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NEWSLETTER



UN Runs '8 Days Of Peace' To Mark Int'l Day Of Peace In Nigeria



The UN Resident Coordinator and the Executive Governor of Benue State, Dr. Samuel Loraer Ortom, during the signing of the Benue state Peace Bill.

The International Day of Peace, 21 September is a day set aside by The UN General Assembly to strengthen the ideals of peace, through 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year, the UN Nigeria commemorated the day through the celebration of '8 days of peace' from 12th- 21st September. The ONE UN approach ensured that several UN agencies came together to celebrate the international day of peace under the theme "End racism. Build peace"

"Every 21st September gives us an opportunity to reflect on why the UN was set up which is to promote international peace and security. For Nigeria, this creates an opportunity to highlight the importance of actively reflecting on discrimination and exclusion which can both lead to a breach in peace especially in local communities" the United Nations Nigeria Resident Coordinator Mr. Matthias Schmale stated.

The commemoration was timely as Nigeria with over 300 ethnic nationalities, over 500 languages spoken by over 260 million people, has had its fair share of conflicts. Over the years, Nigeria has experienced conflicts fuelled by religious and ethnic intolerance, this has greatly impacted the overall peace and security in the country...continue on page 2.

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"Nigeria needs transformative change. We must end discrimination, intolerance and hate speech based on one's ethnicity, religion, political affiliation and gender. We must build equitable, accountable and responsive society". Mr. Schmale further stated:

The 8 Days of Peace in Nigeria was launched by the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), led by the Peace and Development Team in partnership with the UNCT. The Peace and Security Adviser to the United Nations Resident Coordinator Nigeria Ms. Kimaris Toogood stated "There's a clear link between instability in Nigeria and access to food and health care and this has increased vulnerability across the population. It is in the interest of everyone to promote peace.

The commemoration featured several UN agencies including WHO, UNDP, UNODC, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNHCR UNICEF, UNWomen and ILO. The Celebration kicked off with the Peace Walk on Diplomatic Drive with participants from across the UN House and its environs. For the rest of the days, several activities were conducted including panel discussions to commemorate the 2022 International Day of Peace, a publication exhibition from 6



A group photograph as some staff members and partners.

agencies to demonstrate how the UN system in Nigeria contributes to building a peaceful Nigeria.

The states were not left out as state-level dialogues with stakeholders from the state ministries was also conducted. For instance, in Edo state, there was a theatre performance to emphasize the importance of a world where compassion and empathy rules over suspicion and hatred while giving returned migrants a warm embrace and avoiding stigmatization.

The United Nations continues to work towards a world free of racism and racial discrimination which is full of compassion and empathy instead of suspicion and hatred.

WHO Organises Peace Walk To Mark Int'l Day Of Peace



A cross-section of participants in the peace walk.

have agreed to join a common approach to celebrate the International Peace Day in 2022.

The 8 Days of Peace was launched in partnership with UNCT members, the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), led by the Peace and Development Team, to commemorate International Peace Day this year.

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

The World Health Organization kicked off the Third Day of Peace with a Peace Walk in the environs of the United Nations House, with participants from various agencies in the United Nations System, walking together in solidarity, wearing branded T-shirts and holding placards with messages on peacebuilding and ending racism and various forms of discrimination, in line with the theme for the 2022 Peace Day.

The activities started on 12 September and ended on 21 September, the International Peace Day. The UN agencies



A group photograph of participants in the peace walk.

FAO Africa Head Visits Nigeria, Meets Key Stakeholders, Tours Projects In Northeast Region



The High Commissioner of Canada, HE James Christoff sharing a light moment with FAO officials and staff including Mr. Abebe, Mr. Shukri and Mr. Kafeero during an exhibition in Maiduguri by farmers supported by FAO with funding from Canada. .

The Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Abebe Haile-Gabriel made a working visit to Nigeria between September 26 and 30, 2022 with the aim of meeting key stakeholders and visiting projects in the country.

Mr. Abebe was accompanied by the FAO’s global Deputy Director of the Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER), Mr. Shukri Ahmed. The high level mission was meant to strengthen solidarity and amplify the voice of humanitarian actors in advocating for support to stem food insecurity in the country.

While in Abuja, Mr. Abebe had an opportunity to have bilateral meetings with senior officials at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, resource and implementation partners including Heads of Mission representing different countries in Nigeria, UN Country Team members, among others.

He then proceeded to Maiduguri, Borno state where he visited agricultural projects that have transformed the lives of conflict-affected communities in the northeast region and reiterated FAO’s commitment to building resilience of the agriculture-based livelihoods in the region and Africa as a whole.

FAO Representative in Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Fred Kafeero. The High Commissioner of Canada, HE James Christoff together with the Head of Cooperation of the High Commissioner of Canada in Nigeria Ms. Djifa Ahado also joined the delegation for the northeast leg.

The northeast region of Nigeria borders Lake Chad, the area that has been affected by a decade-long insurgency that has reduced food security and destroyed livelihoods. High food and fuel prices, exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine war and remnant economic impacts of COVID-19, are also driving down food security. In partnership with local authorities and partners, FAO is working with other partners including other UN Agencies to improve food security and nutrition, and shoring-up resilience against future such shocks.

In Gongulong community in Jere local government area, Mr. Abebe saw FAO-supported projects including integrated aquaculture and vegetable production, centres for fish-processing

and making briquettes for fuel-efficient stoves, and a Farmer Field School where participants learn methods for better production.

“What we have heard from the community today was that the livelihood restoration projects are changing the lives of many people,” said Mr. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa. “These projects show that when agricultural projects are being invested in with other

partners, poverty and unemployment can be reduced,” he said.

The integrated aquaculture and vegetable production project sees farmers being trained to raise catfish in tanks. The nutrient-rich wastewater from the fish tanks is used to water and fertilize nearby vegetable kitchen gardens, benefitting the community through access to nutritious fish, onions, spinach and okra, and providing a new source of income.

“I can teach others how to set up and sustain the fish farming and vegetable production to earn more income,” Bukar Suguli, a fish and vegetable producer said, adding that the business has restored the livelihoods of the entire community.

The Farmer Field School (FFS), or ‘school without walls’, helps to improve adoption of innovative, sustainable agricultural practices over the course of a farming season. It has been widely adopted in Nigeria, and across Africa, as an effective method for agricultural extension services. Since 2018, FAO has trained over 100 facilitators and established over 400 Farmer Field Schools across five states in Nigeria. Participants have recorded higher yields of up to 40% compared to other farmers.

At the FFS in Gongulong, women farmers have learned to overcome local challenges such as a parasitic weed that destroys cowpea crops. They have addressed it by planting improved varieties of cowpea that are resistant to the weed and that have higher yields.

FAO has also introduced the FAO Thiaroye Technology (FTT) fish-smoking kiln for safe and fuel-efficient processing of the catfish. The kiln drastically reduces the smoke-related health impacts on the women processors compared to older methods, and extends the shelf life of fish by 6 months.

Safe access to cooking fuel is another critical issue being addressed through FAO’s work in Maiduguri. Women and children who traditionally collect fuelwood are often at risk of attack when far from their homes. The Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) programme was introduced by FAO through training to produce fuel-efficient stoves and briquettes.

At the briquette-making facility in Gongulong, women are being trained to make and sell the stoves and fuel, which provides them with a source of income. The innovative stoves reduce fuelwood collection trips from four times a week to just over once a week on average, and halve the amount of fuelwood typically needed. The briquettes use agricultural bio-waste, reducing the need to cut-down trees for fuel. Besides the field visit, the FAO delegation met with the Borno State Deputy Governor, HE Alhaji Umar Usman Kadafur, food security sector stakeholders and UN Heads of Office for the northeast region.

UN Hosts Capacity-Building Workshop On The Treatment Of Children Associated With Terrorist Groups



UNODC CONIG Country Rep, Oliver Stolpe, flanked by the Representative of the EU Delegation to Nigeria, Mr Ruben Alba Aguilera and other stakeholders, during the launch

Terrorist and violent extremist groups’ tactic increasingly focuses on winning the ‘hearts and minds’ of local populations and have become skilled at recruiting and exploiting children for criminal purposes. In Nigeria, Boko Haram factions use children as spies, slaves and propaganda pawns as well as for the perpetration of violent attacks. The United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting in Nigeria was able to verify the recruitment and use of 1,385 children by Boko Haram in the three years prior to 2019. Unfortunately, this is likely to represent only a very small proportion of those affected. Recruitment and exploitation expose these children to the risk of early death, injury, psychological scarring and long-lasting rejection from their communities.

An alarming development has been the increasing incidence of bandit groups using similar tactics to recruit children in the north west and north central states. Furthermore, recent months have seen mass defections from the insurgency, with Borno State reporting that over 70,000 fighters and family members (including children) have presented themselves to the authorities. In this context, promoting effective rehabilitation and reintegration of children formerly associated has become a crucial priority.

Building on its strong partnership with the Office of the National security Adviser (ONSA) - and through its European Union STRIVE Juvenile Project - the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), convened a workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of policy-makers and professionals to prevent and respond to violence against children by terrorist groups.

The event was held in Abuja and brought together over 50 participants: representatives from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states; the federal government; and civil society organizations, including members of the Youth Sounding Board. The focus of discussions was on broad strategies and concrete measures to support these children in recovering from harm and promoting their transition to a constructive role in their communities.

In his opening remarks, Rear Admiral Musa, Coordinator of the Counter-Terrorism Centre, commended STRIVE Juvenile for the progress made, under the leadership of ONSA, in coordinating actions towards a unified and coherent approach to the treatment of children associated with terrorist groups in Nigeria. Rear Admiral Musa emphasized that the primary status of these children is that of victims; and noted that “there is

a need to show them that the State is present and will accompany them in their journey towards recovery and reintegration”.

The three-day event was an opportunity for participants to identify challenges; analyse the varied trajectories of children in and out of terrorist groups; and propose concrete strategies to foster effective rehabilitation and reintegration efforts. The potential for achievement of long-lasting peace through the building of bridges between security and child protection - and the meaningful engagement of children, youth and communities in reintegration efforts – was explored in great detail.

Representing the EU Delegation to Nigeria, Mr Ruben Alba Aguilera stressed that “If we realize the importance of children as agents of peace, we will be able to rely on their potential to transform societal dynamics and to move past terrorism” and praised the leading role of Nigeria in advocating for child rights in a complex security . Participants welcomed the opportunity for extensive, in-depth exchanges. The workshop is part of a cycle of capacity building events that will continue to mobilize Nigerian stakeholders to ensure that children are better protected from the terrorist threat.

UN Convenes Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) Workshop

Towards entrenching human rights norms and standards in decision making process, and ensuring support to non-UN security forces is consistent with the UN Charter, the United Nations in Nigeria has organized a two- day workshop on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). This took place on 13 -14 September 2022, at the UN House in Abuja.

The policy, issued in July 2011 by the Secretary-General, is a set of principles and measures to ensure that #humanrights norms and standards form part of the decision making process by all UN entities when providing support to non-UN security forces.

This is to ensure that support to non-UN security forces is consistent with UN’s purposes and principles as set out in the UN Charter and its obligations under international law to respect, promote and encourage respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.

UN Scales - Up Support To Strengthen Coordination For Heads Of Anti-Human Trafficking Units And Gender Desks Of The Nigeria Police



Participants at the workshop in Lagos Nigeria. Photo - IOM Nigeria

International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with the Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas (FIIAPP) supported the National Agency for the prohibition of Trafficking in persons (NAPTIP) to train 36 heads of Anti-Human Trafficking and Gender Desks on the need to strengthen existing capacity, improve coordination and collaboration between the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons.

The training, the first of its kind, targeted Police Heads of the Anti-Trafficking and Gender Desks and was aimed at improving the capacities of the officers on human trafficking, strengthening coordination between the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and NAPTIP to ensure synergy in counter-trafficking investigations and prosecutions. The training was held from 5th to 8th September in Lagos, Nigeria and attracted 36 participants from all 36 states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The need to strengthen and improve the capacity of key actors to fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of Trafficking in Persons to enhance coordination between NAPTIP and NPF on law enforcement and investigation of illicit centres recruiting women for forced surrogacy exploitation while ensuring the rights of suspects are respected across the prosecution process.

"The training is aimed at building a seamless bridge for collaboration, synergy, building structures of mutual concerns aimed at supporting a national purpose of combatting this scourge of Trafficking in Person and Irregular Migration between NAPTIP and the Nigeria Police Force NPF" says Fatima Waziri – Azi, the Director General of NAPTIP. We recognize that NPF is in the areas of victim identification, handling, managing, and profiling and there is need for collaborative effort from both institutions", said Dr. Fatima Waziri - Azi the Director General National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. "NAPTIP and NPF continue to build a

formidable force against trafficking in persons and irregular migration', she added.

Despite the NAPTIP having the legal mandate to address all trafficking interventions in Nigeria, the NPF has the legislation and mandate in counter-trafficking as they can identify, arrest, investigate and facilitate the persecution of traffickers. This, in turn, creates gaps in the investigations and prosecution of trafficking cases as both agencies have overlapping mandates. The meeting was therefore met to synergize the efforts of the two Departments, strengthen collaboration and support the operationalization of the National Referral Mechanism on human trafficking in Nigeria.

"This training is prompt as it improves the collaboration between the NPF and NAPTIP and other agencies in delivering as one in its achievement of common goals of handling irregular migration, Trafficking in persons and other related cases. The training will also improve the capacity of the desk officers of the NPF from the thirty-six states of Nigeria who attend to trafficking-related cases in their respective duty stations and encourage referrals to NAPTIP for effective investigations and prosecutions", said by Afolabi Babatola, FCT Commissioner of Police.

"IOM employs a whole of Government, whole of society approach so that the burden of addressing human trafficking is not only on law enforcement alone. It is important to train and retrain officers for effective prosecution of human trafficking cases" says Victor Lutenco, IOM Senior Programme Coordinator Migration Management and Head of Lagos Sub Office. "IOM has also contributed to the strengthening of coordination structures on human trafficking by supporting NAPTIP to inaugurate State Task Forces in 16 states across Nigeria.

This activity is implemented under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa, "Individual Special Measure Project and Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions (COMPASS) funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Netherlands.

Rotation Of Nigeria's Formed Police Unit: Joy For Those Leaving, Determination For Those Arriving

After spending 20 months on Malian soil, elements of the formed police unit of the Federal Republic of Nigeria deployed to the United Nations Police (UNPOL/MINUSMA) in Timbuktu, are returning home. A total of 70 of them boarded an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing on September 8.



A detachment of the Nigeria Formed Police Unit deployed to the United Nations Police (UNPOL/MINUSMA) in Timbuktu.



On the tarmac of Timbuktu airport, a detachment of the Nigeria Formed Police Unit deployed to the United Nations Police (UNPOL/MINUSMA) in Timbuktu.

The formed police unit in Timbuktu alone conducted more than 200 patrols with the Malian security forces day and night, in addition to 135 long-range patrols. "We are proud of the work we have done here since our arrival in January 2021.

There was no shortage of challenges, we faced them all with heart. It has been an honour to serve under the UN flag in a friendly country," said the Head of Unit, Commander Adachie IKOBULU. In addition, the daily presence of Nigerian police officers on the axis that connects the city of Timbuktu to the airport has helped to put an end to the robberies that used to take place there regularly, thus facilitating the free movement of people and their goods.

Referring to the outgoing formed police unit, the Divisional Commissioner of the United Nations Police (UNPOL) in Timbuktu, Sanou DIOUF, said "that they carried out their tasks with professionalism and respect for our Malian partners".

On the tarmac of Timbuktu airport, the joy of the departures gave way to the determination of the arrivals, also 70 in number.

As a liaison officer, Major TIMOTHY says he is aware of the challenges ahead. "We are ready to serve with honor and determination, as our predecessors did," he said.

This last movement of departure and arrival completes the rotation of the 8th detachment of the Nigeria Formed Police Unit, which began on 22 August.

Young Nigerians Trained in Climate Action Solutions To Build Resilient Food Systems



In strengthening Nigeria’s commitments in areas of nature-based solutions, AFLOU, clean cooking, energy, among others, as contained in the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in driving achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has engaged young people and guided them to retool their skills and develop climate action solutions, including solar dryers and clean cooking fuel briquettes.

“Our work in Nigeria has prioritised engaging young people and the informal sector to take up climate action solutions that build resilient food systems and sustainable alternatives for clean cooking, generate empirical data on success factors from these applications, and use the data to inform pro-NDCs and pro-SDGs implementation policy trajectories across different sectors,” said Richard Munang, Deputy Regional Director, Africa Office of UNEP.

According to him, 22 young Nigerians were engaged and guided to draft manuals and reports for the training of fuel briquettes and solar dryers as a sign of their mastery of the skills obtained. These capacity building tools are being used by these youth to engage and train more young people and work with them in the solutions process to engage more community members.

He emphasised that with up to 70% of Nigeria’s population being below 30 years, and the informal sector contributing up to 80% to Nigeria’s livelihoods, the youth were the critical actors in Nigeria’s economy that have not been fully tapped in driving implementation of climate commitments.

The trained young people have developed and tested climate action solutions in readiness for community uptake. Accordingly, in the pilot phase, 3 giant greenhouse community solar dryers were developed – designed & fabricated and tested for suitability for uptake by the community. In the pilot, over 200kgs of fuel briquettes were produced and tested in readiness for decentralisation to the community to substitute charcoal use.

Furthermore, the developed climate action solutions were decentralised for community uptake. Local governance structure of the Emirates of Nasarawa was engaged to work with the local communities in taking up the developed climate action solutions.

Through the Emirates of Nasarawa, the largest cassava market in Nasarawa – called the shabu market, with large open drying centres was engaged to take up solar dryers. A giant greenhouse solar dryer was developed and decentralised for community use among these farmers. In addition, still through the Emirates of Nasarawa, communities were engaged in awareness-raising, market testing, and uptake of fuel briquettes to substitute charcoal use. A 78% acceptance rate was reported for these briquettes.

UNEP’s other priorities in Nigeria include interventions to climate-proof the agriculture sector and accelerating the realisation of the Nigeria Economic Recovery & Growth Plan (ERGP), and to underpin the projected 7% growth & employment creation. The other priority is in reversing land-based emissions attributed to forest degradation, where fuel wood use is a leading driver. Nigeria, the largest producer of charcoal in Africa, has lost up to 96% of its natural forest cover. The current deforestation rate is estimated at 3.5% - one of the highest in the world.

Snapshot of International Day of Peace Observances

UN Women

In commemoration of the 2022 International Day of Peace with the theme “End racism. Build peace”, the UN system in Nigeria, through **UN Women** coordinated the conduct of several public sensitization initiatives on the values of diversity, gender responsiveness and inclusiveness for sustainable peace and development. These include Radio and TV Discussion Programmes, Social Media Campaigns and Peace Walk/Rallies, with focus on SDG 5, illustrating how gender equality is linked to a more peaceful Nigeria. Members of the public were enlightened on UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325), its adoption by the Government of Nigeria since 2013 and localization at state and grassroots levels. The Peace Day activities were successfully conducted in Abuja, Bauchi, Benue, Kaduna and Plateau states by UN Women and partners, including members of the Women Mediation Networks, WPS Media Networks and HeForShe Networks of Male Gender Champions. The initiative is within the framework of the Programme on Women, Peace and Security in Nigeria, being implemented by UN Women with funding support from the Government of Norway.

IOM

To commemorate the International Day of Peace 2022, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organized a theatre performance in Benin City Edo State, Nigeria and emphasised the importance of a world where compassion and empathy rules over suspicion and hatred while giving returned migrants a warm embrace and avoid stigmatization upon their return to their home communities.

The performance started at 10:30am at Oka Market. The play ‘Iyore’ was performed by the troupe. ‘Iyore’ tells the story of a young girl Iyore, who was deceived by a trafficker, Geneva boy, to believe that the only way she can have a better life is by traveling to Europe through the help of his aunty. She was able to escape back home to her mother who was happy to welcome her alongside neighbours and reiterated that migration is her right but must be done the right way. Geneva boy was handed over to the official of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) official for prosecution.

ILO

ILO, facilitated a panel discussion on “The Role of Government workers’ and employers’ organizations in promoting peace, equity and social justice.

Vannessa Phala, the ILO Country Director for Nigeria, Ghana,



Peace Walk by Plateau Peacebuilding Agency with Members of the HeForShe Network & Partners

FAO

FAO, in collaboration with IFAD, WFP and WMO organized a panel discussion to mark the 2022 International Day of Peace which theme is “End Racism Build Peace”

The objective of the event was to gather insights from different agencies on how their agriculture and livelihoods interventions contribute to peace building in Nigeria.

Stakeholders that formed part of the panel discussions were drawn from the Government, CSOs and Private Sectors partners, who brainstormed on the linkage between food security, livelihoods and peace in Nigeria and several other cross cutting elements such as inclusion, youth and women empowerment, trade, climate etc.

Presentations of a wide range of service projects of the three Rome-based UN agencies including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) were given by each Head of the Agencies to provide background on what they do in Nigeria to help the country achieve sustainable peace and development

Conflict and insecurity were identified as the main drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition. The panel further agreed that to address insecurity in Nigeria, partners must coordinate, and explore the food system budget to identify the peace component of it and effectively coordinate actions that will bring about sustainable peace and progress.

State, Dr. Olufolake Abdulrazak; Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Chris Ngige; other dignitaries, school children and members of the National Children’s parliament to advocate for an end to Child

Labour in Nigeria in order to ensure a peaceful future for the country.

Ms Phala, welcomed participants, stressing the importance of social dialogue and international labour standards as reliable tools to achieve social and economic goals as well as give people a voice and stake in their societies and communities.

She stressed that the country must deploy social dialogue by interacting with all population groups and create decent jobs for the growing young population.

Discussions centred on how to involve stakeholders for lasting peace in Nigeria. Provision of adequate social protection, and decent employment for the youth were also highlighted as some of the ways by

which the government of Nigeria is working to ensure young people are involved in the development of Nigeria, so young people are engaged for peace building.



Liberia and Sierra Leone joined the Wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Buhari, represented by the Wife of the Governor of Kwara

Snapshot of International Day of Peace Observances

UNFPA

UNFPA, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, organized a panel discussion with UN Volunteers and youth from outside of the UN to discuss on how peacebuilding, security, and human rights relates to their organizations' mandate area. The UNFPA Panel Discussion provided a platform that encouraged an exchange of views and experience sharing on the nexus between peace, security, human rights and the role of the youth particularly regarding civil society and youth action in Nigeria. The Panel Discussion provided an opportunity for greater understanding amongst youth of the nexus between peacebuilding, development and human rights; and enhanced awareness on mechanisms and unique opportunities that promote peace and achieving peace through the promulgation of human rights. It also contributed to cultivating youth responsibility to take up action that facilitates the achievement of peace and human rights.



A cross-section of a panel discussion with UN Volunteers and youth, organised by UNFPA at the UN House in Abuja.

UNDP

In observance of International Peace Day which is commemorated every year on 21 September UNDP in Nigeria with the Government of Benue State signed the Benue State Peace Commission Bill to celebrate #PeaceDay

The Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale in his remarks called attention to the implementation of the Peace bill, as the true test of Peace in the state. The bill is a key apparatus for coordinating peaceful responses with a view to addressing early warning and early response to conflict matters in communities.

The signing Ceremony of the Benue State Peace Commission Bill into Law, was symbolically co-convened with the State Government and was witnessed by high level representatives from the three arms of Government – House of Assembly, the Judiciary and the Executive. The event was also attended by civil society groups, representatives from the farming and herder communities, faith institutions and local authorities. From the UN system also representatives from UNICEF, UNHCHR, OHCHR and WHO. Peace infrastructures such as the Peace Commission are critical enablers of peace. They ensure social and community cohesion is institutionalized as a necessary agenda priority for future governments as well as today's.



R-L: Governor of Benue State, Dr. Samuel Loraer Ortom; UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale, and other dignitaries at the signing of the Benue State Peace Commission Bill to celebrate #PeaceDay

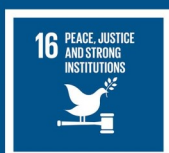
UNODC

UNODC organized an exhibition of publications to demonstrate how the UN system in Nigeria contributes to building a peaceful Nigeria, through the development of easily accessible tools, manuals, guidance notes and other publications. Other participating Agencies were UNFPA, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF and ILO. Publications from the six agencies were displayed and shared to those in attendance, which included UN Nigeria staff members as well as external national agencies and CSOs.

Agencies had an opportunity to learn about work being carried out by their counterparts and identify potential areas of synergy, in line with the spirit of One UN.



At the exhibition held at the UN House organised to mark the International Day of Peace



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

UN Volunteers In Nigeria Undergo Capacity Building



Ms Abosede George, Permanent Secretary from Lagos State Government's Office of SDGs with UN Volunteers during CDLF 2022 in Lagos.

The Capacity Development and Learning Facility (CDLF) workshop took place over three days in Lagos beginning on August 22nd. This workshop was organised for the 94 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) currently deployed to 14 UN agencies across Nigeria.

This is the third such learning event since the UNV programme was re-established in Nigeria in 2018 and the first since the disruptions of the global pandemic. It provided an opportunity for critical reflection on the progress made thus far and on the programme's goals for the future.

Building upon the core mission of the UNV programme to bring about peace and development worldwide through volunteerism, the CDLF's theme this year was "Building A Sustainable Career Path in a COVID-19 World." Collective learning and professional development are an important and integral aspect of volunteers' service in line with the priorities of host entities and the 2030 Agenda.

The workshop sought to bridge existing knowledge gaps, encourage a continuous learning culture, and expand the leadership capacities of UN Volunteers both as individuals and as a group. Led by a number of eminent internal speakers and inspiring guest speakers, the audience of nearly one hundred UN Volunteers from every corner of Nigeria participated in three days of capacity building, idea generation, and team building.

Highlights from the workshop included Ms Abosede George, the Permanent Secretary from Lagos State Government's Office on SDGs, who encouraged teamwork and the exchange of knowledge for the benefit of the UN, the State and the nation; Mr. Olajide Aribisala, President of the Ground Breakers Forum and CEO of OSRED Consulting, who gave an inspiring presentation on the leadership skills need-

ed for inclusive volunteerism; Ms. Ekaete Judith Umoh, a long time President of the Joint National Action of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), presented an explorative session on gender and inclusion, and Dr. Tubolayefa Warekuromor, UN Volunteer with the RCO, led a highly productive ideation session that produced multiple new solutions across the full spectrum of SDGs.

Participants were intrigued about the new knowledge and UN Volunteer Francisca Joseph Ogbuitepu declared in her words "we learned a lot. It was highly informative and very, very impactful. We talked about the SDGs for 2030 and learned that each of the 17 goals are intertwined and cannot be achieved individually but all together."

The workshop helped build result-oriented, strategic, and inclusive UN Volunteers with the promise of more impactful outcomes at their host agencies and, ultimately, contribute significantly to the transformative and catalytic change needed to achieve the SDGs at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.



Spotlight Initiative Provides Timely Services To GBV Survivors In Nigeria



Habiba Buhari



to report” says Florence Adamu Danladi, the Centre Manager, Nana Khadija Centre Sokoto. We provide counseling, psycho socio support for both survivor and their families, food and transportation for as much as the center can cater for”

Through the survivor forum, the center has set up a tracking system to ensure follow up of survivors attended to within a month. The forum ensures safe space for self-expression and creates an

Despite commitment by governments, women’s and civil society organizations and other stakeholders, women and girls subjected to violence still often lack access to a coordinated, quality essential services for their safety and health.

Habiba Buhari, 35years had her 2 daughters molested by her husband multiple times in Sokoto. She confronted him but he would beat her up every time. She tried to report to local authorities, but no one believed her, they called her insane.

The Spotlight initiative in Nigeria provides quality and timely access to comprehensive multi-sectoral services, such as immediate and long-term health care including psychological support, police and justice responses, and safe accommodation to mitigate the consequences of violence as well as breaking recurrent cycles of violence, which women and girls face. In 2021, in partnership with the Mirabel Centre Lagos, they established a sexual assault referral center (SARC) in Sokoto to provide a safe space where survivors can access medical care, psychosocial support, link to legal assistance, and recovery services. As a result, there’s increase in arrests and prosecution of perpetrators, fostering greater confidence in survivors seeking help.

“The Nana Khadija Centre has offered hope to the people of Sokoto, especially those who were suffering in silence, those who didn’t know where to go to. Now, there’s a place

opportunity to learn more about their challenges, needs and progress.

“The first time I came here, they treated me and my children so well, I was so happy, their encouragement gave me hope for the first time in a long while. They wrote down all I said and showed me so much care Ms. Buhari said.

Access to survivor-centered, quality essential services- including medical care, psychosocial support, access to justice, and measures for safety and security- is critical not only to the health and safety of the survivor, but to preventing recurring cycles of violence. Spotlight Initiative focuses on strengthening the capacity of service providers and to making essential services available and accessible, acceptable and of quality standards, as well as prosecuting perpetrators in line with international human rights standards and guidelines.

In 2021, the centre reached over 800 survivors with services.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

First Personnel Training Resource Centre Opens At Nigeria Immigration Service, Lagos Command



The Personnel Training Resource Centre at the Nigerian Immigration Service, Lagos Command. IOM 2022

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Nigeria Immigration Service and the Government of Netherlands has launched a new Personnel Training Resource Centre at the Lagos Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS).

IOM carried out an assessment of the NIS training system in 2014. One of the major gaps identified was an over-reliance on long courses offered at the Service's four training institutions, thus, resulting in many years (average of seven years) of wait before entering a course, and many more years (average of 20 years) of wait before being served with a subsequent course. Consequently, only a low percentage of NIS personnel benefit from crucial trainings.

Subsequently, a new NIS Training Strategy was developed and officially adopted by NIS in 2015. The strategy suggested the need to bring trainings close to NIS through established training centres situated at NIS commands, which are equipped with training materials.

The NIS Training Strategy Implementation Programme - Phase 2 (TSI-2) Project led by IOM and funded by the Government of The Netherlands is a continuation of the pilot phase which is targeted to enhance the fundamental capacity of border officials in dealing with migration issues and to increase awareness on the need to continuously improve and monitor the quality of border security and management. To date, over 2600 NIS officers and 190 NAPTIP officers have been trained across the seven established PTRCs in the country located at NIS HQ, Abuja, Anambra, Edo, Cross River, Kano, Kebbi and Ogun State Commands.

On August 25, the new PTRC was launched in the Lagos State Command of NIS. The Command is considered to have the largest migration and border operations in the country. The newly established PTRC is equipped with solar power, 15 computer systems, the Learning Management System (LMS), furniture and other relevant training materials & equipment.

"Today's event is a further affirmation of the genuine desire of the NIS management to reposition the Service towards attaining a truly world class status. Without doubt, developing the capacity of our personnel remains the most important factor if we are to achieve our mandate of ensuring that our vast borders are safe and secured" said Babangida Usman Assistant Controller of Immigration.

"IOM appreciates the efforts from the agencies to achieve this major milestone, this PTRC is the current biggest PTRC in the country. We hope that all agencies will support the efforts of IOM in ensuring that the centres are put into good use as intended and train more officers across Lagos State" noted Ms. Maysa Khalil, Programme Manager, Immigration and Border Management.

A training curriculum, trainers' guide and LMS were developed for the PTRCs to enable NIS officers to have access to regular fundamental trainings on the legal frameworks, policies and regulations governing the operations of the NIS. Similarly, a component of a joint training activity between NIS and the NAPTIP was included to boost synergy and inter-agency coordination and cooperation between both agencies in handling migration challenges related to migrants smuggling and human trafficking in the country.

Mr. Attila Van-Wijnen stated "I must congratulate IOM on all their work. I can clearly confirm that the centres are conducive for learning with all the right training equipment in place. I enjoin all officers to take good advantage of this facility and we look forward to continuous partnership with IOM and counterparts."

The project "Training Strategy Implementation Project (TSI Phase 2) is funded by the Government of Netherlands.

In Nigeria, Health Workers Learn How To Help Women Facing Gender-Based Violence



Health care providers creating awareness on prevention of Gender-Based Violence Photo: Ben

Like many health workers across the Sahel, Mairama Baba Yadafa has been witnessing first-hand the multiple impacts of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that has gripped the region: drought has hunger soaring amid deepening deprivation and suffering by millions of people affected by armed violence.

While the world raises alarm after alarm on the unrelenting challenges and tragedies, health workers like Yadafa struggle with a deeper impact that has little voice due to taboos, humiliation, fear, and just plain helplessness that keep women and girls silent.

“Women and girls are frequently subjected to domestic violence and other harmful acts that invade their physical and emotional integrity,” she says. “As a frontline worker, I sometimes got overwhelmed seeing and hearing them go through that ordeal.”

Yadafa is a midwife at the Lokuwa primary health care/clinic in Nigeria’s north-eastern Adamawa State. When confronted with women and girls who remained quiet about the signs of trouble that Yadafa could clearly see, Yadafa also felt helpless.

“In the past, I often had to leave them to their fate as I wouldn’t know what to do,” she says.

But Yadafa is one of 27 female and 23 male health workers from civil society organizations in her north-eastern Nigeria community included in a Sahel-wide training of health care workers to respond to gender-based violence.

The training is part of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) emergency response to the humanitarian crisis. Along with responding to the spread or threats of diseases, high malnutrition, food insecurity and difficult access to basic services including health across the six countries of the Sahel region, WHO recognizes the threat of gender-based violence to the physical and mental well-being of women and girls, along with the lack of options for most of them.

Gender-based violence includes domestic violence, abuse, trafficking, exploitation and forced marriage, typically perpetrated on women and girls.

“When first-line responders are properly trained to help victims of gender-based violence, they are continuously making a difference,” says Dr Richard Lako, WHO Emergency Manager for north-eastern Nigeria.

Dr Lako explains that because women are likely to come into contact with health providers, especially during their reproductive years, they are likely to trust the health care workers enough

to disclose whatever violence they are experiencing. Otherwise, they may tell no one, or at least no one who can help.

And because reporting violence can have repercussions for women who are experiencing it, health care providers need guidance on how to provide help carefully and confidentially. They need to know what steps to take and what to consider when someone seeks their help for domestic violence, says Dr Lako.

The training, he explains, starts with the need for confidentiality. It includes how to engage with communities to let them know that gender-based violence is unacceptable, and a crime, but there is help available. It involves knowing when and where to make referrals confidentially for people experiencing violence to get the services they need.

WHO is piloting the gender-based violence training for health workers in Nigeria before making it available in the six countries of the Sahel region. So far, 385,200 health workers have participated in the Nigerian training.

The training in Nigeria enabled health care workers to provide 3,895 women and girls experiencing gender-based violence with first-line support between April and June 2022, compared with 765 people in the first three months of the year. Of them, 1,967 women and girls were referred to another health care facility for further care. And more than 47 400 women and girls were reached with information about gender-based violence, its consequences, and the role of health care workers when seeking help.

The violence and insecurity in the Sahel region are exacerbating the vulnerability of women and girls. But due to the taboos about airing private family matters or fear of retribution from the perpetrator, many women and girls keep silent about the violence they experience. Even when women and girls come forward, data on such incidence, especially in the Sahel region that is experiencing the massive displacement of communities and populations, extreme food insecurity, and increased levels of poverty, is not well maintained.

Designing information management and safe data collection systems is also part of the health care provider training.

Dr Celine Laori, Director of Public Health of Adamawa State, sees the training as filling an urgent and huge gap. “With this newly acquired knowledge, health care workers can now address the gaps and ensure that quality care responses on gender-based violence are provided,” she says.

Give Women Journalists Similar Opportunities As Their Male Colleagues – UN Urges Media Executives And Editors



A group photograph of resource persons and participants. UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Beatrice Eyong (Sitting 4th from the left); CEO of Women Radio, Mrs Toun Okewale-Sonaiya (Sitting 3rd from the left).

UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Beatrice Eyong, has enjoined Nigerian media executives and editors to give women journalists similar opportunities as their male colleagues.

“Female journalists should be given opportunities to cover diverse subjects from politics to business, science, sports, and technology, while encouraging male journalists to also cover diverse issues, including women’s rights and gender equality stories,” she said at a National dialogue on Gender Responsive Reporting, organised by UN Women in collaboration with Women Radio and the Canadian government. Eyong further charged the media to “Champion women’s rights and gender equality issues through editorial articles, features, and news coverage; and adopt a gender-sensitive Code of Conduct on Reporting.”

Women Radio CEO and Founder, Toun Okewale-Sonaiya appealed to media executives to consider a 50:50 approach to increase the number of women used as guests, analysts, commentators, speakers with an ultimate aim of a 50:50 representation of women and men contributors at news gathering and reporting stages. She urged for primetime features of Women on Television and Radio stations and on prominent spaces including front pages in newspapers and magazines to report women more.

Speaking on the Trends & Issues in Media Coverage of Women at Elections, Lanre Arogundade of the International Press Centre, noted that the voices of women and other marginalised stakeholders should be adequately reflected and accorded as much visibility and prominence as equal stakeholders in the society.

National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Oluseyi Soremekun, drew participants’ attention to unconscious gender bias and charged the journalists to avoid stereotypical comments and generalizations in their reports. “When journalists do not understand how bias works, they are less likely to identify it in themselves and



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



UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Beatrice Eyong (2nd from the left); CEO of Women Radio, Mrs Toun Okewale-Sonaiya (3rd from the left).

their reports; and also less likely to come to fair and accurate decisions. He added.

Executive Director, Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism, Motunrayo Alaka, presented the ‘RUSH’ model: Report Until Something Happens to underscore the need for journalists to follow up on gender-based stories until justice is served.

The dialogue was held in Lagos Nigeria on 1 – 2 September 2022.

UN Launches Observatory On Smuggling Of Migrants

Research shows that 75% of Nigerian migrants planned to use smugglers or travel facilitators for overland journeys



Presentation of the Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria by stakeholders during the launch

Requests for bribes and security risks along routes taken by migrants from Nigeria have led to a high reliance on smugglers and travel facilitators (who organize regular travel), new research from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reveals.

The research, from the UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants, notes that some Nigerians surveyed (30 per cent) believed there was no alternative to being smuggled in order to achieve their migration goals. As one man from Edo State in southern Nigeria described: “These days in Europe and in other Western countries, Nigerians are discriminated against...It is so difficult to get a visa to travel out of Nigeria, and that is why many people opt for the irregular route by travelling through the desert.”

Many Nigerians believe that using a smuggler will be cheaper, easier, or safer than undertaking the journey alone, due to the presence of officials or non-state actors demanding bribes and protection money along the route.

Even so, surveys indicate that Nigerians pay a high price to the smugglers – an average of around US\$610 for smuggling by land within West and North Africa. Fees cover access to the network of smuggling contacts, transportation and sometimes also bribes and accommodation, but usually exclude food and drink.

Stakeholders flagging off the nationwide sensitization and enlightenment programme on SOM by Nigeria Immigration Service

The lack of food and water can be deadly along some treacherous routes in the desert. In 2021, one returned Nigerian receiving support at a centre in Edo State told a key informant “how they slept and before the next morning almost half of them were buried alive in sand dunes in the desert.”

Smugglers and other actors perpetrate abuses and crimes against smuggled Nigerian migrants at an alarming rate. Half of smuggled Nigerians surveyed in 2021 reported physical violence, while 25 per cent cited being detained and 20 per cent described sexual violence. Adults reported significant threats to children along these routes as well, including the risk of being trafficked, exploited, kidnapped, or subjected to physical and sexual violence and robbery.

Data and information on the routes, financial aspects, drivers, and impacts of migrant smuggling can equip states to better respond to prevent and combat migrant smuggling and protect the rights of smuggled people. The UNODC Observatory on Smuggling of Migrants is designed to provide such up-to-date evidence.

The Observatory regularly updates its analysis to provide real-time information and to allow for longitudinal assessment, and is currently expanding its research into Southeast Asia. UNODC hopes that this research will be used to prevent and combat migrant smuggling, while protecting the rights of people who are smuggled.

UN Generates Climate Solutions Data, Shares with Government, Communities

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has generated data on climate solutions to inform policy direction and implementation. The Agency Data on the effectiveness of solar dryers in dehydrating food items to threshold moisture levels needed to ensure food safety by preventing the growth of aflatoxins, mold, yeast, and other mycotoxins was compiled.

This data was made available to the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to inform the implementation of relevant standards. In addition, this technical data on the efficiency and effectiveness of solar dryers in driving food safety, coupled with data on community acceptability of these value-added solutions was made available to inform entrepreneurship curriculum expansion of the Nasarawa State University-Keffi (NSUK).

Data on the effectiveness of fuel briquettes in substituting charcoal – by being smokeless, more affordable, better burning among key attributes.



This data was also taken up by local governance structures – the emirates of Nasarawa – to be used for community level policy proclamations to divest from use of charcoal that fuels deforestation and forest degradation and drives health risks, and drive uptake of solar dryers for community value addition to further penance the productivity and resilience of food systems.

For Anna, It Is Time To Start Over Again, Heal And Shine, In Adagom Refugee Settlement, Cross River State



Anna attends to a customer in her provision store established with support from UNHCR in Adagom refugee settlement, Ogoja, Cross River State. © UNHCR/Lucy Agiende.

“Whenever I complained about his lack of support, it will result in a fight or quarrel. Sometimes we go to bed hungry”, says Anna, a Cameroonian refugee who arrived in Nigeria with her partner in 2018. Due to the non-supportive nature of her partner, the burden of the whole family of seven children rested on Anna’s shoulders. After several years of verbal/physical abuse and denial of resources, she gradually drifted towards depression.

Thousands of women like Anna who have been forcibly displaced by the ongoing conflict in the northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon are often exposed to various forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

To support survivors, UNHCR collaborates with partners to provide legal aid, psychosocial care and health support. When resources allow, material assistance, and livelihood opportunities are provided to promote the survivor’s well-being. Like other GBV survivors, Anna received psychosocial support and was linked to entrepreneurship and livelihood training where she received starter kits to open a provision store in Adagom Refugee Settlement, Cross River State as part of her healing process and to help restore her dignity.

“It was not easy, but my life is much better now. Thank God for using UNHCR and partners, the support I received has given me a bold step. I am doing better than before and cannot compare the present to my past”, says Anna.

Back in Cameroon, Anna was a successful businesswoman and saved a substantial amount of money before violence broke out between the separatist fighters and the military in 2017. After fleeing to Nigeria, she spent all her savings on her family’s upkeep. When the savings were exhausted, she engaged in menial jobs to make ends meet for her seven children.

Despite receiving cash assistance provided by UNHCR for the whole family, her partner would only give her a meagre amount for food, while using the rest for his personal needs without her consultation. “He finally left me for another woman after several quarrels concerning the spending of the money received for food assistance”, she sighs. With UNHCR’s intervention, Anna is now empowered as she directly receives cash assistance to support herself and her children.

“The counseling I received from UNHCR, and partners helped me to control my anger, heal from my pains, and to let go of the money he still owes me. Women going through domestic violence should report and not die in silence”, she adds.

This year, nearly 300 Cameroonian refugees have received legal, psychosocial, and material assistance in Nigeria through programmes designed by UNHCR and its partners. Additionally, survivors of GBV like Anna, are referred to relevant partners for support to ensure that they get back on their feet and live a dignified life.

Anna is enjoying a more dignified and peaceful life and hopes to expand her business so that she can continue to care for herself and her 7 children.

FG, UN Organise Stakeholders Workshop To Validate Draft National Intellectual Property Policy And Strategy



WIPO Nigeria Office Representative, Oluwatobiloba Moody (3rd from the left) and other experts at the workshop.

Towards promoting a comprehensive and conducive Intellectual Property (IP) ecosystem for harnessing socio-cultural development and sustainable economic growth in Nigeria, the Federal Government of Nigeria in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), has organized a 3-day national multi-stakeholders workshop for the validation of draft National Intellectual Property Policy and Strategy for Nigeria.

Held at the UN House Abuja, on 13 September 2022, the workshop had IP experts and stakeholders in attendance.

The draft IP Policy and Strategy envisions utilising Intellectual Property for Sustainable National Prosperity in Nigeria, and seeks to strengthen legal framework for protection of intellectual property rights in Nigeria; while strengthening institutional framework

for the administration and management of intellectual property rights in Nigeria.

Oluwatobiloba Moody, the WIPO Nigeria Office Representative, restated the commitment of WIPO to supporting the government and people of Nigeria in ensuring a policy-driven IP ecosystem.

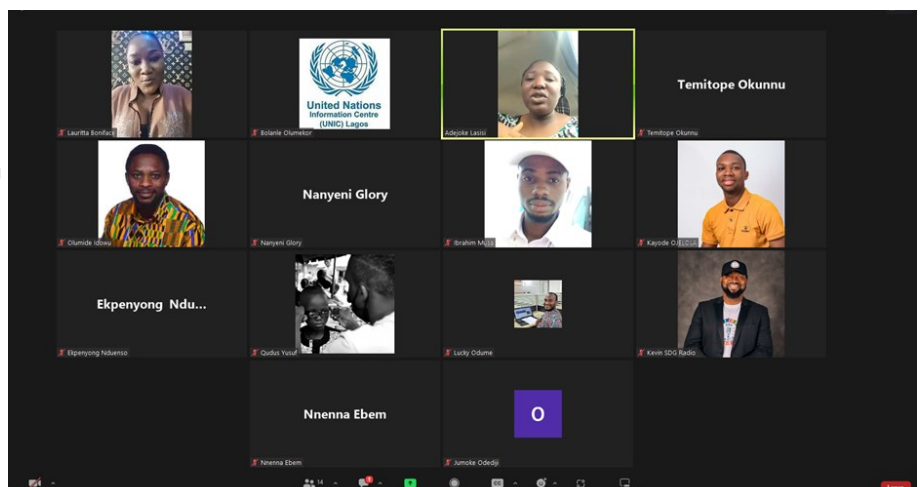
The draft IP Policy, will further enhance generation and protection of intellectual property rights; promote and facilitate commercial exploitation of IP assets and technology transfer; strengthen the legal and institutional framework for enforcement of IP rights in Nigeria; develop the required human resources for the administration, protection, commercialization, and enforcement of IP rights; and promote IP Training, Education and Awareness.

'Nigerian Youths And Road To COP 27' Dialogue Series: Sustainable Waste Management On Focus

The Nigerian Youths and Road to COP 27' Dialogue Series was held on 29 September 2022, with the theme 'Tackling Youth Unemployment in Nigeria through Sustainable Waste Management'

The speakers Ms Temitope Okunnu Founder, Fabe International Foundation and Ms Adejoke Lasisi Founder Planet 3R highlighted and narrated the myriads of employment opportunities, improved livelihoods, economic empowerment available in the waste management value chain - collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal.

The creative re-use of waste materials into eco-friendly products such as tables made with used tyres, bags, shoes, shopping bags etc. from plastics and used textiles through recycling, upcycling, recovery, and composite to create wealth and earn income was discussed. They enjoined youths to come up with innovative solutions & tap into waste management as a source of income and economic empowerment to close the unemployment gap.



The speakers also drew attention to safety and health issues for pickers. They underscored the importance of advocacy, awareness creation and sensitization, and access to finance to escalate more participation in the sector.

African Nations May Lose USD 50 Billion Annually To Climate Impacts By 2050 - UN



The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in its State of the Climate in Africa 2021 report released in September has estimated that African nations may lose \$50 billion annually to climate change impacts and other related weather hazards by 2050.

The WMO Secretary General, Prof. Petteri Taalas, stated that “In the past 50 years, drought-related hazards have claimed the lives of over half a million people and led to economic losses of over 70 billion USD in the region and more than 1,000 flood-related disasters were also reported involving more than 20,000 deaths in Africa over this period”.

According to the report “Water stress and hazards like droughts and devastating floods are hitting African communities, economies, and ecosystems hard.

“Rainfall patterns are disrupted, glaciers are disappearing, and key lakes are shrinking. Rising water demand combined with limited and unpredictable supplies threaten to aggravate conflict and displacement”, it added.

The report stated how extreme weather and climate change are undermining human health and safety, food and water security and socio-economic development.

“Africa only accounts for about 2% to 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions but suffers disproportionately from the results. Severe floods affected South Sudan, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, DRC and Burundi. Many parts of Northern Africa experienced extreme heat and wildfires. Sand and dust storms were a recurring phenomenon.”

“The total surface area of Lake Chad, which is located close to the Sahara Desert, bordering Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger, has shrunk from 25 000 km² in the 1960s to 1 350 km² in the 2000s and remained stable since. In West Africa, the

long-term decline in river flow is attributed to increase in temperature, drought, and increased water demand.”

“Sea level rise is increasing along the African coastlines at a higher rate than the global mean rate. By 2030, 108-116 million people in Africa are expected to be exposed to sea level rise risk,” the report indicated.

On weather and climate related services in Africa, WMO stated that only 28 countries are currently providing climate services from “Basic” to “Essential” levels and only 9 provide those services at “Full” capacity as well as 4 countries providing end-to-end drought forecasting or warning services at a “Full/ Advanced” capacity level. Hence the need to improve climate services provision in Africa.

The report which is the third in a series, is a joint initiative between WMO and the African Union Commission, with significant inputs from a wide range of UN organizations, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services including Nigeria, development partners and climate experts.

It provides authoritative scientific information on temperature trends and other climate indicators and can be downloaded from the WMO website: www.wmo.int.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

UN Conducts A Comprehensive Registration And Verification Of Cameroonian Refugees In Nigeria



Comprehensive verification and registration of Cameroonian refugees by UNHCR, Nigerian government, and partners in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State. © UNHCR/Lucy Agiende.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, commenced a comprehensive registration and verification of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria, together with its partners, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Caritas, and the Nigerian Red Cross Society. UNHCR also conducted a training for 70 people, which included government officials and its partners on protection principles and specific needs identification in preparation for the activity.

The verification exercise has incorporated a socio-economic profiling component that will enable UNHCR to improve its data on the economic capacities within the population, identify persons with specific needs and extremely vulnerable persons and target them for food assistance, non-food items and other life-saving interventions including livelihoods support. The exercise will also ensure that all new arrivals from Cameroon are registered and all persons above 5 years are biometrically verified. Identity cards are also being issued to individuals above 14 years old to facilitate their freedom of movement within Nigeria and enable them to have access to banking and telecommunication services as well as other social services.

Over 82,000 Cameroonians who fled conflict between secessionist forces and the military in their country live as registered refugees in Nigeria, mainly in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba States. The Government of Nigeria has pro-

vided land for the establishment of four refugee settlements and supports the inclusion of refugees in existing health and education institutions. 37% of refugees live in the four settlements with 63% living in host communities. Refugees are hosted in local government areas and share social services with the host population. This fosters peaceful co-existence between the two communities and facilitates easy assimilation and integration of the refugee population.

As of 27 September 2022, about 11,800 individuals representing 3,151 households have been verified. Of this number, 6,103, which is 52% of the total verified, were newly registered Cameroonians, while 5,697 were verified from the existing population. More than 5,000 refugees above 14 years have received their ID cards, and socio-economic profiling was conducted for 2,908 families. The exercise commenced on 15 August and will continue through the end of the year.



PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction

1. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale (Standing 3rd from the left on the back row) at the National Peace Committee engagement on fostering a peaceful and fair election process and a good outcome for Nigeria.
2. The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama (Right) received the Credentials of Dr. Leopold Achengui Zekeng, Country Director of UNAIDS to Nigeria today, 12th September, 2022.,
3. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, on behalf of the UN in Nigeria, signs the condolence book opened at the British High Commission in Abuja, on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, H.E. Amb. Catriona Laing.

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