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NEWSLETTER



Abuja: Guterres Calls For Media And Information Literacy Policies That Put Science, Knowledge And Facts First



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Addressing the audience at the closing ceremony of the Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) week titled, "Nurturing Trust: A Media and Information Literacy Imperative", and hosted by Nigeria. Photo: © UNIC/ Akinyemi Omolayo

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on member states of the United Nations to develop media and information literacy policies that put science, knowledge and facts first.

"Let's rebuild the trust that our societies need, and that our collective future requires. That's why we launched the "Verified" initiative to reach millions worldwide with facts and science about the virus." He said at the closing ceremony of the Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) week titled, 'Nurturing Trust: A Media and Information Literacy Imperative', held on 28 October 2022 in Abuja Nigeria.

Guterres further called for a global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information, and improves media and information literacy, so people can make choices based on fact, not fiction.

The Hon. Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, expressed the commitment of the government of Nigeria to pursuing, supporting, and promoting the right MIL policies and programmes that will enhance the development of the capacities of our citizens, particularly the youth, in the effective use of Media and Information Literacy.

"We also commit to working with UNESCO to establish a UNESCO International MIL institute in Nigeria and look forward to receiving the necessary...continue on page 2.

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Guterres Calls For Media And Information Literacy Policies (Continued from page 1)

assistance in this regard.” He added.

Mr Dimitri Sanga, Director of UNESCO Dakar Office, Senegal, noted that UNESCO needed increased resources to leverage its expertise in scaling up Media and Information Literacy through the organizations’ unique opportunities for intra-sectoral, inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary cooperation.

“A united call was also made to expand stakeholders’ partnership to promote new initiatives on Media and Information Literacy to nurture trust in democracy and established institutions.” He added, “The time is now. We must allocate specific funds to developing Media and Information Literacy programmes, embedding media and information literacy across the whole information, education and communication continuum.”

At the end of the week-long conference, the participants declared their renewed support to expanding and sustaining media and information for everyone to tackle disinformation and build trust by ensuring global financing of media and information literacy for all.

Titled, “**Abuja Declaration on Global Financing for Media and Information Literacy: An imperative to fight against disinformation and build trust**”, the participants further urged all stakeholders to prioritize media and information literacy as critical thinking for young people, while ensuring their right to free, accurate and youth-friendly information on all the topics and aspects relevant to them.

“Young people must be involved in the design, leadership, implementation, and assessment of media and information literacy policies and strategies at international, regional, national, and local levels.” They declared.



UNESCO Paris, Programme specialist in communication and information, Alton Grizzle, addresses the audience at the closing ceremony of the global conference in Abuja. Photo: © UNIC/ Akinyemi Omolayo



: L-R: Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Mrs. Lydia Shehu Jafiya; Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed; Director UNESCO Office, Senegal, Mr. Dimitri Sanga and Nigeria’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, Dr. Hajjo Sani. Photo: © UNIC/ Akinyemi Omolayo

UN, AfDB, IsDB launch Special Agro-Processing Zones In 8 States



Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo (sixth left), IFAD Associate Vice-President, Ms Katherine Meighan (3rd right) in a group photograph with other dignitaries at the launch of Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones held recently at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abuja.

As part of efforts to diversify the Nigerian economy from oil and gas dependent, President Muhammadu Buhari, recently launched the Special Agro-Processing Zones Programme (SAPZ), in seven States and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

President Buhari who was represented by Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo at the event held recently at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the SAPZ as game-changer, as it would give a boost to food production, wealth creation, employment generation, and export.

He acknowledged Nigeria's large arable land, relatively cheap labour should be able to feed herself, which he pointed some challenges facing agriculture recently including inflation, high food prices, high input prices, insecurity, Russia-Ukraine War, drought and flooding caused by climate change.

The Nigeria Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) programme is a government-enabled and private sector-led initiative that will and mobilise private sector investment to develop value chains for selected strategic crops and livestock in the participating States.

Nigeria will implement the first phase of the SAPZ programme with co-financing from the African Development Bank, AfDB, International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, and Islamic Development Bank, IsDB.

The total amount mobilised for Phase 1 is \$538.05 million, which African Development Bank is providing \$210 million; the IFAD together with the Green Climate Fund, \$160 million; IsDB \$150.52 million, while from the Federal Government of Nigeria is \$2.01 million, and \$16.01 million from the seven participating States.

The participating States under Phase 1 include Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Oyo, Ogun, Imo, Cross Rivers, and Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

Essence of the launch of SAPZ is to formally announce the Nigeria SAPZ to key stakeholders; national, and international partners, co-financiers, development partners, the private sector, farmers groups, national networks and diaspora population and other actors.

Others include to attract private sector investment into the zones; raise public awareness of the SAPZ programme;

demonstrate political support at the highest levels of Federal and State governments in Nigeria, and the leadership of key partners.

He said: "A nation such as ours with the large track of arable land and relatively cheap labour should be able to feed itself processed food and produced for domestic use, and also for export, creating millions of good paying jobs. But that is clearly not the case. What we have today aside from the few large commercial farms is mainly aggregations of subsistence farmers who do what they can without support by a clear and dedicated plan for the industrialization of agriculture.

"So the well thought out answer to our predicament is the Special Agro-Processing Zones Programme, SAPZ, programme. The Programme was recently approved by the Federal Executive Council. "It is a major crosscutting value chain investment effort driven by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural in alignment with the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy of the Federal Government to incentivize agro-industrialisation private sector development."

Meanwhile, the President explained that specifically, the SAPZ is designed to develop multiple clusters of agricultural transformation centres, and added that they would have functional infrastructure including road networks, power, water, communication facilities, and others to attract private investments.

In her remarks, the Associate Vice President, IFAD, Ms Katherine Meighan, said IFAD is honoured to be a partner with the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as the African Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank in the SAPZ Programme.

According to her, "We are proud that our investment will contribute directly to the incomes of 100,000 small farmers and food producers in Nigeria. We believe that it is important to have a strong focus on youth and women, smallholder farmers and producers in particular, while also bringing in the private sector and others in the four P model which we use the 'Public Private Producer Partnership' to make sure that these investments are sustainable, and long standing".

"The SAPZ project is a game changer. We believe that investment in food and food production is imperative for today and investments in food and food production is imperative for our future. We are honoured to work with the Republic of Nigeria to support this game changing project. With the SAPZ project we will have reached \$700 million in direct investment with Nigeria and with co-financing \$1.2 billion with our partners in Nigeria."

2022 UN Day Observance Features Health-Walk, Exhibitions, Educational Briefings, Cultural Display And Fanfare



Acting UN Resident Coordinator & Country Representative of WHO, Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo (Middle) leading UN Staff members on a health walk. On his left is the UNIC Director, Mr Ronald Kayanja.



Acting Resident Coordinator, Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Matthias Schmale

The 2022 United Nations Day was commemorated by the UN system in Nigeria with series of activities including a 2-day exhibitions, educational briefings, and exciting cultural displays by staff members.

All the activities echoed the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' 2022 UN Day message, "Now, more than ever, we need to bring to life the values and principles of the UN Charter in every corner of the world. As we mark UN Day, let us renew our hope and conviction in what humanity can achieve when we work as one, in global solidarity."

United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

The theme of the 2022 UN Day commemoration in Nigeria was "The UN and Nigeria - Partnership For Peace, Prosperity and Sustainable Development."

Health Walk

Ahead of the 24 October D-Day, the United Nations system in Nigeria, on Saturday 22 October in Abuja, organised a 9-kilometer health-walk to kick-start the 2022 United Nations Day.

Participants in the walk included Staff members, partners and members of the diplomatic corps, including those of Canada, Vietnam, South Africa, Japan, Kenya and Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, The Walk was declared open and led by the Acting Resident Coordinator, Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo, who is also the Country Representative of the World Health Organisation.

Speaking to participants, Dr. Mulombo restated the commitment of the United Nations to supporting Nigeria's efforts at ensuring peace and security of the nation.

Exhibitions

To underscore its partnership with the government of Nigeria, the United Nations system organised a 2-day exhibition of its work in support of the people of Nigeria...*continue on page 5.*

2022 UN Day Observances: *Continued from page 4*



Resident Coordinator Matthias Schmale at the exhibition stand of FAO during the UN Day exhibitions at the UN House.



Two students of Premiere Academy, Lugbe Abuja read the UN Nigeria Newsletter during the exhibitions to mark the UN Day.

The exhibitions which started on Monday 24 October, at the UN House Abuja, was declared open by the Acting Resident Coordinator, and Country Representative of World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo. He afterwards visited all the stands in company of students of Premiere Academy Lugbe Abuja and other partners in attendance.

"On this day each year, we the peoples of the United Nations reaffirm our commitment to the organization's ideals and values and renew our mission to secure peace and prosperity for all of humanity." He said.

He noted that in 2022, "we still face great challenges like climate, conflict, and Covid" and quoted the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres: "The United Nations was made for moments like this. Now, more than ever, we need to bring to life the values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in every corner of the world."

The theme of the 2022 UN Day commemoration in Nigeria was "The UN and Nigeria - Partnership For Peace, Prosperity and Sustainable Development."

Educational Briefing

In line with the mandate of the Outreach Division, UN headquarters, to build support for the United Nations by fostering dialogue with global constituencies such as civil society, the entertainment industry, media, academia, educators, students, and libraries, the UN Day in Nigeria was marked with an educational



UNIC National Information Officer, Oluseyi Soremekun briefs the students on the United Nations.

briefing of students.

Anchored by UNIC National Information Officer, Oluseyi Soremekun, the briefing highlighted the history of the UN, the Purpose of the UN, the significance of the UN Emblem, the Organs of the UN: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), International Court of Justice (ICJ), Trusteeship Council and the Secretariat.

The students, mainly from Premiere Academy Lugbe Abuja, were also educated on 'How we work,' with emphasis on the UN's work in achieving the objectives as set out in the UN Char-

ter. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were also introduced and the ensuing 'Questions and Answers' session was interesting. The students also got briefed by the Abuja Office of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). Ms Victoria Onyeagbako of WIPO explained that 'Intellectual Property (IP) refers to creations of the mind – everything from works of art to inventions, computer programs to trademarks and other commercial signs.' She highlighted Copyright, Patents and Designs amongst others.

Cultural Display

The 2022 UN day was concluded with fanfare, pomp and pageantry as staff members turned out in traditional attires displaying rich and diverse cultures from within and outside Nigeria.

Traditional fashion parade was held and the Tiv team was adjudged the winners while Hausa/Fulani team came second and the third



UN Resident Coordinator Matthias Schmale, and some UN staff members.

position went to the Niger Delta group.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, thanked the UN staff and partners for their great work in support of the development aspirations of Nigeria.

"We will not relent in our efforts to ensure that no one is left behind as we work together with the government towards the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development." He said.



A cultural display by some staff members during the UN Day observance.

UN Staff Members In Enugu Celebrate UN’s Day With Pomp.



A cross-section of UN staff members in Enugu participating in the UN Day event.



Mr. Ishaku Abubakar sharing his UN experience

of uncertainty with contracts as country cycle programming changes and with so many social contacts lost and unable to re-established due to resilience to continue delivering the UN results and goals at all times.” Mrs. Joy Anorue of WHO said.

In the past two years following the untold impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff of the UN have not been able to celebrate the UN-Day in-person, but in this year, staff trouped all out to celebrate and be grateful for surviving the global crisis with pomp. Staff could be heard saying “ we are unstoppable, lets give peace a chance, the world needs peace.”

To mark the UN Day this year, the United Nations Staff in Enugu took time off very busy office schedules to celebrate the UN’s Day 2022. With the theme as “End racism. Build peace.”

All of them who have dedicated a large part of their lives to the UN and believed that ending to racism and helping in building peace through unity and dialogue are the best ways to bring about a fairer and more friendly world.

Staff members used the opportunity to recount and bring their UN experiences to bare.

Mr Lewis Igwe of the UNDSS who has worked for 7 years in the UN said, “some years back, I joined the UN in Maiduguri Nigeria, in the terrorist infested area, the conditions weren’t easy, every day we woke up thanking God for our survival.”

“The Office environment became toxic in nature with Staff members beginning to respond negatively to the situation.”

“My earlier days in in the UN were filled with lots of frequent short-term contracts, and that tried to weigh me down, though I continued to wait patiently, but I am very happy to be on fixed-term contract.” Mr Ishaku Abubakar of UNICEF said.

“My UN experience spans across 20 years and I have had my ups and downs with so much resolve to hang on, there has been periods



UN Supports Labour Ministry To Develop Action Checklist And Training Tool Kit For Trainers



A group photograph of participants.

To support Micro Small and Medium Enterprises producing personal productive equipment in Nigeria to uphold the culture of Occupational Safety and Health in their enterprises, the International Labour Organization has supported the Federal Ministry of Labour to develop, validate and launch an Action Checklist and Training Tool kit for trainers.

Ms. Vanessa Phala, the ILO Country Director while welcoming the participants during the launching stressed the importance of supporting MSMEs to improving productivity as they contribute a lot to increasing the GDP of the country. She also added that occupational injuries and accidents will hamper the productivity of these enterprises. The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN) were also around to pledge their continued support to supporting the MSMEs to uphold the culture of Occupational Safety and Health best practices in their enterprises.

The Checklist and Training Guide were developed under the joint project "Strengthening the Capacity of Local MSMEs/Manufacturers to produce high quality PPEs and health care related products" which is funded by the UN basket fund has promoting occupation safety and health in MSMEs as part of the ILO's intervention areas. The Project is a Covid response project which is jointly implemented by four UN agencies.

The Action Checklist is a practical training tool of the ILO Participatory Action-Oriented Training methodology (PAOT) to assist participants identifying good points and improvement points. It consists of a list of 52 feasible, simple and inexpensive improvement actions widely applied in the workplaces.

The training manual is designed to strengthen institutional capacities to assist the enterprises even beyond the scope of this project to take practical and voluntary measures which improves working conditions and productivity and encourages exchanging practical improvement experiences. It will also support the institutions with the development of a sustainable mechanism to promote occupational safety and health in the enterprises.

The two documents were launched and officially declared to be used as a working document by the Honorable Minister of State for Labour and Employment - Mr Festus Keyamo (SAN). In his address, through the Director, OSH Department – Mrs Adogu Lauretta Nneka he noted that more than 2.3 million people around the World die as a result of Occupational accidents or work-related diseases. In addition, there are 374

million non-fatal work-related injuries each year, which results in economic burden estimated at 3.9% of global Gross Domestic Product, thus the need to improve Occupational safety and health in workplaces. He also noted that it is important to mention the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), which requires Members to "take immediate measures to address the unsafe and unhealthy working conditions that often characterize work in the informal economy; and promote and extend occupational safety and health protection to employers and workers in the informal economy."

On 6th June 2022, The ILO included Occupational Safety and Health as the 5th pillar of the ILO fundamental principle and rights at work. This is because safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental to decent work. This is expected to be applicable in every occupation/sector that is creating jobs including the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises which employ a large proportion of the workforce and tend to have higher rates of work-related accidents and diseases. Lower productivity in MSMEs caused by this high rate of work-related accidents and diseases will prevent sustainable national economic growth

The promotion of SMEs has been a key area of intervention for the ILO. Its advisory services on SME policies are in high demand among ILO member countries. The ILO provides added value because of its focus on both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of employment creation. Small and medium-sized enterprises are vital to achieving decent and productive employment as they globally account for two-thirds of all jobs and create most new jobs. In Nigeria, SMEs contribute 48% of national GDP, account for 96% of businesses and 84% of employment. This sector contributes significantly to alleviating poverty and increasing job creation. To strengthen their capacities is to support the economy of the country.

Earlier in July, the ILO capacitated 24 Trainers nominated from ILO's partners like Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, NECA, NLC, TUC, NNEW, Lagos State Safety Commission, Michael Imaudu Institute of Labour Studies using the Action Checklist and Training Manual to support MSMEs to uphold the culture of OSH in their enterprises. The 24 trainers have trained up to 120 MSMEs on OSH best practices.

Speaking during the improvement workshop, the General Manager of DLK clothing based in Abuja, one of the participating MSMEs producing face masks, protective overalls, safety boots among others, Mr. Precious Mbonu mentioned that prior the training, the company of over 100 staff recorded frequent occupational injuries prior the OSH training for his enterprise. However, since after putting the necessary OSH best practices in place using the Action Checklist. He appreciated the ILO for this timely intervention.

Nigerian Government, UN Propose Large Scale Green Jobs For Youths



A group photograph of participants and dignitaries at the one-day national consultative meeting for the Alliance for Green Jobs Nigeria

Stakeholders in Nigeria's Labour sector have identified the creation of green jobs as a means of balancing the unemployment challenge as well as countering the effects of the ongoing climate change which has also to some extent negatively affected Nigeria.

This was the main discourse at a one-day national consultative meeting for the Alliance for Green Jobs Nigeria, driven by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This event was also used to present a proposal to create massive green jobs for Nigerian women and youths, tagged "Alliance for Green Jobs". The alliance is designed as a Public Private Sector Initiative, also involving government institutions and the organised labour. The focus of the meeting is to get the input of key stakeholders at the planning stage of the project.

In her opening remarks, the ILO Country Director for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra-Leone and ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala, affirmed that the Alliance for Green Jobs Creation is built on the Paris Agreement which highlighted a just transition and decent work as essential elements to responses to climate change. She also expressed optimism that the alliance will contribute to strengthening the resilience of the nations' local economy and expansion of opportunities for decent job creation.

The Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr Chris Ngige who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Ms Kachollom Daju, delivered the keynote address, and asserted that the current economic growth model is highly vulnerable since it is based on only two major unsustainable energy resources; Wood, and Oil & Gas, which are primarily produced through deforestation and highly unsustainable with high rate of natural resource consumption. The Minister admitted that Nigeria faces waves of severe impacts of the climate change phenomenon as well as social economic issues in which mass unemployed and underemployed of youths are high on the agenda.

There were other good will messages from the organised labour, employers' association, the Climate Change Council and the Chairman, House Committee on Labour and Productivity in Nigeria's House of Representatives, and the Senior Special Advisor to the President on job creation. Some of the speakers commended the government for its commitment on climate change including the establishment of the Climate



Permanent Secretary Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ms Kachollom Daju

Change Act, while others called for proper inclusion of the private sector in the implementation of the proposed initiative.

The high point of the event was the presentation of the proposal which showcased a strategic approach towards large scale green job creation linking entrepreneurship and skills development. It is envisaged that the alliance will be a public-private sector driven initiative, involving government institutions, organized labour and business with a view to harness significant economic growth opportunities in the emerging green climate economy. It seeks large scale job creation in sectors of Climate Smart Agriculture and Agro-Processing, Sustainable Forestry and the Clean Cookstove technology, Fish Production and Renewable Energy.

The next phase of the initiative is the mobilisation of funds for the project which will be jointly pursued by the federal Ministry of Labour and employment and ILO.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Flooded Camps In Northeast: UN Provides Emergency Shelter As Over 15,000 IDPs Are In Immediate Need



Flood site in the North-East

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Nigeria is providing emergency shelter and other assistance to some of the tens of thousands of people affected by ongoing deadly flooding in the northeast of the country. Over 15,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in immediate need of accommodation.

Unprecedented heavy rainfall, in combination with spillage when the Lagdo dam in Northern Cameroon was opened to release excess water, has displaced over 39,500 people. An assessment by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) concluded that 120 people in Bauchi State died or were injured due to extreme weather conditions between 1 Sept and 12 Sept.

Heavy rainfall and strong winds have caused serious damage to shelters and infrastructure in camps and other sites for IDPs since the onset of Nigeria's rainy season in June. IOM is providing relief items including blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses and floor mats, and will also provide emergency shelter to more than 1,500 internally displaced persons. However, funding remains a major challenge to scaling up the response.

"Due to the extent and nature of the floods, if adequate actions are not taken now, the well-being of IDPs will be gravely impacted," said IOM Nigeria Acting Chief of Mission Prestage Murima. "Flood-prone communities could face protracted food insecurity if their farmlands are affected." Communities across Borno, Adamawa, Yobe and other states within the northeast region have been witnessing flash floods since June, which have destroyed farmlands, shelters and sources of livelihood.

In Borno State alone, six camps hosting 15,618 IDPs were destroyed, increasing dependence on humanitarian assistance; over 8,400 households are in immediate need of shelter. Some IDPs are living temporarily with relatives in nearby camps and public buildings such as schools and markets. "This situation has added new challenges and complexities for the displaced populations like camp congestion and delays in delivery of basic services," Murima said.

According to OCHA's latest Humanitarian Needs Overview, 8.4 million people in the north-east states of Borno, Adama-

wa and Yobe are in need of humanitarian aid in 2022. The 12-year conflict in the region has spread to areas surrounding Lake Chad, causing one of the world's most severe and complex humanitarian crises.

Ahead of COP27 in November, floods in Nigeria show there is a need to be prepared for the scale and scope of the climate crisis by investing in local anticipatory actions, emergency preparedness and camp coordination, camp management, based on a people-centred approach and improved access to financing for communities and local stakeholders who are at the forefront of climate change.

UN Releases 2021 Annual Results Report For Nigeria

The United Nations in Nigeria has released its 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report which highlighted the implemented 2018-2022 United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) in partnership with the government.



work (UNSDPF) in partnership with the government.

UN Development System Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework responded to the three Result Areas which included Peace, Development and humanitarian /recovery needs in Nigeria and nine Outcomes with indicators for each Outcome. Read the full report: <https://nigeria.un.org/.../203764-un-country-annual...>

Rallying To Defeat Monkeypox In Nigeria

Nigeria is witnessing a rise in monkeypox cases. Between 1 January and 30 October 2022, 1549 confirmed and 604 suspected cases were recorded, compared with only 34 confirmed cases during 2021. The surge has prompted the health authorities to ramp up control measures to curb the transmission of the virus. This includes community sensitization, which is essential to ensure early detection and notification of the disease. World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the national efforts to bolster disease surveillance, case investigations, laboratory testing and public awareness on monkeypox.

Monkeypox, a virus with symptoms like those of the long-eradicated smallpox, although less severe, has been present in Nigeria since 2017. Before that the country had not experienced a case in 39 years.

In August 2022, 10-year-old Goodluck Izuorgu fell ill with a high temperature and body pain. At first, his mother, Chinoye Izuorgu, thought he had malaria, but when he developed small lesions on his face and arms, she started to worry that something else was wrong.

“My body was aching and itchy,” says Goodluck. “The pain and itching were unbearable, and I was constantly crying,” he recalls. Goodluck was diagnosed with monkeypox after his mother took him to a primary health centre where they live, in the Isiala-Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, southeast Nigeria.

Health workers had been visiting households in the area to sensitize people about monkeypox and what people should do if they suspect someone has the symptoms of the disease.

“This helped me make the quick decision of taking him to the health centre,” says Izuorgu.



“After we visited the centre, a disease surveillance and notification officer came to my house with someone from World Health Organization who collected Goodluck’s blood sample,” she continues.

Two days later, the family was notified that Goodluck had tested positive for monkeypox.

Goodluck says he was scared when he was told he had monkeypox because he had only heard of the disease on the radio.

Monkeypox is a viral disease that can jump from animals to humans and can also spread between people through close contact with an infected person.

Besides fever, body aches and skin rashes or lesions, symptoms may also include back pain, low energy and swollen lymph nodes, and last from two to four weeks.

In most cases, symptoms clear up on their own. Some people may have a severe form of the disease and deaths may occur, especially if they have a comorbidity.

There are no antiviral agents or drugs that are effective against the virus, so health workers can only help treat symptoms, such as pain and fever.



10-year-old Goodluck Izuorgu

The percent of people dying compared to those diagnosed is around 3%–6%.

In Mbaitolu Local Government Area of Imo State, Disease Surveillance and Notification Officer, Josephine Oporum, ensures her team tells people in the community about the disease.

Oporum says community sensitization and risk messaging are instrumental to disease surveillance and eradication programmes in Nigeria. “This has yielded results as most of the suspected cases present themselves at the health centre,” she says. People also notify health workers in the area when they notice a suspected case in their community, she adds.

“We take advantage of community and religious gatherings as well as antenatal services to enlighten people about monkeypox and other infectious diseases,” says Oporum.

WHO has provided information, education and communication materials to sensitize health workers and communities on preventive and protective measures to curb monkeypox.

Dr Okeji Austine, Director of Public Health at Imo State Ministry of Health, says there have been more notifications of suspected and confirmed cases because of the improved level of surveillance by health workers and awareness of the disease in the population.

WHO has supported sample collection after suspected case notification, says Austine, sending tests to the National Reference Laboratory in Abuja and conducting patient follow-up. The Organization also helps to conduct detailed case investigations to collect data on patient contacts.

“WHO is a reliable partner in the fight against monkeypox, COVID-19 and other priority diseases in the state,” says Austine.

On a national level, WHO supports government with the coordination of technical assistance and operational support of partners, including the national “One-health” risk surveillance and information sharing group, to facilitate timely information exchange on all prioritized zoonotic diseases.

And now that Goodluck is feeling better, he says that he wants to be a “monkeypox ambassador” to play his role in the response.

“I tell my friends about the disease, how I felt when I was sick and advise them to always wash their hands and bathe after playing,” he says.



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

UN Assists Over 3,000 Stranded In Libya Return Home Safely



Returnees from Libya at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport - Lagos

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has assisted the safe return of over 3,000 Nigerian migrants from Libya since January 2022. 126 Nigerians arrived today afternoon in Lagos in the 13th charter flight from Libya for this year.

The voluntary humanitarian flight with 62 women, 46 men, 8 children and 10 infants aboard departed from Tripoli, Thursday morning (13.10) and landed safely at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos at 4 p.m.

The challenging security situation in the country has left many migrants stranded in Libya. “I traveled to Libya to start working there, but life was challenging due to the conflict. The availability of jobs was extremely scarce,” said the 36-year-old Emmanuel. “I am glad to head home finally and see my family again,” he added.

“The Voluntary Humanitarian Return flights contribute to achieving safe, orderly and dignified migration. It safeguards the human rights of migrants, upholds international principles and standards, and contributes to preserving the integrity of migrants,” said Victor Lutenco, Senior Migration Management Programme Coordinator and Head of IOM Lagos Sub-office.

Prior to departure, the returnees underwent health checks including COVID-19 tests and received hygiene kits containing face masks and other protective gear. IOM also provided them with pre-departure counselling services, protection screening, transportation assistance and targeted assistance to migrants with specific situations of vulnerability such as pregnant women, unaccompanied migrant children, victims of trafficking and migrants with medical conditions.

Upon arrival, the returnees are assisted with food and refreshments, and a mobile phone to contact their families and remain in touch with IOM as they receive reintegration

support, while vulnerable individuals are provided with non-food items such as clothes, shoes and other essential items.

“The EU, together with IOM, remains committed to sustainable reintegration of returning migrants as well as to strengthening national mechanisms and relevant actors in the reintegration sphere for the benefit of all returnees,” noted Eleni Zerzelidou, International Aid/Cooperation Officer for Migration Drugs and Organised Crime.

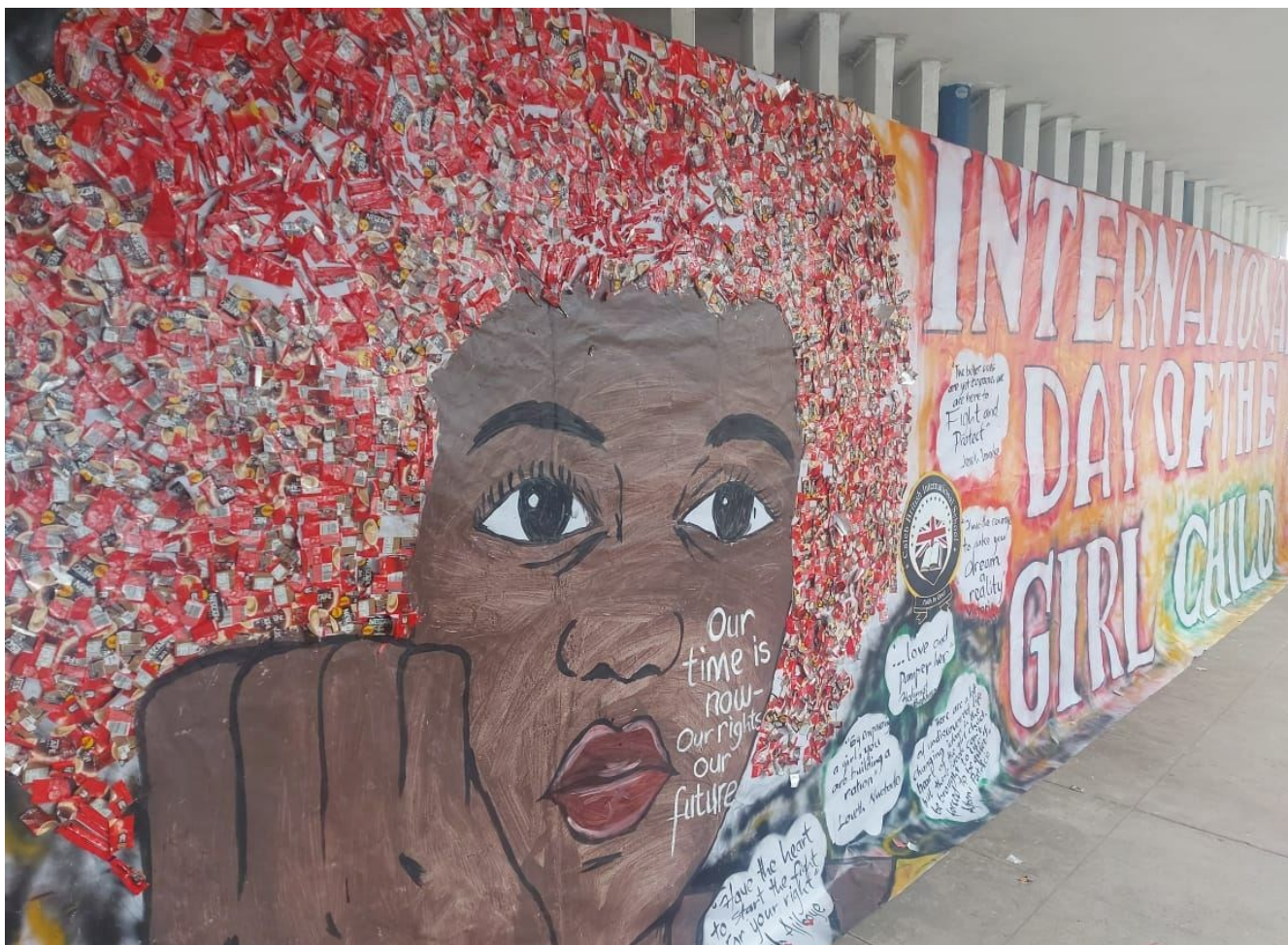
The returnees will be hosted for the first seven days at IOM’s new Migrant Transit Centre in Lagos. The centre has been fully operational since May 2022 and offers multiple services. With the capacity to host up to 400 migrants, the centre offers services including direct medical assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), counselling, fresh meals and a safe, clean, and secure location to rest. During the stay, IOM also provides business skills training to help them to kickstart income-generating activities as part of their reintegration assistance.

IOM, LASEMA and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCRFMI) run the transit centre collaboratively, with diverse responsibilities for each entity.

So far over 28,000 Nigerians have been assisted to voluntarily return home between April 2017 and September 2022. The partnership between the European Union under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration has been instrumental in helping give Nigerians a new perspective back home.

Libya has long been an important transit and destination country for migrants arriving from different parts of Africa. IOM’s latest DTM report indicates that Nigerian migrants make up 5 per cent of migrants in Libya, the country’s fifth largest migrant population. According to IOM data, Libya followed by Niger and Mali are the primary transit countries for Nigerian migrants.

UN, Partners Unveil 8 x 27 Feet Sustainable Art Poster To Mark International Day Of The Girl Child



The 8 by 27 feet Sustainable Art poster hoisted at the UNIC premises.



In commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and female members of the STEAM Club from Caleb British International School, unveiled an 8 by 27 feet Sustainable Art poster to create awareness of the International Day of the Girl Child at the premises of UNIC in Lagos.

Poems, playlet and art were used to promote the theme, 'Our Time is Now- Our rights, our Future' at the observance of the #GirlChildDay organised by UNIC and White Truck Empowerment Initiative.

The girls were advised to speak up, have education to make their dreams a reality.

"Now more than ever, we must renew our commitment to work together so that girls enjoy and exercise their rights and can play a full and equal part in their communities and societies. Investing in girls is investing in our common future." Said UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his message on the International Day of the Girl Child.

The participating students were excited to learn more about issues of gender and preventing violence against women and girls.

UN Seeks Protection Of Civilians Against Explosive Devices In North-East Nigeria



Raising awareness on the risks of improvised explosive devices (IED) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in North-East Nigeria among young children. © UNHCR

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and partners are collaborating with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to improve awareness of the risks of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in North-East Nigeria. UNMAS is the global lead for the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) within the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster. The decision for collaboration between both organisations was taken following calls for more substantial efforts to mitigate the risks that displacement-affected communities face due to the presence of IEDs and ERW in Africa's conflict-ridden Sahel and Lake Chad Basin regions.

In Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States (BAY States) of North-East Nigeria, IEDs and unexploded ordnances remain critical obstacles to the safe and dignified return of IDPs and refugees. They pose lethal dangers for returning refugees and fleeing displaced people for years, even long after the conflict. Like in most other places, IEDs and ERW remain a leading cause of civilian casualties and continue to kill and traumatize communities. From January to October 2022, IMSMA data from UNMAS shows 475 explosive ordnance incidents, of which 60 civilians were killed and 115 were injured. Regrettably, compared to the proportion of casualties among adult civilians, there is a steady increase in the number of children killed or maimed by these weapons. That is why the project targets civilians and children who are unfortunately disproportionately injured or killed by landmines.

According to a new report, more than 100 people were killed or injured by landmines across North-East Nigeria in the first three months of 2021, most of the casualties being children. Mines Advisory Group, an international non-governmental organisation into landmine clearance, also reported that explosive ordnance used during the conflict between Non-State Armed Groups and the Nigerian Army left no fewer than 408 people dead and over 640 others injured between 2016 and 2021. Disturbingly, casualty rates caused by explosive weapons in Nigeria are now ranked the fifth highest in the world, with most of them said to have occurred in Borno State, the epicentre of the ongoing insur-

gency. Here, the explosive ordnance continues to pose a particular risk to millions of internally displaced people who struggle to survive by searching for fuel in the bushes or tilling their farmlands. Children stray into unfamiliar territories to forage or search for firewood or scrap metal, unaware of the risks of the lethal devices, and in the end, the consequences become devastating. While playing outside, some children usually mistake explosive devices for household items or toys.

Within this context, UNHCR and UNMAS saw the need for a coordinated response to mitigate these incidents, which remain a protection concern. The collaboration, started in August 2022, seeks to provide Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE) to at-risk populations such as IDPs, IDP returnees, refugee returnees, and host community members living in conflict-affected communities. The unique collaboration also strives to educate humanitarian actors using visual and audio messaging to better equip people to avoid these incidences. As a partnership between protection and mine action, the project has achieved a lot within a short time following UNHCR's extensive protection networks, which UNMAS has leveraged.

In Borno State, six locations, including Banki, Bama, Ngala, Monguno, Dikwa, and Damboa, were selected for the initial phase of the project implementation, judging that they are coincidentally the areas highest hit by IED and ERW. With funding from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), UNMAS continued the ongoing EORE project involving community volunteers, peer educators, schoolteachers, and humanitarian workers trained earlier as EORE Facilitators.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, UNHCR and UNMAS coordinated the training of 51 (28 women and 23 men) staff of 18 Civil Society Organisations as EORE Facilitators by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to enhance EORE mainstreaming into other sectors and sub-sectors like education, food security and livelihoods, health and GBV, among others. This approach will require proper donor funding in 2023 to effectively roll out EORE mainstreaming and EOs incidents multi-sectoral Victim Assistance projects.

Since the beginning of UNMAS-UNHCR Collaboration on 3 August 2022 for well-coordinated EORE sessions for people at-risk in specific Local Government Areas, as of 31 October 2022, reached 19,146 beneficiaries with EORE life-saving safety messages (5,337 girls, 5,861 boys, 4,489 women and 3,459 men).

UN Launches Hydro-Meteorological Status And Outlook System



A group photograph of participants

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) have collaborated and technically launched the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMO) Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS) in Nigeria. The implementation process is supported by WMO and the United Kingdom Center for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH).

The highly technical 3-day event was held on the 12-14 of October 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria. HydroSOS is an initiative by WMO designed to address water-related information needs of the WMO Member countries. HydroSOS is a framework which will assist NiMet and NIHSA to provide vital actionable water resources information to stakeholders across multiple sectors as well as build institutional capabilities to produce hydrological status and outlooks information. This will contribute in understanding how water resources in the river basins may change over time.

The Minister of Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, who was represented by the Rector, Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT) Zaria, Capt. Abdulsalam Mohammed stated that HydroSOS support Nigeria in making available local-scale data for improved accuracy of modelling platforms and scale up dialogue between stakeholders regarding water resources information and its impact on socio-economic development. The Minister commended WMO for the initiative.

The Director-General/CEO of NiMet, Prof. Mansur Bako Matazu and the Director-General of NIHSA, Engr Clement Nze in their remarks revealed that HydroSOS will enhance water governance, observation and forecasting of the growing water-related uses, hazards and threats such as flood and drought and improve contribution to management of trans-boundary basins.

The WMO Representative for North, Central and West Africa, Mr. Bernard Gomez highlighted the growing impact

of climate change including more frequent and intense extreme events which are causing widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to humanity and endangering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. He went on to state that Governments and partners must invest in observations, early warnings, adaptation and resilience, and the effectiveness of these investments must break the current silo approach between the hydrological, meteorological, and disaster management communities.

The workshop was climaxed with two Panel Discussions which deliberated on two key topics on how HydroSOS can enhance and support status and outlook products in Nigeria and Prioritisation of status and needs towards successful HydroSOS implementation in Nigeria.

Other panelists at the workshop include Prof Alan Jenkins and Prof Dixon Harry from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH); Sulagna Mishra from the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, and Dr Kamga Andre who is the Director General of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD). The outcomes of the workshop derived immense relevance from the UN Secretary General's call for every person on Earth to be protected by early warning systems within five years.

Following the conclusion of the workshop, the team visited the office of the Honourable Minister of Aviation Hadi Sirika, and the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water Resources Dame Esther Didi Walson-Jack, (mni) to solicit Government support and ownership for the HydroSOS implementation.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

UN, Partners Support Workshops To Prosecute War Crimes And Sexual Violence in Conflict

Recently, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Wayamo Foundation and the United Nations Team of Experts of the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, conducted two capacity building workshops for Nigerian investigators and prosecutors on the investigation and prosecution of international crimes, with a special focus on conflict-related sexual violence.

The two workshops were conducted under the framework of the recently established project, “Strengthening Nigerian Capacity in the Investigation and Prosecution of International Crimes, with a Special Focus on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” a joint initiative of the three entities. The project, which aims to increase accountability for acts of sexual violence allegedly committed by all parties to the conflict in Northeast Nigeria, seeks to build the capacity of prosecutors from the Federal Ministry of Justice’s Complex Case Group (CCG) and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Prosecution Hub, as well as investigating and prosecuting officers from the Nigerian Armed Forces.

Although conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) is not yet specifically recognized as a distinct offence under Nigerian law, the project aims to broaden the collective understanding of acts that amount to CRSV, such as sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, that fall outside more commonly acknowledged forms of sexual violence in Nigeria, such as rape and sexual harassment, captured by the Criminal Code, Penal Code and Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act. The project also seeks to emphasize the gravity and distinctiveness of CRSV, as a form of sexual violence not committed in isolation, but in the context of widespread armed violence, including by terrorist groups.

The absence of national legislation on CRSV poses a challenge for Nigeria in meeting its international legal obligations to investigate and prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity. In response to this lacuna, the workshop highlighted the importance of legal innovation, both in terms of how the existing law is interpreted and by leveraging some of the new technological tools that have become available. Participants explored new ways to utilize the existing offences enshrined in the TPPA to charge acts of CRSV. While in the technological context, the Digital Programme Team at Wayamo briefed the participants on the new digital evidence management tool that Wayamo, in collaboration with UNODC, has introduced to the Joint Investigation Centre (JIC) in Maiduguri and the CCG in Abuja.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss ways to strengthen inter-agency collaboration between CCG prosecutors and JIC investigators to ensure a joint and cohesive approach to screening, interviewing, evidence recovery, case file preparation, and charging offences. Underscoring inter-agency collaboration in the period leading up to the UN’s annual 16 Days of Activism on Gender Based Violence which run from 25th November to 10th December is particularly timely, and aligns with this year’s global theme: “UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”.

Sexual violence in conflict has historically been under reported and under prosecuted, Nigeria must be congratulated in taking important steps to ensure that the individuals responsible for this most insidious terrorist tactic are held to account.

This activity supports the implementation of UNODC’s Strategic Vision for Nigeria in particular as concerns protecting women and children from sexual and gender based violence and exploitation.

IFAD Announces \$5m Grant To Assist Flood Victims In Nigeria

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has announced a new five million US dollars grant to the Nigerian government to help farmers adopt climate-resilient agriculture following the massive floods that devastated farms.

The Associate Vice-President and General Counsel for IFAD, Ms Katherine Meighan, made the announcement during a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Mohammad Mohmood Abubakar, recently in Abuja.

The meeting, which was held at the Foreign Affairs Ministry was part of Ms Meighan’s two days working visit to Nigeria.

She said “I wanted to start by expressing my compassion and solidarity to you and the people of Nigeria with the recent very devastating floods which have caused tragic loss of lives, livelihoods, farmlands as well as livestock”.

“These floods have wiped out livelihoods and they’ve wiped out lives. These floods show the increasing importance in today’s complex world of finding solutions for investment in climate adaptation, so that we can protect against such devastating impacts of potential future floods, or future extreme weather events”.

“And I want to at the same time commend you and the government for the investment that you put into agriculture because I agree with you on the critical need for food security and to continue to foster strong local agricultural production.

“I’m very happy to announce an additional grant funding of five million dollars for the Value Chain Development programme which will focus on climate resilience,” she said.



IFAD Associate Vice-President, Ms Katherine Meighan during a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr Mohammad Mohmood Abubakar, recently in Abuja.

“IFAD has in response to the recent floods and in recognition of our long-standing partnership with the government of Nigeria scaled up our support to dry season farming to help the people of Nigeria produce additional food in the historic dry season where less food has been traditionally produced”

Ms Meighan said IFAD has worked in close partnership with the government of Nigeria to focus on the smallholder farmers in the rural areas who are large producers of food, adding that; “as the waters recede, we also help treat the land and be able to plant the seedlings, which have short maturity and can even start producing food within a couple of months.”

Responding, Dr Mohmood thanked the IFAD official on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari for the new grant and commitment to helping Nigerian farmers.

Affected By Conflict, Yet Not Broken: “I Want The Best Life For My Children”

Amina Bukar is a 42-year-old mother of 10 children standing against all the odds to build a fulfilling livelihood for herself and her children despite being affected by the prolonged armed insurgency and living in camp in northeast Nigeria.



Amina feeding her ram at her backyard in Bakassi camp, Maiduguri. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Amina lived peacefully in Gwoza with her husband and children in northeast of Nigeria until armed insurgencies raided her home in 2014. Her husband was killed by insurgents forcing her to flee with her children to Mubi in Adamawa state for safety, where they lived in an internally displaced people’s (IDP) camp for four months.

In Mubi, her daughter often fell sick due to the unfavorable living conditions and due to lack of livelihood, she had no money to seek health care. In 2015, Amina together with her children and several others affected by conflict were relocated to the Bakassi camp in Maiduguri, by the governor of Borno state.

With 10 children under her care, Amina lived in Bakassi camp for five years depending on state support and benevolence of others until she was identified for capacity building through the EU -funded livelihood restoration project focusing on gender mainstreaming in agriculture development intervention jointly implemented by UN Women, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP).

Amina together with other women received capacity training on backyard gardening and cooperative skills to enable them to generate income. She received some grants from FAO as well as chicks and poultry feed from WFP as a start-up for agribusiness.

“I received 12 chicks with feeds including N27,000 (US\$50) and successfully fattened them. With cooperative skills and guidance from UN Women, I was able to sell the chicken, and together with sales of proceeds from my garden, I bought two ewe lambs and a ram lamb to fatten them for sale during festive seasons, and then I buy new ones to fatten them all over again”, she mentioned.



Amina displaying some of her liquid soaps and bottled honey in her home at Bakassi camp, Maiduguri. Photo: UN Women/Marian Roberts

Through the cooperative skills she received, Amina was able to diversify into learning the making of locally made liquid soap for sale. In addition, she buys honey on a wholesale and retails it at profitable price as a lucrative venture in her community.

Amina who started with two ewe lambs and a ram lamb two years ago has been able to sell 17 rams with a ram selling for N60,000 (\$US110). Currently, she invests her income in her children’s education, health, business, and aims to acquire lands for each child. “I do not want my children to become beggars and a burden on others but rather further their education to tertiary level. I want to see all my children in school so that they can have a fulfilling life. The only thing I can leave my children in my absence is good education to enable them to become independent and not victims of early marriage”, she said.

UN Commemorates Girl Child Day With Cameroonian Refugees In Nigeria



Joy is a Cameroonian refugee girl in Adagom refugee settlement in Ogoja, Cross River State whose ambition is to become a medical doctor. © UNHCR/Lucy Agiende.

On 11 October 2022, the world commemorated the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with Cameroonian refugees, partners, and host communities, marked the anniversary under the theme "Our Time is Now - Our Future, Our Rights" to celebrate the achievements of girls, including refugees, and raise awareness on the rights of girls in Nigeria.

UNHCR supported six Cameroonian refugee girls from three states (Cross River, Benue, and Taraba) to attend the State of the Nigerian Girl Summit (SONGS) in Abuja on 10 and 11 October 2022. Debates and sensitizations on the importance of education, dangers of early marriage, gender-based violence, gender inequality, and personal hygiene conducted during the Summit aimed to promote and empower girls to fulfil their human rights and become the voice of change in their communities and societies. The Summit also sensitized some 1,000 men, women, boys, and girls on eradicating deep-rooted gender norms and preventing child-early and forced marriage in Ikyogen and Jato Aka communities in Benue State.

"I learned that a woman can be anything, even a president of a country," says Joy Egbile, a 17-year-old Cameroonian refugee student from Adagom settlement in Ogoja, Cross River State, who participated in the Summit. When Joy and her family fled to Nigeria in 2017, she thought there was no hope of achieving her dreams. With support from

UNHCR, Joy enrolled in school and will be sitting for the Senior Secondary School examination in 2023. "My dream is to become a medical doctor. I am also learning a vocational skill in tailoring so that I can make my clothes and become self-reliant", she adds.

As stated by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, "now more than ever, we must renew our commitment to work together so that girls enjoy and exercise their rights and can play a full and equal part in their communities and societies. Investing in girls is investing in our common future."

Girls worldwide, including refugees, continue to face unprecedented challenges to their education, physical and mental wellness, and the protection needed for a life without violence. With adversity, however, comes resourcefulness, creativity, tenacity, and resilience.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

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); ILO Country Representative, Ms Vanessa Phala (2nd left); UNIDO Country Representative, Mr. Jean Bakole (Left); WHO Country Representative Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo (4th from the right) and other staff members at the cultural event.
2. L-R: WHO Country Representative Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo; UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale; and Vice President of the UN Staff Association, Mr Moses Ajolore.
3. Two students of Premiere Academy Lugbe Abuja, display one of the poster exhibits at the Exhibitions mounted by UN Agencies as part of activities marking the UN Day.

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