stated that the agency has rescued many Nigerian girls who fell victims of fake online jobs. Many of them fell into the nets of traffickers after paying enrolment fee and travelled abroad. They arrived their destination to realize that there was neither school nor scholarship which were promised in the deceptive advertorials.

She stated that: "The internet provides easy access to a larger pool of potential victims because geographical limitations no longer exist, thereby increasing the ease with which traffickers can locate and recruit their victims; control and organize transportation for victims, communicate amongst perpetrators, and hide criminal proceeds." She further disclosed that with over 70,000 reports on online trafficking, the Agency is working in partnership with Facebook to enhance tracing and diligent investigation of traffickers.



## Migrants As Messengers Project: Returned Migrants Equipped To Raise Awareness On Migration In Their Communities



"Cross - Section of MaM Volunteers at the Project Close-Out Event in Lagos. Photo: IOM/2022

Every year, many migrants from Nigeria embark on treacherous journeys as they leave their country searching for a better future abroad. Migrants travelling via irregular routes face risks such as trafficking in persons (TiP), extortion, physical abuse, torture, forced labour, rape and even death. Despite significant efforts by the Federal Government of Nigeria, intergovernmental organisations, and civil society to protect victims from these risks, still today, many migrants fall prey to traffickers and smugglers due to a lack of information about safe alternatives to irregular migration. Trusted and accurate information, knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising are powerful tools to help potential migrants make informed and life-saving decisions.

To tackle these issues, IOM in 2017 launched the Migrants as Messengers (MaM) project, a peer-to-peer awareness-raising campaign carried out directly by returned migrants who volunteer to share honest accounts of their migration experiences with their communities and peers to help them make informed decisions.

The second phase of the MaM project kicked off in 2019 with funding from the Government of Netherlands. The project which was operational in three states; Edo, Delta and Lagos States had 50 MaM volunteers in Nigeria (29 Males, 21 Females) trained in various digital and non - digital skills for awareness-raising on migration. Volunteers use photography, art, graphic design, community theatre, public speaking, advocacy, sports and creative writing to convey messages on safe migration that creates positive behavioral change among their peers and communities. Through digital content and on-the-ground activities, these volunteers sensitize their peers and communities on safe migration pathways and livelihood opportunities in Nigeria.

"The Migrants as Messengers project is based on the communication for development approach. Returned migrants take ownership and are at the centre of the planning,

design, and implementation of activities. These volunteers share authentic first-person testimonies through digital content and creative activities with their peers and community. This further helps them make informed decisions on their migratory journeys." said Prestage Murima, IOM Nigeria Chief of Mission, a.i

Since 2019, MaM volunteers in Nigeria have reached over 59,000 people under the second phase of MaM through various offline activities like market sensitization, school advocacy, soccer tournaments, music concerts, drama and role plays, radio visits. They have also produced over 105 digital content including videos aired on social media platforms to help their peers make informed decisions on their migration choices. Activities marking the official end of the project held in Lagos between 3 – 5 August. MaM volunteers organized an art-based event tagged 'Speaking through Art' where volunteers shared the experiences of their migratory journey. The event had media, government and NGO partners in attendance culminated on the final day with an exhibition of the paintings created by the volunteers.

"This project gave me a pathway to serve", says Rita Abu, a MAM volunteer. "The different trainings I received has strengthened my skills", I can take photographs, record videos and speak publicly, these are things I could not do in the past." she added.

Under the MaM project, the volunteers also registered nine returned migrant associations. MaM volunteers will continue to support their fellow returned migrants through these associations and oversee their own activities ranging from sensitization events to provision of mental and psychosocial support. This ensures that interventions done under the project are sustainable by the volunteers even after the project closes. IOM also donated visibility items and digital content production equipment to the volunteer associations to support their activities.

Migrants as Messengers phase two project is funded by the Government of Netherlands.



## Intergenerational Solidarity For Youth Development

To thrive in today's world, young people need a full range of skills for success in school, work, and life. In addition to foundational skills such as basic literacy and numeracy, young people will need transferable skills, job-specific skills, and entrepreneurial skills.

The Nigerian youth have often been described as resourceful, creative, and entrepreneurial - traits that are important for building industries and economies. Young people are not afraid to make a switch in careers or interests. They, however, often go it alone in a bid to make a mark in their chosen industry. They do not always have access to the necessary funding, platform, or mentorship from older generations to hone their skills.

For this year's international youth day, we look at three young Nigerians – Kachi, Favour, and Mikayla, who are trying to carve a path for themselves in the music industry.

**Kachi Chuks, founder of KachiTV** started as a music artist and had issues with funding, promotion, and support. He spent a good amount of time looking for sponsors to no avail. When funds were not forthcoming, he decided to pivot into media mar-



Kachi Chuks

keting, another area in the music industry. He registered his brand legally, promoted other people's shows on Instagram, and started reaching out to already established names in the music industry. He succeeded in getting interviews and more shows to promote.

For Kachi, the most memorable part of using his skills as a young person was when he received an award in school. "I was nominated as the best social student for my media marketing work and I won based on votes. It showed that I was putting in the effort and people were recognizing it. This motivates me to do more", he said.

**Favour Izukah**, Podcaster, Content creator, and social media strategist found a perfect way to put her storytelling skills to use in the music industry. She said 'Storytelling skills are important. Social media has gone beyond just scrolling. One has to be able to tell captivating stories', The music industry is wide. There's the marketing aspect and content creation side of it. There are social media platforms to help you reach out to audiences beyond borders and countries. I think I can work in any industry.

Favour has been telling stories for a year and six months, often braving different circumstances to create social media content for brands. During the period, her most memorable day was when she received a commendation from her boss. This served as a confidence booster and has helped her to do more.

**Mikayla Uzuegbu** started as a music artist, attending singing competitions and performing songs written by others. She started writing songs in 2019, kept networking, and promoting her songs on social media. She was discovered by a music producer who invested in her and produced her first single, pro bono.



Favour Izukah,

Mikayla said "having a song produced for me made me feel seen and validated my skills. If my songs go through proper promotion, I am sure it would have made a bigger impact"

Kachi, Favour, and Mikayla are well on their way to achieving their ambitions but they can get there faster with the right support, platforms, mentorship, investment, and co-creation that can be offered by other generations who already have experience in building business. This is not peculiar to these three, indeed, it is the case with the Nigerian youth.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world needs to leverage the full potential of all generations. Solidarity across generations is key for sustainable development. Everyone's input counts. To have a bigger impact on skilling for youth, there should be collaboration across generations to pool resources and synergize efforts.

At UNICEF, we are working well towards this with Generation



Mikayla Uzuegbu

Unlimited, a leading global Public-Private-Youth Partnership on a mission to skill and connect young people to opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and social impact. The partnership brings together global organizations and leaders including Heads of State, CEOs, Heads of UN agencies, and civil society champions with young people to co-create and deliver innovative solutions on a global scale.

## UN Advocates For Strengthened Social Protection Statistics In Nigeria

As part of the ILO effort to support the government's effort in monitoring progress in social protection coverage and tracking expenses, the ILO Abuja office paid an advocacy visit to the Statistician General of the Federation to discuss collaboration.



Directors of National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and ILO Representatives

Social protection interventions have recorded significant human development impacts across all regions of the world including Nigeria. Social protection contributes to enhancing the economic and productive capacity of even the poorest and most marginalized. However, there are little or no data to monitor social protection coverage in Nigeria.

It is on this basis that the International Labour Organization Abuja office meet with the statistician general of the federation to canvass for the institutionalization of social protection statistics into the national statistical system.

Speaking at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) headquarters in Abuja the ILO Regional Social Protection Specialist, Mr Batchabi Dramanne stated that the International Labour Organization through the Social Security Inquiry collects data to monitor social protection coverage and expenses all over the world. As the custodian of SDG 1.3.1 it has become very important for the ILO to partner with statistical institutions to ensure adequacy of data and early reportage.

The specialist stated that the Abuja office has supported with an initial assessment to institute social protection statistics into the Nigeria National Statistical System. The study has been completed and will be transmitted to the bureau for consideration.

The Statistician General of the federation Mr. Semiu Adeyemi Adeniran stated that he was aware of the role data

play to ensure adequate monitoring of social protection coverage and expenses. "We are currently collaborating with the National Social Safety Net Coordinating Office on different issues, and I am happy to include social protection statistics", he said. He also stated that as a matter of urgency the NBS would create a technical committee on social protection statistics to monitor social protection coverage in Nigeria. The committee would cut across all social insurance, and social assistant institutions in Nigeria. Based on this, he requested the ILO to continue to support the NBS in strengthening the capacity of the committee to enable it achieve its objectives.

The recent Social Security Inquiry (SSI) conducted by the ILO in close collaboration with Government of Nigeria, revealed that only 11% of the population benefited from one form of social protection or the other. One of the problems identified during the social security inquiry exercise was lack of adequate data. With this envisaged initiative the problem of data unavailability would be resolved before the next Social Security Inquiry. The SSI is used to produce the world social protection report every two years.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

## UN Commemorates International Day Of Remembrance And Tribute To Victims Of Terrorism



Cross section of participants at the youth resilience workshop in Bayelsa State.

On the 21st August, the United Nations commemorated the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, which is intended to provide a platform for the voices of victims and survivors of terrorism. Ensuring access to justice for the victims of terrorism so that their interests are also represented in criminal proceedings lies at the heart of UNODC's mission to integrate the victims' perspective in its capacity-building activities.

To this end UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) carried out a Twitter campaign that featured victim stories from around the world, including from one anonymous survivor here in Nigeria who shared the lasting impact that the experience of terrorist violence has had on their mental health:

"I feel traumatized because at any moment I become triggered by the sound of their name, loud sounds, and crowds. When they started the violent campaign in this area, bomb explosions and gun shoot sounds was what we heard daily in this community, the street was littered with dismembered body parts, this is what comes to my mind always."

Victims of terrorism can often carry the trauma of their experience with them long after the event itself and often require ongoing psychological, medical, and social support. UNODC helps Member States to review the role their criminal justice systems can play in supporting victims of terrorism as part of their broader counter-terrorism strategy, and has developed a range of practical tools that they can draw upon to support victims and their communities.

While ensuring the effective criminal prosecution of alleged perpetrators is obviously a critical factor in reducing the destabilizing impact that terrorism can have on society at large, supporting victims, giving them a voice, providing them with answers, enabling them to participate in the criminal justice process, and assisting them on their road to recovery can all be equally important in restoring a measure of equanimity.

UNODC has been working in Nigeria for the past nine years to strengthen criminal justice responses to terrorism, and to promote greater accountability for the perpetrators of acts of terrorism while taking a victim-centered approach through the EU-Nigeria-UNODC-CTED Partnership Project.

Over the past three years the EU-Nigeria-UNODC-CTED Partnership Project has supported the processing of 2,900 terrorism-related cases, resulting in the release of 2,400 prisoners, the referral of 230 new cases for trial, and the presentation of 22 cases before the Federal High Court in 2021, which resulted in 13 convictions for terrorism-related offences.

As women have frequently been the victims of sexual and gender-based violence at the hands of both ISWAP and JAS, UNODC has also promoted a gender-based approach to prosecuting terrorist violence. Fatima Bello Raji, a legal practitioner in Adamawa State, has personal experience of these interventions, and she commented:

"There is a need to make gender-specific legislation and put in place mechanisms to ensure their implementation in a victim-centered manner. The platform provided by UNODC has fostered greater coordination and collaboration between key actors of the judicial response to terrorism."

Acts of terrorism and violent extremism continue to harm and kill thousands of innocent people around the world each year, leaving physical, mental, and emotional scars that can persist for decades. The International Day provides us all with an important reminder that by ensuring the voices of victims and survivors are heard we can at least afford them a degree of comfort.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
Remembrance of and Tribute  
to the Victims of Terrorism

**SURVIVING TERRORISM**

THE POWER OF MEMORIES

## Increasing COVID-19 Vaccination In Northeast Nigeria



A WHO Community Health Champion at work in Borno State, North-East Nigeria.

**H**ajara Maimuna Idi is sitting under a tree at the Gubio Road settlement for internally displaced people, in Borno State, northeast Nigeria. She is baffled by the reluctance of her fellow residents to get vaccinated for COVID-19, even though a vaccination centre is located within the settlement.

“I got vaccinated because I was made aware that it was for the benefit of my health. I didn’t want to be hospitalized because of COVID-19,” she says. “The sensitization team made us understand that the COVID-19 vaccination would help build our immune systems to fight the virus. I got thrilled with the way they presented it to us,” she recounts. Maimuna is one of the 43 community-based volunteers trained by WHO to mobilize their peers to get the vaccination. The volunteers hail from six densely populated host communities across three local government areas in Borno State.

The State Ministry of Health, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), has been raising awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine to encourage vaccine uptake. In the first two and a half weeks of July, volunteers helped 1,000 eligible people, either resident at the settlement or from the surrounding host community, to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at one of several immunization posts located strategically in each of the communities.

“The volunteers are getting the necessary results because they understand what needs to be done,” notes Dr Isiaka Ayodeji, WHO’s state coordinator.

Since June 2021, the fragile Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states in north-east Nigeria have received assistance from the WHO for these and other activities, thanks to a grant from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

Under the ECHO grant, WHO is also supporting capacity building for information and health education officers, interpersonal health risk messages, a campaign strategy, focus group discussions with community members, and radio discussion programmes and jingles containing health messages. As a result, three million people across these three states have been reached with integrated health risk messaging.

COVID-19 vaccination is a priority for people at risk, due to their vulnerability to other vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. WHO, UNICEF, Intersos, and other partners have engaged in advocacy meetings with ministries, departments and agencies, traditional and community leaders, political leaders, and religious leaders, as well as the media. As a result, two major radio stations in the region have aired more than 65 radio spots on COVID-19 vaccination in the past six months.

“I want to appreciate both WHO and other partners for their unwavering support. The need to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination is paramount. That’s why enlisting community-based volunteers to spread awareness among peers is such an effective strategy,” says Borno State’s Immunization Officer, Fakilahyel Luka.

The WHO’s Northeast Emergency Manager, Dr Richard Lako, says that awareness creation is one of the key components to increase people’s knowledge on the importance of COVID-19 vaccination.

“WHO will continue to support the Borno State government in ensuring vaccine equity is achieved,” he reiterates.



**DECADE  
OF  
ACTION**

## News Tit Bits

### AU Youth Envoy Engages Nigerian Youths

On 4 August 2022, young Nigerians engaged and discussed with the African Union (AU) Youth Envoy, Ms Chido Cleo Mpemba, at a Town Hall held at the UN House in Abuja, as part of activities for the #60DaysListeningTour campaign of the envoy.

In a panel discussion with youth leaders on the topic: "Leveraging On Nigerian Youth for Meaningful Participation in Africa's Development Processes", the young people highlighted the various challenges encountered by Nigerian Youths which include youth livelihoods, education, public health, climate change, and digital Inclusion. They also suggested ways to best harness their potentials. Ms Mpemba observed that the size and youthfulness of the Nigerian population offer great potential to expand the country's capacity as the regional economic hub of Africa and globally. But the potential needs to be properly harnessed.

She noted that "Institutions need to be particularly inclusive of youths from vulnerable groups taking on intersectional approaches to include young women, youths with disabilities, youths from marginalized communities and other various marginalized groups".

### Eschew Age-based Biases – Schmale, At Youth Day Event in Lagos

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mathias Schmale, has called on everyone to eschew age-based biases and discrimination.

"When age-based biases permeate our institutions, they can create and perpetuate disparities between groups." He said at the commemoration of International Youth Day event organised by the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in collaboration with Strategy for Mentoring Initiative and Leadership Empowerment (SMILE).

Schmale explained that the United Nations proposed three strategies to address the problem of ageism: Law and policy; educational intervention and 'Investments into intergenerational contacts, all of which would foster interaction and promote solidarity among the different age groups.

### Nigeria Launches Energy Transition Plan

The government of Nigeria on 24 August 2022 launched her Energy Transition Plan. At the virtual launch held in Abuja, the Vice President, H.E. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo noted that Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan, was a roadmap to tackle the dual crises of energy poverty and climate change.

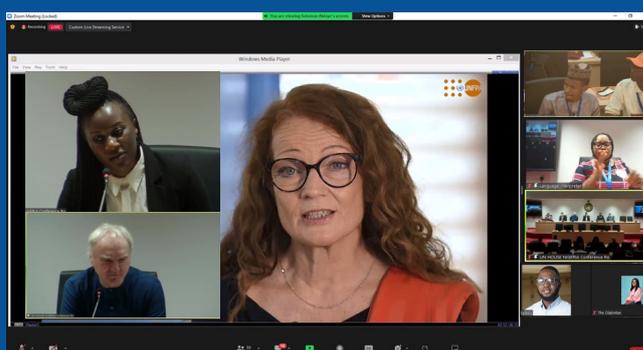
"For Africa, the problem of energy poverty is as important as our climate ambitions. Energy use is crucial for almost every conceivable aspect of development. Wealth, health, nutrition, water, infrastructure, education, and life expectancy are significantly related to the consumption of energy per capita." He said.

CEO and UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN-Energy, Ms Damilola Ogunbiyi, expressed her excitement about the launch of Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan, with the support of Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), The Rockefeller Foundation and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, along with a range of other partners.

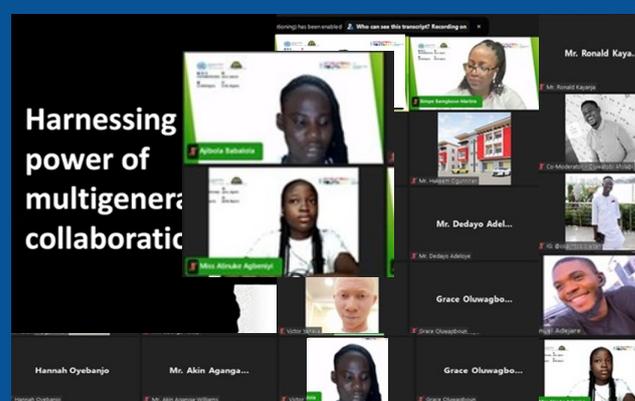
### UN Launches #PromoteMySister Campaign

UNFPA Nigeria has launched #PromoteMySister campaign, an all women and girl focused campaign, spotlighting and encouraging many women and girls to support one another. "Promote My Sister" is an all women and girl focused campaign, spotlighting and encouraging the efforts many women and girls continue to make to support one another.

Share your own story of how you, a woman, promote other women, protect other women, praise other women, pick other women and how other women have done the same for you.



African Union (AU) Youth Envoy, Ms Chido Cleo Mpemba (Top left); UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mathias Schmale (Bottom left); UNFPA Country Representative & Chair, UN Inter-Agency Group on Youth, Ms Ulla Mueller (Centre); and other online and onsite participants.



# PHOTO NEWS



## Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction

1. President Muhammadu Buhari (6th from the left); Ooni of Ife His Imperial Majesty Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi (3rd from the left); UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale (1st from the right); and other dignitaries at the National Stakeholders Consultative Forum on the 2023 Population and House Census at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.
2. UNICEF Chief of Maiduguri Field Office, Phuong T. Nguyen, and other #S2R partners met with religious and community leaders to discuss the successful reintegration & resettlement of children formerly associated with armed groups. The project was supported by the EU in Nigeria.
3. WHO Representative Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo receives a souvenir from H.E. the Governor of Kano, Dr Umar Ganduje, during his recent visit to the Governor who acknowledged WHO's leadership role & strong collaboration in achieving health related outcomes in Kano State.

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