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NEWSLETTER



GBV: 'We Need Large Scale Investments In Data Collection' – Schmale



L-R: Head of European Union Delegation, Ambassador Ms Samuela Isopi; UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale; and Country Representative of UN Women, Ms Beatrice Eyong, at the 'Orange Event' held at the UN House in Abuja.

As the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the UN Women Nigeria Country Office convened a high-level 'Orange the World' Ceremony and Lighting of the UN House to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism for the year, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale, has emphasized that the need for investments in data collection and evidence gathering on cases of violence against women and girls in Nigeria.

"We need large scale investments in data collection, evidence gathering, and provision of legal support services to ensure access to justice is quick and unhindered. Perpetrators of violence need to be reliably prosecuted." He explained.

At the ceremony held at the UN House on 29 November 2022, the Resident Coordinator called on partners to pool resources to protect women and girls in humanitarian settings including those affected by the recent catastrophic flooding.

Head of European Union Delegation, Ambassador Ms Samuela Isopi, acknowledged that "Today's 'Orange the World' lightening ceremony is a tribute to all survivors of gender-based violence and all stakeholders involved in the response to end this gross human right violation."

She further highlighted the successes recorded by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Nigeria...*continue on page 2.*

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DECADE OF ACTION

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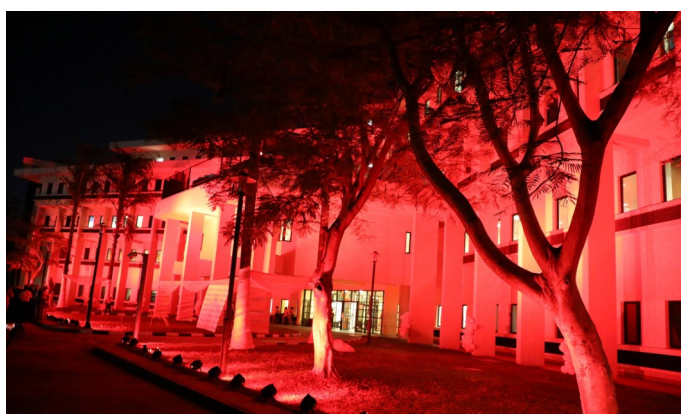
A group photograph of dignitaries and participants at the 'Orange your world' event at the UN House in Abuja.

Hon. Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, said there was no justification whatsoever, for all forms of violence against women and girls. She called for

Explaining the orange lighting of the UN building, Country Representative of UN Women, Ms Beatrice Eyong, noted that the light initiative was integral to the UN Women and the UN Secretary-General's 'UNiTE Campaign' and was used to "symbolize a brighter future without violence."

The 'orange', she said further, "comes from the fire ignited by the many women's groups dedicated to combating violence against women around the world. We call on our partners to join us in promoting the orange campaign throughout the 16 days and beyond so as to galvanize more support to end violence against women and girls."

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an annual international campaign. It commences on 25th November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women). It climaxes on 10th December (Human Rights



UN House Abuja lit in orange colour.

Day), indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive



UNICEF Country Representative, Ms. Cristian Munduate; UNFPA Country Representative, Ms. Ulla Mueller; Head of European Union Delegation, Ambassador Ms Samuela Isopi; UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale; Country Representative of UN Women, Ms Beatrice Eyong.

breach of human rights worldwide. The global theme of the 16 Days of Activism for 2022 is UNiTE! Activism To End Violence Against Women and Girls!"

In Nigeria, 30 per cent of girls and women aged between 15 and 49 reported having experienced sexual abuse. The Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey shows that 14 per cent of women in Nigeria have experienced physical violence. Cases of violence against women increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. A UN report revealed that by April 2020, cases of gender-based violence increased by 56 per cent after only two weeks of lockdown.

Emir Of Zazzau Leads Tree Planting Exercise, Commends UN For Community-Based Training On Climate Change Adaptation And Mitigation In Zaria



Emir of Zazzau, Zaria Kaduna State, HRH Alhaji Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, planting an economic tree (Shea) in the palace environment.

sensitizing his people about the danger of climate change and the need to protect the environment. “The emirate will continue to partner with UNIC and AWAYE Foundation to further expand the tree planting campaign to all District areas.” He disclosed.

Alhaji Bamalli also thanked the donor of the Shea trees, the National Shea Products Association of Nigeria (NASPAN) for making available Shea parkland in the Emirate.

The representative

In demonstrating leadership towards climate action and protecting the environment, the Emir of Zazzau, Zaria Kaduna State, HRH Alhaji Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli, has led a tree planting exercise organised by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in collaboration with Arewa Women and Youth Empowerment (AWAYE) Foundation, under the project, “Sensitization and Awareness on Climate Change Adaptation for Women, Young people and Persons with Disabilities.”

The initiative was organised in consonance with Sustainable Development Goal 13, Target 13.1: ‘Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries’, and in furtherance of UNIC mass mobilization activities for climate action in Nigeria.

Over 100 women, men, young people and persons with disabilities attended the community-based training on eco-friendly fuel for cooking for women and men, and held on 31 October and 1 November 2022, in Zaria.

His Royal Highness expressed his appreciation to UNIC for organising the climate action programme in his emirate and



of NASPAN president, Mr Jacob Shekarau promised to convey the request of His Royal Highness to expand economic tree planting campaign to all Districts in the Emirate, to the appropriate quarters for necessary action.

Experts Focus On Business Impact And Dependency On Nature, Preparatory To Convention On Biological Diversity (COP 15)



CEO of Natural Eco Capital, Dr. Eugene Itua (Left); UNIC National Information Officer, Oluseyi Soremekun (Right) and another dignitary at the dialogue.

Environmental activists, conservationist and biological diversity experts have called for mandatory disclosure by corporate entities on their business impact and dependency on nature.

At the Global Capitals Dialogues 2022, a one-day high-level Government-Business Roundtable Dialogue on 'Preparation for

Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), supported by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and held on 1 November 2022, in Abuja, the experts advocated for government and business sector to work together towards reducing business impact and dependency on nature.

They also called for support to business to commit to reducing their impact and dependency on nature.

Dr. Eugene Itua, the CEO of Natural Eco Capital, noted that Indigenous communities, conservationists, and civil society organisations are custodian of nature and they need to be supported to protect nature.

The Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) will be held in Kunming, China and Montreal, Canada, in two phases. Phase one takes place virtually, from 11 to 15 October 2021 and will include a High-Level Segment from 12 to 13 October. Phase two will be an in-person meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022.

Emir Of Zazzau Leads Tree Planting Exercise...continued from page 3



Left photo: Founder of AWAYE Foundation Hajia Laila H. Muhammad (Left) and Emir of Zazzau, Zaria Kaduna State, HRH Alhaji Ahmad Nuhu Bamalli. Right photo: Participants at the community-based training on Climate change adaptation and mitigation in Zaria

Dr Aliyu Muhammad Salisu, Chairman AMS Braille Nigeria limited and Former Special Assistant to His Excellency the Governor of Kaduna State on person's living with disabilities matters, spoke on the effect of climate change on the well-being of people living with disabilities.

Alhaji Mohammed Ahmed Kontagora, National President National Shea Products Association of Nigeria, (NASPAN) donated 50 Shea trees to be planted around Zazzau Emirate, Zaria.

Earlier, the founder of AWAYE Foundation Hajia Laila H. Muhammad emphasised the importance of climate change

adaptation, economic tree planting and the reason why all citizens must be involved. "You are doing yourself a favour if you take care of the environment. You are protecting your life, livelihood and your health, if you plant economic trees." She added.

The Emir and all members of his Emirate Council planted a Shea tree each.



UN Releases US\$10.5 Million For Nigeria Floods Response



UN Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale discusses with a young lady in Azikoro village in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, ferrying water in jerrycans to her house - which has been cut off by floods - up to 3 times a week over past month. 5 November.

The United Nations today released a total of US\$10.5 million from the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide assistance to people affected and left vulnerable by floods across Nigeria, including those in north-east Nigeria who are already ravaged by conflict.

A \$5 million NHF allocation will provide much needed water, sanitation, health care, shelter and non-food items support to over 264,000 people in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) – covered by the Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 - who are reeling from the combined impact of floods, protracted conflict, rising hunger and a cholera outbreak.

The NHF funds will complement a \$5.5 million CERF rapid response allocation for the states most affected by flooding in Nigeria and will help provide clean water, sanitation, hygiene, emergency shelter and health care assistance for 495,000 people in Anambra, Bayelsa, Kogi, and Niger states. The funds will also help recovery in these states. The NHF allocation will complement ongoing response efforts by the Government of Nigeria and the Nigeria Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

“In my visits to Anambra, Adamawa and Bayelsa, I met and spoke with people who are struggling to put food on the table and to get clean water to drink. Many have no shelter and have lost all their possessions and livelihoods,” said Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale.

“What I saw in Bayelsa, which was essentially cut off from the rest of the country, with homes and fields underwater and some people still sleeping on boats, reminded me of the images coming out of Pakistan several weeks ago.”

According to the latest data by national authorities, flooding since July has affected more than 4.4 million people across Nigeria. Over 2.4 million people are displaced, about half of them in Bayelsa alone (1.2 million). More than 660 people have lost their lives.

The floods have also damaged over 650,000 hectares of farmland across the country. “The massive destruction to food crops

will have implications on food security in the immediate term,” said Mr. Schmale. “As flood waters recede, the most urgent priority is to help affected people get back to what is left of their homes and to regain lost assets and livelihoods. Farmers for example, will require seeds and other agricultural support.”

More than 19.5 million people in Nigeria were already facing severe food insecurity before the floods, according to the 2022 Cadre Harmonisé food security and nutrition assessment.

As discussions at the Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Egypt draw to a close, the flooding in Nigeria is yet another reminder that climate change has a devastating impact on already poor and vulnerable people and will continue to determine their ability to survive unless urgent action is taken.

The CERF rapid response allocation for the Flood Response outside the BAY states is the second rapid response allocation this year. In May and September, CERF released \$10 million and \$15 million, respectively, to support the food insecurity and nutrition response in north-east Nigeria.

Also, in September, the NHF provided two allocations of \$2.5 million and \$1 million to enable humanitarian partners to provide urgent nutrition support in the north-east in line with the inter-agency \$ 351 million multisector plan to address the desperate food and nutrition situation.

CERF is one of the fastest and most efficient mechanisms for providing emergency funding to people in need, through rapid allocations to new and deteriorating crises or where there’s a shortage of funds. Under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, the NHF enables the timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to address the most critical humanitarian needs defined in the Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan. The NHF strategically complements CERF, with both intended to have a multiplier effect in terms of drawing in additional funding to respond to humanitarian crises.

Emphasise Prevention Of Sexual Exploitation And Abuse During Training Of Peacekeepers – Amina J. Mohammed



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed , exits after inspecting a Guard of Honour mounted by the UN Blue Helmets at Jaji while the Commandant of Martin Luther Agwai Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre, Major General A. J. Fagge, watches.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed was on mission in Nigeria in the last week of November 2022, during which she engaged with a wide range of critical stakeholders including Industry leaders, young people and UN staff members. On 29 November at the Martin Luther Agwai Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre, Jaji, Kaduna State, North-West Nigeria, Ms. Mohammed, who was received by the Commandant of the Centre, Major General A. J. Fagge, called on the leadership of the Centre to emphasise the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) during training of peacekeepers.

“There is no excuse for Sexual exploitation and abuse. It is unacceptable behaviour and prohibited conduct for all United Nations and affiliated personnel.” She noted and stressed the need to include the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security into the training module of the Centre.

They discussed issues pertaining to UN Peacekeeping by the Nigerian military, and emphasized the peace and development transitions needed to lead to a peaceful and prosperous nation. They also discussed the importance of leadership in peacekeeping and the inclusion of more women in peacekeeping operations.

The Deputy Secretary-General after which she inspected a guard of honour mounted by a detachment of UN Blue helmets. Ms. Mohammed was accompanied by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale.

Tech, Digitalisation, frontiers of today’s world

At the Institute of Directors 2022 Annual Director’s Conference in Lagos, Deputy Secretary-General delivered a keynote speech and emphasised that technology and digitalization were the frontiers



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed at the Institute of Directors 2022 Annual Director’s Conference in Lagos

of today’s world which would set the era of digital transformation in the area of health, education, agriculture and finance.

She added that the digital revolution was one of the most powerful tools for the transformation of education. This would lead to strengthening infrastructure, addressing access gaps and forging new and innovative public private partnerships. She however cautioned that the digital revolution was not without risks, and it required concerted efforts in protecting people’s rights. She disclosed that the UN was in the process of proposing a digital compact to the UN Summit of the Future in 2024.

“The future digital transformation must be inclusive and leave no one behind.” She added.

Emphasise Prevention Of Sexual Exploitation And Abuse...continued from page 6



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (3rd from the left); Commandant of Martin Luther Agwai Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre, Major General A. J. Fagge (4th from the left); UN Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale (2nd from the right) and other senior military officers.



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed; plants a tree at the Martin Luther Agwai Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre, Jaji Kaduna State, North-West Nigeria.

On Climate change

At the Federal Ministry of Environment, Abuja, the DSG met with Nigeria's Minister of the Environment, Mr Mohammed Abdullahi. They discussed the issues of Loss and Damage and the newly created fund agreed at COP 27.

The discussion also touched on the UN Convention on Climate Change; Biodiversity Loss; and restoration of degraded land through the Great Green Wall initiative.

Working together to rescue the SDGs

Earlier today, the Deputy Secretary-General engaged with UN Staff members in Lagos, South-West Nigeria and underscored the importance of working together as 'One-UN' to deliver on the mandates of the United Nations in Nigeria. "With the outstanding dedication of UN staff members, we're working for a more sustainable tomorrow and keeping the promise of the 2030 Agenda." She said.

She shared with them the UN priorities for 2023, highlighting the need to rescue the SDGs implementation through effective implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, agreed with the government of Nigeria.



L-R: Minister of the Environment, Mr Mohammed Abdullahi; UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed; and UN Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale ; at the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Abuja.

Inspiring Youths

"The young people of Nigeria never cease to inspire me as they rise and act for their communities each day," acknowledged Ms. Mohammed who engaged in Lagos with young people who shared their inspiring work and innovations in climate action, civic engagement and entrepreneurship. Most of all they demonstrated that UN was supporting the government and providing an enabling environment for youth to strive.



UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (Middle) takes a selfie with some young people in Lagos

UN Communication Group Restates Commitment To 'Communicate As One UN' In Support Of Nigeria's Development Aspirations



A group photograph of participants at the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) retreat in Kano.

The United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) in Nigeria has restated its commitment to 'Deliver As One', in support of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, aimed at achieving developmental objectives of ensuring inclusiveness, sustainability and accountability in Nigeria.

At a 3-day retreat convened to draft the UNSDCF 2023-2027 Communication and Advocacy Strategy as well as the 2023 Workplan, and held from 9 - 11 November 2022, in Kano North-West Nigeria, UN Agencies' Communication Officers and Focal Persons were unanimous about working together for greater impact of UN's work in Nigeria.

Addressing participants, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale, underscored the importance of drafting an effective strategy that aligns with the four pillars of the UNSDCF (Prosperity, Planet, People and Peace), the 13 outcomes vis a vis the Transformative Initiatives of the UN Country Team, to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure effective implementation of the Cooperative Framework.

Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Ronald Kayanja, who presided over the retreat, acknowledged that participants' commitment to joint communication for the UN UNSDCF was evident throughout, especially during the group technical sessions.

Kayanja thanked members of the UNCG for the quality of their contributions to discussion leading to the draft UNSDCF 2023-2027 Communication and Advocacy Strategy and the 2023 Workplan.

The retreat was attended by 25 people from 14 UN Agencies and entities.



UNIC Director Ronald Kayanja (Right) stresses a point during the group session at the UNCG retreat in Kano.



WHO Communication Officer Charity Warigon, stresses a point while the UNFPA Communication Officer, Kori Habib listens during the group session at the retreat.

UN Nigeria Organises World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Campaign



L-R: FAO Country Representative, Mr Fred Kafeero; WHO Country Representative, Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo; and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, at the observance of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week at the front court of the UN House in Abuja.

It was another moment of health education and information as the United Nations in Nigeria joined the rest of the world to begin the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week campaign, starting from 18 to 24 November. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale; WHO Country Representative, Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo; and the FAO Country Representative, Mr Fred Kafeero, led the UN staff to the front court of the UN House Abuja, all clad in the campaign blue T-shirts and face caps.

Schmale said that he was delighted to be part of the year-2022 flag off event to launch national campaign on "World Antimicrobial Awareness Week".

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.

"Every year we celebrate the national campaign with unique theme to raise awareness, improve knowledge and understanding of AMR and promote best practices among One Health stakeholders, health workers, policy makers and communities to reduce the emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens through our national, state and LGA level activities." Said Dr Mulombo.

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is a global campaign that is celebrated annually to improve awareness and understanding of AMR and encourage best practices among the public, One Health stakeholders and policymakers, who all play a critical role in reducing the further emergence and spread of AMR.



A cross section of staff members who participated in the event.



A cross section of staff members who participated in the event.

Nigeria-EU-UNODC Partnership Project On Drug Control Closes



Front row Left-Right: Head, EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Amb. Samuela Isopi; UN Resident Coordinator to Nigeria, Matthias Schmale; and Honourable Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Ikanade Agba. **Back row 2nd from the right:** UNODC country Representative, Oliver Stolpe flanked by stakeholders during UNODC's Drugs Project Closure Event.

As the European Union funded project "Response to Drugs and Related Organized Crime", implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, comes to an end, stakeholders gathered at the United Nations House in Abuja to reflect on the project's achievements. Running for a full decade and implementing 34.5million Euros, it is the largest single European Union contribution to a third country in the area of drugs and financially the largest and longest running of its kind ever implemented by UNODC in Africa.

Ambassador Samuela Isopi, Head of the EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS commended Nigeria on its efforts in governing the sector of drugs and narcotics. Ambassador Isopi referred to the longstanding partnership as instrumental in shaping the sector, building capacity, and laying down a sound foundation for all the efforts to move forward even after the end of EU assistance in the field.

Stakeholders, including the Honorable Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Ikanade Agba, the Honorable Minister of State for Health, Barr. Ekumankama Joseph Nkama, the Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency represented by the Secretary, Shadrach Haruna, Director General, National Orientation Agency, NOA, Dr. Garba Abari and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Matthias Schmale concurred that the project had indeed achieved its objectives of building capacities, both at federal and state levels, to curb illicit drug production and trafficking, to prevent drug use among young people, and to increase access to drug treatment and care services in Nigeria.

According to the independent project evaluators, 88% of project stakeholders attested that the project had been highly relevant and had been critical in transforming Nigeria's response to drug control from a primarily law enforcement-based approach to a balanced, holistic, evidence-based, and human rights compliant approach.

Over the course of a decade, key project achievements included the development and implementation of two National Drug Control Master Plan(s), the adoption of sentencing

guidelines for drug related offences, the review and amendment of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act 2011, as well as the production of a range of policies, standard operating procedures, guidelines, information materials and other knowledge products.

In partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education and several State Commissions of Education, the project supported the adaptation and roll out of UNPLUGGED, a school-based drug prevention programme, across 350 secondary schools, reaching more than 70,000 students.

To close the treatment gap facing women and girls, three of these drop-in centres were created to specifically cater for the needs of female drug users. Combined, these centres provided treatment services to over 6,000 drug users, including 2,377 women and girls. When the COVID-19 outbreak hindered access of drug users to essential counselling and treatment services, the project helped 130 drug treatment professionals, previously trained by UNODC, to establish DrugHelpNet with a view to providing over-the-phone drug treatment services. Over fifteen hundred (1500) people who use drugs and their families received support.

Awareness raising and sensitization was another important aspect of the drug demand reduction efforts advanced by the project. More specifically, the project developed a Drug Prevention, Treatment and Care (DPTC) Sensitisation training programme, which was delivered to more than 8,000 policy makers, members of state-based drug control committees, primary health care professionals, frontline law enforcement officers, as well as traditional, community and religious leaders frequently in contact with drug users.

Capacity building of frontline law enforcement officers was another key component of the project providing thousands of NDLEA officers with critical skill sets on intelligence collection and analysis, drug interception tactics, electronic interviewing, criminal investigations, financial investigations, and related topics. To ensure the sustainability of this effort, the project trained more than 50 master trainers, provided teaching tools and logistic upgrades to the NDLEA training college in Jos, supported the development of tailor-made training materials, and provided access to 33 law enforcement related e-learning courses through UNODC's Global e-Learning programme.

Spotlight: FGN, EU And UN High-Level Visit To Sokoto



The delegation with staff of Nana Khadina Centre, during a visit to the Centre, Sokoto State. Photo: UN Women Nigeria/Anthony Abu

Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clement Agbaga, led a delegation of the government of Nigeria, the European Union and the United Nations to Sokoto State to assess the extent of work done by the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative-supported partners. The global Initiative, which is co-implemented in Nigeria by the UN Women, UN-FPA and UNESCO, is the world's largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls; with a particular focus on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation.

At the Nana Khadija Centre, managed by Partners for Justice and supported by UN Women through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, the delegation had a closed-door session with survivors of gender-based violence and learnt how the centre had become a one-stop centre for survivors of gender-based violence through an integrated first-responder service provision, psycho-social support, medical aid, and a multi-sectoral partnership with community groups, government agencies, security agencies and legal institutions. Over 500 persons accessed services at the centre last year; half of these people are children between the ages of 0-18.

Through the initiative's efforts alongside other partners, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill was domesticated in 34 States in 2022, including Sokoto State; an over 300% increase from three (3) states in 2019. The VAPP was simplified and translated into the four main Nigerian languages (Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, and Pidgin).

During the visit, the delegation stopped by the palace of His Majesty Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar IV. His Majesty reiterated his commitment to support efforts to end violence against women and girls in the state.

"In society, we find out that women and children are most affected by violence. It is important to ensure our women and children are protected at all times", His Majesty reiterated.

The delegates also interacted with the surveillance group that is helping to monitor communities and ensure violence



Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clement Agbaga, addresses the Sultan of Sokoto, His Majesty, Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar IV.

against women and girls is reported and addressed. Afterwards, the delegates also met with participants of the Second Chance Education Centre managed by NEEM Foundation with support from UN Women and other agencies through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to learn about their experiences and the impact of the intervention. Most of these participants were gender-based violence survivors.

Reactions from representatives of agencies during the visit echoed the need for continuous support for the intervention in the state to ensure a reduction in the prevalence of gender-based violence and remedy for survivors.



UN, NIS Raise Awareness On Smuggling Of Migrants And Trafficking In Persons Across Nigeria



Sensitisation activity in Lagos State - Photo: IOM

IOM, the UN Agency for Migration, in partnership with the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) launched today (07/11) a nationwide sensitisation and enlightenment campaign on the issue of smuggling of migrants within and outside the borders of Nigeria.

Every year, many Nigerian migrants embark on treacherous journeys as they leave their country searching for a better future abroad. Migrants travelling via irregular routes face risks such as trafficking in persons (TiP), extortion, physical abuse, torture, forced labour, rape and even death.

Between 2017 and 2020, more than 159,000 individuals from West and Central Africa arrived irregularly to Europe by sea and land. Nigeria as a country of origin, transit and destination, counts among the countries with the highest number of victims of TiP and smuggling in the region.

Representatives from IOM, the NIS, Port Health Services, Ministry of Interior, state and local government representatives gathered in Lagos to launch the campaign which will also take place across twelve NIS commands.

"The purpose of the nationwide sensitisation is to create awareness on smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons across all immigration Commands," said Angela Esekhaigbe, Assistant Comptroller General. "The overall objective of the activity is to promote safe migration and national security in Nigeria," she added.

In practice, the sensitisation will involve the development of a training manual or handbook to sensitise the general population in public areas like markets, schools, faith-based organizations, bus stops and more.

"IOM takes a comprehensive approach to addressing Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons," mentioned Victor Lutenco, Senior Migration Management Programme Coordinator and Head of IOM Lagos Sub-office. "Advocating for rights, and protecting the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals and their communities; and promoting sustainability through institutional capacity development and partnerships, are at the centre of the organization's response efforts," he added.

The sensitisation campaign will also be launched in Ogun between 10-11 November and in Abuja in September 2023. Awareness raising sessions by NIS with support from development partners will be held across the country.

Since April 2017, IOM Nigeria has assisted the return of over 28,000 Nigerian migrants from 82 countries. Out of this number, more than 3,600 are victims of trafficking and 1,726 VoTs have received in-kind support to start businesses of their choice.

NIS is one of IOM's major government partners on migration. IOM works closely with NIS on issues of migration management, immigration and border management to strengthen its personnel capacity, improve border surveillance and patrol, provide post arrival assistance and support to returned migrant.

The efforts to tackle TiP and SoM are supported by the Government of Denmark, the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the German Federal Office and German Cooperation, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the project "NIS Training Strategy Implementation Program- Phase 2" and the "Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships for Sustainable Solutions initiative" (COMPASS), and the Migrants as Messengers Project.

UN, LASG Launch SDGs Clubs In Public Schools, Enrol 474 Clubs, 12000 Members



Student-participants make a presentation on SDGs

To create awareness, engage and take action to actualize the #SDGs and make our young citizens change agents, the UN Information Centre Nigeria in collaboration with the LASG Office of SDG & Investment and the Lagos State Ministry of Education has launched the #SDGs Club in Lagos State Public Schools.

Senior government officials including the Secretary to the Government, Head of Service, Commissioner for Transportation, Special Adviser on SDGs, Tutor Generals /Permanent Secretaries of the Education Districts and Directors were in attendance.

There are 474 SDG Clubs in Lagos Public schools with over 12000 students as club members

At the launch event held on 30 November at Adeyemi Bero Hall, Alausa Ikeja, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Folasade Jaji, acknowledged that the initiative was a smart way of institutionalising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the education system.

“Our lives are shaped by our everyday actions and inactions. Whatever actions we take today go a long way in shaping our future. We are determined in shaping the future and ensuring a safer planet for future generations. We are taking a collective responsibility by being informed, conscious and action-oriented. And this does not in any way exclude the older generations.” He said.

The Governor further noted that the club will have a positive impact on the lives of the students and the society at large, adding that it will bridge the knowledge gap in sustainability, thereby delivering ambitious targets

In her remarks, the Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs and Investment, Solape Hammond, stated that integration of the younger generation in climate actions was a good initiative, describing young people as assets that can be harnessed to drive sustainability.



She said: “While our problems get a lot of news coverage and just as deserving of attention are the plans to fix them. This initiative is a positive movement that will support the actualisation of the global ambition of ensuring that all human beings enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social, and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

The 17 SDGs 2030 agenda of the United Nations was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015. It provides a shared template for peace and prosperity for people and the planet not just now, but also into the future.

UNOPS Deputy Regional Director For Africa Visits Nigeria, Meets FG And Other Partners



UNOPS Deputy Regional Director for Africa Ms. Dalila Alexandra Ramos Moreira Goncalves (Middle); Minister of State for Health, Hon. Ekumankama Joseph Nkama (4th from the right); and other members of the delegation.

UNOPS Deputy Regional Director for Africa Ms. Dalila Alexandra Ramos Moreira Goncalves has carried out a 3-day working visit to Nigeria. Together with UNOPS Ghana Multi County office (GMCO) Director Ifeoma Esther Charles-Monwuba, they held meetings with representatives from several national authorities, as well as diplomatic missions and other development institutions.

In particular, the authorities met include the Honourable Minister of State For Health of Nigeria, the Honourable Minister of Environment of Nigeria, the Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Nigeria, the Swedish Ambassador to Nigeria, the Danish Ambassador to Nigeria, representatives from the Norwegian Embassy to Nigeria, the Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria, representatives from the Islamic Development Bank in Nigeria, representatives from the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) and the Coordinator of the North East Recovery and Stability Programme, as well as representatives from WHO and the Rural Electrification Agency. The goal of these meetings was to discuss ongoing partnerships and explore new possibilities of collaboration.

During the meeting with the Islamic Development Bank, UNOPS discussed the imminent start of the 'Acquisition of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets, Rapid Diagnostic Tests, anti-malarial drugs and medical supplies' project. The agreement for this project, funded by the IsDB, has already been signed between the Federal Ministry of Health and UNOPS, and a kick-off date will be agreed on soon. This topic was also discussed with the Minister of State For Health of Nigeria, and an authorisation letter for UNOPS to commence implementation has since been signed.

On a different subject, the Minister of Environment informed the Deputy Regional Director that the Ministry would be interested in involving UNOPS in HYPREP (Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project) and that they will be sending a letter to that effect. In response, the UNOPS delegation clarified that UNEP is the leading

agency on this project, but also confirmed to the Minister the interest to provide support on the project if and where necessary.

The Ministry might also engage UNOPS on the European Investment Bank-funded NEWMAP (Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Program) and the Nigeria Access to Agri Markets project, which falls under the Nigerian RAAMP (Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Program). The DRD welcomed this intention and would be expecting to hear from the Minister. UNOPS also handed a copy of the Ghana infrastructure road map to the Minister and offered to conduct a similar study in Nigeria. The Minister indicated that they will review the report and revert.

During their meeting with UNOPS, the NEDC management team shared a highlight of their work, which focuses on four key areas: Climate Change (Renewable Energy and waste management); Flood management; Environmental and Social impact; and Health programmes

The Commission is currently developing a master plan and welcomes UNOPS as a partner in both resource mobilisation and implementation. The master plan is expected to have 11 pillars covering 600 projects and it is estimated to require 80 billion USD in financing. The NEDC also indicated that it may request UNOPS to provide training in procurement.

A virtual town hall was arranged on the occasion of the DRD visit, to which the entire staff of UNOPS GMCO was invited. Ms. Dalila Goncalves used this opportunity to brief the GMCO team on the recent and ongoing management changes within UNOPS and answered the questions posed by colleagues on this topic. She then went on to praise the excellent work carried out by the GMCO during the current organisational changes, and encouraged the colleagues to keep up the good work and to continue to strive for maximum partners' satisfaction in the upcoming year.

OCWAR-T Strengthens International Cooperation Between Côte D'Ivoire And Nigeria To Tackle Illicit Drug Trafficking



Law enforcement officers from Nigeria and Ivory Coast during a drug simulation exercise in Lagos.

To enhance international cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria in the fight against illicit drug manufacture and trafficking, the Organized Crime: West African Response to trafficking (OCWAR-T) project conducted a simulation exercise for law enforcement officers from both countries on a "Controlled Drug Delivery" in Lagos, Nigeria.

The exercise demonstrated the arrest of a drug courier at the airport. Participants from Côte d'Ivoire included officers from the Customs, Directorate of the Counter-Narcotics Police (DPSD), Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JAITF) and the Transnational Crime Unit (TCU). The Nigerian participants were drawn from the Department of State Security (DSS), Nigeria (Intelligence Unit), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). Thirty law enforcement officers involved in the case were sent to different locations according to their roles and teams to conduct surveillance and arrests. Peer learning has several benefits such as professional development, enhancing teamwork, and collaboration.

The highlight of the event was the debrief workshop during which the Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd), OFR noted the critical role capacity-building has played in helping to enhance the skillsets of law enforcement personnel in tackling the scourge of drug trafficking. He further stated that "today's workshop has helped to put us all on the same page about the intricacies of this methodology, which requires greater cooperation of relevant law enforcement agencies at the national and international levels.

More than other techniques, controlled delivery sharpens our awareness as to why law enforcement agencies should not work in silos and why bilateral and multilateral agreements, good and regular contact and exchange of information between anti-drug enforcement organizations are im-

portant." He commended the European Union, the German Government, UNODC and ECOWAS Commission for supporting the training workshop.

This activity is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on the 7th of November 2021 between the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire on Cooperation in combatting illicit production, manufacture, and trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and its precursors; following concerns about the increase in large-scale illegal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and essential chemicals and their abuse.

Furthermore, the exercise will strengthen the international cooperation of both countries based on the MoU and the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the protocol on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the Convention against Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

Dr Oliver Stolpe, Country Representative, UNODC stated that such practical exchange is necessary to effectively combat transnational organized crimes utilizing platforms such as those provided by the OCWAR-T project as an important contribution to combatting Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) in the West African region and beyond. OCWAR-T is a project to support ECOWAS and its Member States in reducing TOC. For this purpose, the project is strengthening structures, capacities and improving knowledge. Specifically, it supports efforts in criminal investigation and prosecution, improving small arms control and reducing human trafficking. The project is commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) and co-funded by the EU.

The Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) jointly implements this project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC). The project covers all fifteen ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania.

New Homes Bring New Hope In North-East Nigeria - A Story From Adamawa



Ibrahim and his family in their emergency shelter.

Ibrahim Agah, 65, has lived in an emergency shelter in Malkohi, in north-east Nigeria's Adamawa State, for almost a decade. In 2013 he sought refuge in Malkohi with his wife Hadiza, 45, and their three children following a Boko Haram attack in their village in Gwoza, in neighbouring Borno State. Sitting under a roof made of sticks and tarpaulin, Ibrahim recalled that fateful night nine years ago, when Boko Haram set fire to all the houses in the village. He and his family managed to flee in the pitch darkness with their lives, and nothing else. With no light to guide them, they ran into the bush and hid before travelling across states to safety in Malkohi. Since then, Ibrahim and his family have relied on the host community's generosity and humanitarian organizations' support to make ends meet. The family previously relied on farming as their livelihood and source of income. But despite all the challenges he has faced over the years, Ibrahim sits with a smile on his face. He and his family will soon enjoy the dignity of having a home to call their own, thanks to a durable solutions pilot project coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with community participation, assisting 182 families in Adamawa. In neighbouring Labondo, 37-year-old Hauwa and her daughter sit in a makeshift kitchen selling food to support their family. Hauwa says it has not been easy to provide for her children since Boko Haram killed her husband in 2014. Hauwa was selected to participate in a durable solutions project led by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Labondo. The project aims to improve the local integration of displaced people and the reintegration of Nigerian refugees who have returned from Cameroon. The UNHCR- and IOM-led projects both used an innovative post-emergency approach to humanitarian assistance that supports displaced and vulnerable people to resume their lives and livelihoods without depending on aid. The projects take place where conditions allow in northeast Nigeria's more stable regions.



Mustapha Shuaibu, IOM Water and Sanitation Hygiene Operation Facilitator, stands in a space designated for a family's home in Malkohi. Behind him is the home's latrine, under construction.

A holistic approach to people's well-being

Durable solutions take a big-picture look at what vulnerable people need for their well-being. This includes shelter, livelihoods, water, sanitation, hygiene, safety, education, health care and more.

Ibrahim's new family home is one of 215 newly constructed shelters that will have their own latrines and shower spaces. Solar street-lamps and portable household solar lanterns will provide lighting, and there

is easy access to a market, a school and a health centre.

IOM set up a skills-acquisition centre to provide adult education and training

on tailoring, and people can also receive training on improved farming methods at the centre's greenhouse.

In Labondo, Hauwa and 450 displaced and vulnerable families will benefit from the construction of a settlement. In addition to a new home, they will receive 216 m² of land to use however they see fit, such as for agriculture or to build

additional structures. Recognizing that the communities hosting the displaced families face their own challenges, the project considers the host communities' needs.



Community members help to construct a latrine. Photo: OCHA/Christina Powell

Decisions by affected people for affected people

In Malkohi, IOM and partners held extensive consultations and focus group discussions with community members on all aspects of the project. A project committee was set up with representatives from the affected communities (both displaced and host communities), the Government and IOM. This committee steers the project's development.

The size of the homes and the available plots were determined based on the size of households. At the community's request, the new site also provides spaces for community gatherings and religious facilities.

A written agreement was facilitated between the displaced people and the host community members who own the land. It was witnessed by local government area (LGA) and State authorities to protect the tenure security of project beneficiaries in the future.

As with all households in the project, Ibrahim's family was consulted on where their new home should be and who they wished to have as neighbours. This active participation created a sense of ownership that will foster sustainability.



The skills-acquisition centre in Malkohi provides adult education and skills training in tailoring and farming.

New Homes Bring New Hope In North-East Nigeria...continued from page 14



Ongoing construction of homes for 450 households, built in collaboration with displaced people and community members. Photo: UNHCR



Ongoing construction of homes for 450 households, built in collaboration with displaced people and community members. Photo: UNHCR



Hauwa and her daughter selling homemade produce, such as spices and oil.

In Labondo

UNHCR and partners looked at the needs of the people moving into the settlement and the local population, and they assessed Labondo's socioeconomic infrastructure. The decision was made to improve key education, health-care and livelihoods facilities in order to ease the pressure on the host community.

The project will construct three blocks of classrooms and a market and renovate the health centre to benefit new families in the settlement and the host community.

The project considered the vulnerabilities of the targeted families, particularly women, people with specific needs and people facing serious protection concerns, and it prioritized them for participation in the project.

Community members and displaced people in Labondo are also actively involved in the project, including through in-depth consultations on their needs and preferences, and in the actual construction. For example, Hauwa and her soon-to-be neighbours made the shelters' bricks, meaning not only did they produce the required construction materials but they also received meaningful livelihoods assistance.

Hauwa recalls vividly how she lost all hope when her husband was killed almost nine years ago. But today, she looks to the future with hope for herself and her four children.

She hopes for a return to normalcy as her family joins a community and lives in safety. In a few months, they will have their own house in the settlement and join hundreds of other families on the path to rebuilding their lives.

Back in Malkohi, Ibrahim's new house is almost complete. He expects to move in with his family in a few months. He stands up, walks from his emergency shelter and hops into the back of a truck to travel the short distance to his new house.

Ibrahim helped to create his new home. After nine years of displacement and uncertainty, he and his family are looking to a future filled with possibilities and hope.



A home constructed as part of UNHCR's durable solutions project in Labondo. Photo: UNHCR



Ibrahim in the doorway of his new home in Malkohi.

ILO Bags NECA Excellence Award for Global Leadership and Governance



Mr Stephen Agugua (Right) receives the award on behalf of Ms. Vanessa Phala, the ILO Country Director for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the ECOWAS Secretariat

The Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA) has held its delayed 2021 Annual Employers' Excellence Awards. The event was held on 29th November 2022, at the Lagos Oriental Hotel, Victori Island Lagos, Nigeria. The theme of the annual event is 'Going Beyond Limits'. The annual NECA employer's excellence award has been established to celebrate organisations that have implemented policies, systems, and processes that create and sustain enterprise competitiveness, productivity, industrial peace, and harmony.

Additionally, the annual employers' excellence awards is geared towards promoting and encouraging best practices in Corporate Performance, People Management and Industrial Relations Practices amongst employers in Nigeria. This is in a bid to celebrate outstanding contributions of enterprise to national development.

Director-General of NECA, Mr. Adewale-Smatt Oyerinde affirms that the objective of the annual excellence awards, which is first of its kind, is to celebrate the resilience and doggedness of Nigerian enterprises and to encourage best practices and responsible enterprises for others to emulate. He said through such exposure, employers would have an extra channel of enhancing their brand profiles as leading and responsible employers in Nigeria, thereby, contributing to economic prosperity and industrial harmony in Nigeria.

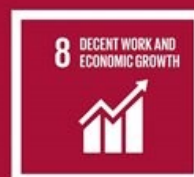
He said the awards are sector-based with a winner emerging from each sector of the economy, while the employer of the year is selected from the winners by a panel of jury and judges.

The criteria for the awards, include leadership and governance; innovation, productivity, and corporate performance; effective human resource management and industrial relations; technology optimisation; occupational health and safe-

ty; inclusiveness and diversity as well as responsible business conduct/corporate social responsibility.

As part of benefits, Mr. Smatt Oyerinde said participants and winners would gain a major mileage that would be created by the foremost Employers' Award in West Africa and would also display in their branding and premises the 'Employer of the Year' tag in various categories for a period of one year. He added that all organised businesses in Nigeria are eligible to apply, noting that the awards portal was opened for entries.

The high point of the event was the award for the best employer of the year award, and the special recognition for ILO, with an award in Global Leadership and Governance for its support in promoting the implementation of best industrial practices in Nigeria. The award was received by Mr Stephen Agugua on behalf of Ms. Vanessa Phala, the ILO Country Director for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the ECOWAS Secretariat.



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

Fuel Efficient Stoves Save Women From Health And Physical Risks



Women at a established briquettes and Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) production center, supported by FAO and the Government of Canada.

A big pot engulfed in red-blue flames, is seated majestically atop three big stones placed in an angular position, the fire is coming from stumps of burning firewood joined together at one end, while the other end stick-out from the spaces in-between the stones. This use to be the common sight in almost every household in rural communities in Nigeria, where food is cooked for the entire family.

“On the way to collect firewood in the ‘bush’ a friend of mine was bitten by a snake, the poisonous venom nearly killed her, but for the timely intervention of a passer-by who took her to a traditional healer,” says Fatima Ibrahim, a resident of Zoto in Yobe state.

She still recalls in pain of a gruesome incident, in which three of girls in her community were ambushed and sexually abused by bandits on their way to collect firewood. “It was hard to comprehend the report but we thank God as they were released after they took advantage of them. Others were not lucky enough to return while still alive, more than two years after they have been missing,” she remembers as some tears are flowing down from the eyes.

In a region where the impacts of desertification and deforestation have affected many communities, many activities are controlled for conservation purposes. Not many households in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in northeast Nigeria can complete the preparation of their meals without using firewood, gathered in the nearby forests, thereby compounding the already dire situation.

In attempts to address the situation, a project by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with funding from the Government of Canada established briquettes and Fuel Efficient Stoves (FES) production centers in selected communities to prevent the seemingly unending

logging and exposure of the vulnerable women and girls to various risks.

“This intervention has helped to preserve our trees in the field. There were some farms you go to, there is not a single tree to hide under against the scorching sun, but now things are changing,” Fatima adds and goes to say that the old form to stoves that they were using were causing so much smoke that had a huge toll on their health.

“While cooking, the heat and smoke from the firewood alone caused so much headache, you end up sleeping at night with tears flowing from the eyes. Besides this, we were forced to go to the forest almost on a daily basis in order to prepare meals, but with the new stoves provided by the project now, the wood we collect once can serve up to three days,” Fatima explains.

Clad in purple hijab, given to them as part of the dress to be worn while working at the FES production center, Fatima 32 years old mother of four (4) provides the needed leadership at the production center to other women in the community. She noted that the center opens another source of income for the women group.

“The main road leading to Maiduguri and Bauchi is a few yards away from the center, we produce and display by the wayside, for whoever is passing by to also buy and take home. We use the extra income to support our husbands where they need help, especially paying schools fees for our children. This indeed is very useful.” She concludes.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Oxygen is life

Through a consistent flow of medical oxygen, six-month-old Abdulrahman is brought back to life



Suwaiba Ali, Abdulrahman's mother. Photo: UNICEF

Suwaiba Ali, 35, is ecstatic that her six-month-old baby Abdulrahman can breathe. He was in severe condition due to breathing problems brought on by seizures, and she thinks that the oxygen therapy he received saved him. "I thought I will lose my son because it was difficult for him to breath. But as soon as the health workers performed the oxygen therapy on him, he improved and became fully conscious" Suwaiba said.

What then happens if there is no oxygen? "Without medical oxygen, chances of survival are limited for people with certain illnesses, such as young children with severe pneumonia and congenital heart problems" says Dr. Salma Ali Suwaid, Head of the emergency pediatric unit at the Murtala Mohammed Specialist hospital in Kano, Nigeria.

Oxygen is a life-saving medical gas used to treat respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 and pneumonia, as well as several other health system's needs, such as newborn care, emergency obstetric care, surgery, and anesthesia. However, there are serious oxygen availability gaps in Nigeria. The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health used the UNICEF Oxygen System Planning Tool to conduct a comprehensive audit of medical oxygen with support from UNICEF, IHS Towers and other partners. The nationwide oxygen audit, which involved over 6000 healthcare facilities across all levels of care, generated reliable data that will direct current and upcoming system-strengthening investments.

The Oxygen System Planning Application is a versatile, excel-based program that analyzes data to comprehend demand, system capacity, pinpoint gaps, and determine necessary investments from source to patient.

The significance of medical oxygen was underlined by Dr. Suwaid. "Specific diseases can benefit from oxygen therapy," Dr. Suwaid said. "Children with severe pneumonia and bronchitis often recover more quickly than those who do not receive oxygen therapy."



Six-month old Abdulrahman with a pulse oximeter

To address unmet needs and barriers to an effective and efficient oxygen system, precise data on Nigeria's health system is vital, according to Dr. Adegoke Falade, a professor of pediatrics at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. Since healthcare delivery differs based on context in different locations of Nigeria, the national oxygen gap evaluation will provide an opportunity to identify content-specific issues that need to be addressed for an improved oxygen system in Nigerian healthcare facilities.

The Federal Ministry of Health is already using the audit's findings to direct the distribution of already-bought oxygen equipment, the training of front-line healthcare workers, biomedical engineers, and technicians, as well as the development of a national strategy for the expansion of medical oxygen in healthcare facilities from 2023 to 2027. With assistance from UNICEF and partners, Nigeria will be better able to use the UNICEF oxygen system planning tool to create a dependable and long-lasting medical oxygen system.

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction

1. *The UN Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Peace Operations Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix visited the UN House Abuja today and was received by the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Matthias Schmale. He later held discussions with the United Nations Country Team for Nigeria on UN support for peace initiatives in the country.*
2. *UNICEF Nigeria's Representative, Cristian Munduate, celebrating sports, inclusion and diversity with children on World Children's Day*
3. *UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, addresses the Sultan of Sokoto, His Majesty, Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar IV.*

Editor: Oluseyi Soremekun (UNIC)

Editorial Team: UNCG members— Ronald Kayanja (Chairman) - UNIC; Charity Warigon (WHO); Rajat Madhok & Geoffrey Njoku (UNICEF); Rupa Bhadra (UNAIDS); Christabel Chanda-Ginsberg & Rejoice Emmanuel (UNDP); Anthony Abu & Faith Bwibo (UN Women); Kori Habib & Adewole Ajao (UNFPA); Pius Udo (ILO); Edward Ogolla & Gabriel Adeyemo (UNHCR); Styliya Kampani & Mariam Owoeye (IOM); Emmanuel Kihale & David Tsokar (FAO); Yachat Nuhu (UNESCO); Olivia Okorundu (UNODC); Ann Weru & Christina Powell (UNOCHA); Chi Lael & Kelechi Onyemaobi (WFP); Katrien Nollen (UNMAS); Vera Onyeaka-Onyilo (IFAD); Roland Abah (WMO); Oluwatobilola Moody (WIPO).

Advisory: United Nations Country Team (UNCT)

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