



Newsletter



Malala has transcended borders, generations – Amina J. Mohammed

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed has stated that the UN Messenger of Peace, Malala Yousafzai, had transcended borders, cultures, and generations; while her message and her passion had touched people the world over.

“I will never forget 10 years ago when she was in the UN, a young girl who rose to the podium at the UN and declared to the world in the strongest of voices. She said that: ‘One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world’.” She said at a special event in Abuja co-hosted with Malala in observance of Malala Day, celebrated every 12 July.

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Malala Yousafzai: Addressing a decade of work for girls' education



Malala Yousafzai in a group photo with some students of Lafiya Sarari Foundation, Maiduguri

At the event titled, “Addressing a decade of work for girls’ education”, Mohammed called on leaders at every level to heed Malala’s words and back that up with investments in education.

With more than 129 million girls out of school, Malala renewed her call for collective action to make sure the next generation of girls are able to learn and lead without fear. She also reflected on lessons learned over the last decade.

“I will tell you what I did not know then... one teacher, one activist, one parent — no one can change the world on their own. What is true

is that change can begin with just one person,” said Malala Yousafzai. “To build a world where every child has access to 12 years of quality education, we must join forces.

We must bring girls and governments together with activists and educators, parents and community leaders.”

The event focused on the transformative power of educating girls and marked a decade since Malala delivered her famed speech at the U.N. General Assembly at 16 years old.



Malala Yousafzai exchanges pleasantries with Lagos State Governor, H.E. Babajide Sanwoolu at the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat in Abuja after addressing the Forum. (Photo: UNIC/ Oluseyi Soremekun)



Malala Yousafzai in a group photo with some students of Yelwa Government girls Secondary School, Maiduguri



Right photo: Deputy Secretary General Amina. J. Mohammed (Right) and a student of Lafiya Sarari Foundation, Maiduguri

Malala Yousafzai and the Deputy Secretary - General Amina. J. Mohammed visited secondary schools in Borno state and met with young women, activists & educators that Malala Fund supports. They met key leaders in government whose support is vital to driving progress for girls' education across Nigeria.

Today the Deputy Secretary General Amina. J. Mohammed and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, #MalalaYousafzai join together to discuss the importance of advancing and transforming girls' education, as United Nations Nigeria celebrated #MalalaDay being her birthday at the UN house Abuja



Deputy Secretary General Amina. J. Mohammed and some students of Girls Child Concern (GCC), Girls Academy Maiduguri

Nigeria, UN promote Innovative food financing model at UN Food Systems Summit



Vice President of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima inspects products of FGN/IFAD Value Chain Development Programme at Nigeria's high-level event at UN Food Systems Summit in Rome, Italy

The Government of Nigeria with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) held a high-level side event on Monday, 24 July 2023 at the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment in Rome, Italy.

The Vice President of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima while chairing a panel at the Nigeria High Level Event on Innovative Finance for Food Systems Transformation – Case study of Nigeria's Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP) and Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Programs (SAPZ) said Agricultural hubs will be created throughout the nation through the SAPZ and VCDP to increase production and value-added processing.

He emphasized that in line with the Nigeria Food Systems Transformation Pathways, the Federal Government will continue to advance the mobilization of innovative financing to address the key challenges to food systems priorities.

Shettima noted that considering the huge food finance gap in Nigeria, regional and global level, Nigeria is calling for the mobilization of key national and international stakeholders' formal sectors to build win-win partnerships to catalyze transformative and substantial funding for the achievement of sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems.

In his remark, President of IFAD, Mr. Alvaro Lario said "to stimulate private investment, we need governments and development agencies to lead the way with their own investments. We must also ensure these investments help small holders farmers increase their incomes, improve their access to markets, increase their production and build their resilience."

the President of Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser and the President of African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesi-

na who was represented by Mrs Hassatou N'Sele Vice-President AfDB reiterated their firm commitment to support Nigeria in achieving its development aspirations and implementing its future national development plans.

A panelist at the event, Mr Reji George who is the Vice-President of OLAM a private partner of IFAD-supported VCDP said the partnership agreement between VCDP and Olam under the Commodity Alliance Forum (CAF) provides smallholder rice farmers with access to a reliable and profitable market for their produce, and in turn stimulates productive investments at the farm level. The partnership involves commitments from Olam, IFAD, the Nigerian government and the farmers (individually and as a collective).

Mrs. Ejim Lovelyn, Vice President of Commodity Alliance Forum representing farmers said CAF is an outstanding case of Public/Private/Producers Partnership (4Ps) of the VCDP. Through VCDP, smallholder farmers are contributing to financing priority actions for food system transformation and they are benefit from value chain financing provided by the private sector while also growing their sales and their productivity.

Two case studies were presented with a high-level panel discussion to showcase two innovative finance models aimed to transform Nigeria's food system. First, the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) programme, launched in 2022, is a US\$ 521.00 million with the aim to promote inclusive agribusiness development and rural transformation by establishing agricultural-specific economic zones. The programme targets 100,000 direct beneficiaries (90% smallholders; 10% small processors/ traders/service providers) Second, the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP), launched in 2016, US\$ 329.00 million programme of the Government of Nigeria with funding from IFAD.

UN Nigeria shows solidarity with victims and support anti-trafficking efforts.



Middle: Director General of NAPTIP, Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi Leading the sensitization walk in Abuja

In commemoration of World Day Against Trafficking In Persons, @un-odcnigeria , IOM Nigeria with Naptip Nigeria and other stakeholders held a sensitization walk to show solidarity with victims and support anti-trafficking efforts.

The UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Mathias Schmale in his message delivered by Mr. Danilo Campisi Deputy Representative, UNODC Country Office in Nigeria urged the government, law enforcement agencies, public services, and the civil society to assess and enhance their efforts to strengthen prevention, identification, support victims & end impunity. He stated that the fight against human trafficking is unrelenting and encouraged we build a future together where this crime cannot exist.

The Director General of NAPTIP, Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi in her remarks commended partners, stakeholders and everyone that participated at the sensitization walk stating that the exercise was to create awareness on the issues of human trafficking and other related crimes in order to change the narrative and equip Nigerians with adequate information and to increase their resistance to the antics of human traffickers.

#EndHumanTrafficking



Cross section of participant at the World Day Against Trafficking In Persons sensitization walk in Abuja



Right: Director General of NAPTIP, Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi shake hands with Mr. Danilo Campisi Deputy Representative, UNODC Country Office in Nigeria

UN launches Bodyright campaign



Calling for the prioritization of digital rights to privacy, freedom of expression and effective protection and response to online harm, UNFPA Nigeria rolled out the Bodyright campaign, 20 June 2023 in the first episode of a 12-part twitter dialogue series focused on the issue of Technology-facilitated Gender based violence (TFGBV) in Nigeria.

UNFPA is committed to ending violence in all spaces including online. Particularly during the COVID19 lockdowns, with the stark increase in online activities, the sharing of sexual images, threatening messages, and unwanted sexual advances across online social forums were frequently cited.

UNFPA Resident Representative, Ms. Ulla Elisabeth Mueller, was joined by representation from Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Justice, the United Nations office of Drugs and Crime, the African Youth and Adolescents Network, and UNFPA Headquarters to draw attention to the critical implications this emerging issue will continue to have in Nigeria and globally, if not addressed.

Although non-exhaustive, forms of TFGBV often include non-consensual sharing of intimate images, doxing, online harassment, sextortion, hate speech, radicalization, trafficking, cyberstalking, and surveillance as well as misinformation and disinformation; all disproportionately targeting and affecting young women and girl users.

UNFPA GBV technical advisor, Ms. Alexandra Robinson stressed the gendered nature of TFGBV, as a misogynistic online abuse that extends beyond online platforms and can result in physical harm, including femicide.

She cautioned that "Tech-facilitated violence is a continuum of violence that women and girls in all their diversity experience in every facet of their lives...[Tech-facilitated violence] starts early in the lives of girls and boys...[and] as technology becomes essential in the lives of young people it is increasingly being used by malicious actors to groom young people into systems of misogyny that further entrench harmful social and gender norms and deepen gender inequality."

The psychological implications and increased risks of offline violence that result from TFGBV cannot be under-estimated. Mental health issues and the effect of perpetrators imposing a sense of omnipresence compound feelings of isolation and humiliation for victims. Ms. Marie-Line Billaudauz works with UNODC's global programme on Cybercrime and described the offline consequences from digital violence of not only having psychological, emotional, and physical implications, but also oftentimes bearing a negative impact on the social and economic opportunities of the women and girls targeted. Online abuse does instigate offline assaults, especially in contexts where socially contested content situates the victim as "falling short" of socio-cultural norms; this makes Nigeria's female online users particularly susceptible to offline vilification and physical harm given the country's pre-existing and pervasive gender inequalities.

UNFPA's Resident Representative Ms. Ulla Mueller stated that, "The Bodyright campaign is for the young female journalist or aspiring politician whose confidential information or whereabouts are leaked online simply because she decided to share her political views online..."

[and for] the 16 year old girl who arrived to class one morning only to find her classmates jeering at private photos of her, riddled across their social media timelines...”

Assistant Chief State Counsel and Prosecutor, Ms. Temitayo Lawal working in the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Unit of the FMOJ, highlighted the limits of the existing legal protections to criminalize online harms and the gap in legal instruments and regulations on digital service providers to address online violence especially against women and girls.

“Nigeria’s institutional response to GBV generally has been through the establishment of the SGBV Response Unit, as well as the inter-ministerial Management committee on the Eradication of SGBV, and of course the establishment of the Cybercrime Unit which has been working assiduously.”

Despite penalties of imprisonment for up to 10 years and between N15 to N25 million naira fines for violations and offences related to child pornography, grooming, cyber-stalking and bullying, the applicability of these legal remedies are few and far between, with limiting stipulations stressing explicit evidence that offences put alleged victims in fear of death, violence or physical bodily injury; as well as outstanding uncertainties on what actually constitutes violations of privacy and intent to disparage a victim in one form or another. Ms. Lawal noted a glaring limitation found in Nigeria’s 2015 Cybercrime act,

that draws a hard line between the act of gender-based violence and its online facilitation or broadcasting that complicates prosecution, as well as effective law enforcement and legal remedies for victims.

An enabling environment is essential to effectively tackle the emerging and growing issue of TFGBV in Nigeria. Victims often endure long extensive, painful processes to access justice and enforce their digital rights. As Ms. Mueller emphasized “This campaign is a call to action... to drive real change and claim online protection for every Nigerian girl, woman and young person and take tech-facilitated violence as seriously as copyright infringement is taken.”

The Bodyright campaign is a first step to effectively address prevention and response to online violence in Nigeria. Deploying the © symbol as a new “copyright” mark to protect the digital rights of users in Nigeria and globally, UNFPA is rallying a variety of stakeholders to promote the safe and ethical use of technology and develop tangible actions to end TFGBV.

Get involved! Bodyright your images, sign the global petition, tag @UNFPANigeria and use the #BodyrightNG when posting on social media. DM @unfpanigeria on ig or twitter if you, your local celebrity or influencer are planning or hosting a Bodyright awareness-raising event or activity.



UK Foreign Secretary visits UNHAS, affirms Government's support to ensure food security in Nigeria



R-L UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale; United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary, the Right Honourable James Cleverly; Hon. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo

One of the high points of the recent official tour of Nigeria by the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary, the Right Honourable James Cleverly, was his visit to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, to see the operations of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) managed by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Top UN officials in Nigeria, British High Commission officials, Nigerian government representatives and other dignitaries were at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport to receive Hon. Cleverly and discuss the UK government's humanitarian and development cooperation with the UN in Nigeria.

Those in attendance included the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Matthias Schmale; The Hon. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo; the UK High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Richard Montgomery; the Deputy Country Director, World Food Programme, Mr. Guy Adoua; UNICEF Country Representative, Cristian Munduate; the International Committee of the Red Cross Head of Delegation in Nigeria Yann Bonzon; and the Head of Office of OCHA, Trond Jens.

Hon. Cleverly used the opportunity to reaffirm the UK Government's close partnership and continued collaborations with the UN and the wider humanitarian network to support the work they are doing in Nigeria.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

"I am very proud of the UK's humanitarian partnerships in North-East Nigeria. The £38 million we have contributed over the last 12 months is saving the lives of vulnerable people, including women and girls, who are demonstrating extraordinary resilience in the face of this protracted crisis. We will continue to work with the new Nigerian government and other partners to support North-East Nigeria so the whole country can reach its potential. The whole international community must support these efforts."

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale said:

"On behalf of the humanitarian community, I am deeply grateful for the £38 million contribution of the UK for humanitarian action in the North-East, which is contributing to giving countless people and, notably vulnerable women and children, a second chance. We are facing further funding challenges and are hoping that partners will step up their support to prevent further deterioration of the dramatic food insecurity and malnutrition situation."

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo said:

"We are keen to intensify cooperation with the UK government, particularly on increasing coordination between our new ministry and other ministries and partners across the humanitarian response. We particularly appreciate the UK's humanitarian assistance because it is not only financial, but also based on strong coordination, which we are keen to develop further."

Hon. Cleverly noted that the UK Government’s funding has helped save lives of conflict-affected people in North-East Nigeria – in line with the UK Government’s continued support to enhance food security in Nigeria.

Over 4 million people are facing food insecurity, and 2 million children under 5 are acutely malnourished in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. The UK’s funding is helping to protect people, build their resilience to the ongoing food crisis, and prevent famine.

During his visit to Nigeria, which included a stopover in Lagos, the UK Foreign Secretary also pledged the UK’s support and funding to make Nigeria’s agriculture sector more resilient to climate change.

Hon. Cleverly’s official trip to Nigeria, his first, was part of a 3-country visit to Africa (Ghana, Nigeria and Zambia) that focused on building future-focussed, mutually beneficial partnerships.



United Kingdom’s Foreign Secretary, the Right Honourable James Cleverly; and the Hon. Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Dr Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, are engaged by a technical staff.



Urgent action required to rescue SDGs, says Schmale, as LASU, UN launch SDGs youth club



A group photographs of dignitaries including the Vice Chancellor of LASU, Prof Prof Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello (7th from the right); the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale (8th form the right); and the Director of LASU Centre for SDGs, Prof Tayo Ajayi (4th from the right).

Urgent action is required now if we are to rescue the SDGs. A global SDG Summit in New York is scheduled for September, marking the halfway point to the 2030 deadline. This provides one last opportunity for world leaders to move from rhetoric to reality, from promises made to promises kept.

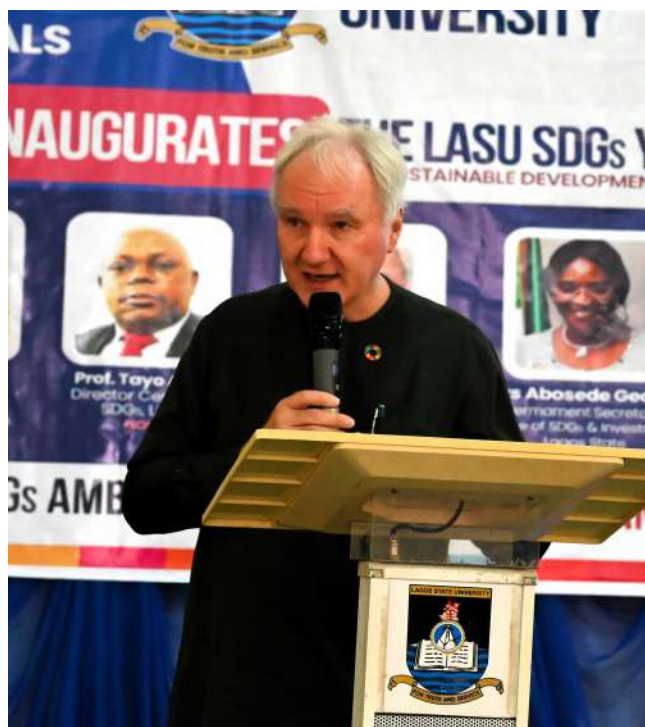
"UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, said at the launch of the Lagos State University (LASU) SDG Youth Club organised by the university's Centre for the Actualisation of UN SDGs, in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Abuja Nigeria.

Schmale noted that everyone had a role to play - including the members of LASU SDG Youth Club.

The Vice Chancellor of LASU, Prof Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, disclosed that 800 students across all faculties and Schools in the three campuses of the university, have enlisted to be a part of the LASU-SDG Youth Club, "and I find that very commendable. I congratulate the Centre for this laudable initiative.



L-R: UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Matthias Schmale; The Vice Chancellor of LASU, Prof Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello and Permanent Secretary, Office of SDGs & Investment, Lagos State, Mrs Abosede George



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

Revitalising Nigeria’s food systems key to rescuing the sustainable development goals - UN



High table Dignitaries (R-L): UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Matthias Schmale; The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Sterling Bank, Abubakar Suleiman; Chief Executive Officer of Sterling One Foundation, Olapeju Ibekwe.

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale has underlined the importance of addressing widespread food insecurity by revitalizing Nigeria’s food systems. He described the recent declaration of food security as a national emergency by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as a positive step, and said that “we hope it brings meaningful investment into Agriculture to tackle rising food prices and shortages.”

Schmale called on all stakeholders to use the Africa Social Impact Summit being organised by the Sterling One Foundation in collaboration with the UN in Nigeria on August 10 and 11 in Lagos as an opportunity to join hands to formulate a rescue plan for the SDGs.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Sterling Bank, Abubakar Suleiman, said the Africa Social Impact Summit had grown and gained so much traction that it provided all involved in development work to translate available capital and resources into meaningful and sustainable impact.

Chief Executive Officer of Sterling One Foundation, Olapeju Ibekwe, disclosed that the first edition of Africa Social Impact Summit exceeded expectations in terms of attendance, outcomes and impacts in the development ecosystem.



Group photo of Dignitaries

Food Systems Stock-Taking Moments - Media engagement



L-R: World Food Programme Country Director in Nigeria, David Stevenson; Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mr Nebeolisa Anako; National Convenor of the Food Systems Implementation in Nigeria, Dr. Sanjo Faniran; and the representative from the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Sageer Mahmood. Nigeria, Dr. Sanjo Faniran

Ahead of the Food Systems Stock-Taking Moments to be held in Rome on 24 – 26 July, UN Information Centre Abuja and the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, have organised a media briefing on the Food Systems Summit Stock-Taking Moments. The briefing, held in Abuja on 19 July 2023, discussed Nigeria’s preparations, progress in implementation of the Food Systems Summit recommendations from 2021 and current challenges in the sector.

The Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mr Nebeolisa Anako; National Convenor of the Food Systems Implementation in Nigeria, Dr. Sanjo Faniran; a representative from the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Sageer Mahmood; the World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director in Nigeria, David Stevenson; UNIC Director in Nigeria, Ronald Kayanja; and a few other UN Agencies were present at the media briefing.

Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development hailed the decision by President Ahmed Bola Tinubu to declare a state of emergency on food security in the country, noting that this would enable the needed investment in the sector and unlock the country’s potential in agriculture food systems.

Mr Anako welcomed the interagency collaboration afforded by the food systems approach which has enabled all related Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government in the food system value chain to work together.

The National Convenor said that there have been more than 70 recommended pathways to enable Nigeria to achieve its sustainable food systems goals, and an implementation strategy that includes all levels of governance has been developed.

Highlighting climate change, and the farmer-herder crises in parts of the country, poor infrastructure, limited access to affordable finance by farmers, the need for technology and modernization and the energy crisis, Mrs Mahmood called for swift action to turn around the country’s food security prospects, with the existing National Agriculture, Technology and Innovation policy which provide a good framework for action.

WFP Director in Nigeria, noted that Nigeria is a very important country in Africa on account of its large economy and population, which predispose the country to huge problems, especially in the food and nutrition sector.

Mr. Stevenson noted that the stock-taking moment in Rome on 24 – 26 July will provide an opportunity for Nigeria to showcase some innovations, and learn from others on what can be done to surmount the challenges of food insecurity in the country.



the National Convenor of the Food Systems Implementation in Nigeria, Dr. Sanjo Faniran address the media at the event

Empowering youth for a sustainable future: Building skills for tomorrow



A photograph of dignitaries and speakers at the World Youth Skill Day 2023 organized by ILO

In commemoration of World Youth Skills Day, ILO ABUJA and stakeholders held a high level conversation on Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future.

The engagement highlighted the need to create decent work for youth in the digital, green and creative sector in Nigeria.

ILO Country Director, for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Ms Vanessa Phala, emphasized the need for youth stakeholders to prioritize youth development by creating meaningful platform for dialogue in Nigeria, and urged the youth to invest their time more in learning digital skills to become self-reliant later in future.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume who commended the organizers said the event was important

in shaping the future of Nigerian youths who constitute 65 percent of the nation's population. He further stated that the Demographic percentage of the youth population is Nigeria's greatest power, which must be harnessed positively to compete favorably with economies of the world.

The World Youths Skills Day, is observed annually on 15 July, to equip young people with requisite skills necessary for decent work, employment and entrepreneurship globally.

This year's commemoration is themed: "Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future: Building Skills for Tomorrow" #SkillsForYouth



Cross-section of participants

UN supports National Bureau of Statistics as it embarks on Nigeria's Time-Use Survey



Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS (r), Prince Adeyemi Adeniran, Secretary General of the National Bureau of Statistics (c), Photo: UN Women/Oluoma Ali

On the 6th of July, the National Bureau of Statistics supported by UN Women Nigeria and Women Count, marked a significant milestone with the launch of the Time-Use Survey in Nigeria. This initiative aims to collect essential data on how individuals allocate their time, providing valuable insights into socio-economic patterns, work-life balance, and gender dynamics in Nigerian society.

The survey holds immense potential for empowering policymakers and facilitating evidence-based decision-making to promote gender equality, reduce poverty, and achieve sustainable development goals. By examining how both women and men allocate their time, policymakers gain valuable insights to guide policies that address citizens' needs, promote gender equality, and enhance economic productivity.

Addressing the meeting, UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Beatrice Eyong, highlighted the specific significance of the Time-Use Survey in addressing gender disparities in Nigerian society. She reiterated that rural women in Nigeria bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic tasks, spending approximately 2.5 times more time than men on these responsibilities.

“Collecting data through the Time-Use Survey will enable policymakers to gain a deeper understanding of these imbalances and promote gender equality by investing in time-saving interventions. This will not only alleviate the burden on women but also improve their economic opportunities”, she said.

According to Ms Eyong, the Time-Use Survey will also play a crucial role in reducing the feminization of poverty in Nigeria. By analyzing how women allocate their time and the challenges they face. Policymakers and development practitioners can therefore design effective

policies and interventions to address their specific needs.

The Secretary General of the National Bureau of Statistics, Prince Adeyemi Adeniran, who stressed that “The survey will provide essential data for government, policymakers, and development practitioners to design effective policies that meet the needs and aspirations of Nigerian citizens”.

By understanding how individuals allocate their time, policymakers can address issues such as inadequate social services, gender disparities, and the unequal distribution of resources. This data-driven approach will ensure that decisions are based on evidence and result in more impactful outcomes.

The national stakeholder meeting and the launch of the Time-Use Survey in Nigeria mark a significant step towards promoting gender equality, enhancing economic productivity, and fostering sustainable development. Through this comprehensive initiative, policymakers and development practitioners will now have access to valuable data on how individuals allocate their time, enabling them to address gender disparities, reduce poverty, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

By empowering women, investing in time-saving interventions, and guiding evidence-based decision-making, Nigeria is poised to create a more equitable and prosperous society for all its citizens.

First edition of the ReportHer Awards holds in Lagos



Abiola Akiyode of WARDC, Toun Sonaiya, Co-Founder of Women’s Radio, Beatrice Eyong, Country Representative of UN Women to Nigeria, Hansat Adegbite, ED of WIMBIZ, and Atinuke Odukoya, gender expert. Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

Nigerian media and journalists were celebrated by Women for their commitment to reporting women at the maiden edition of ReportHer Awards which took place on Saturday 8 July 2023 at Radisson Blu Ikeja Lagos. The first edition of the awards was organised by Women’s Radio and UN Women, with support from the government of Canada.

Arise News won the Television category as the TV station that reported women more and gave prime space to women. Blueprint Newspapers won the print category. Voice of Nigeria won the Radio category as the media platform that aimed at fair reportage of women. Techcabal won the Digital (online) category. Titilope Fadare, a senior reporter at Premium Times Nigeria won the Individual Journalist category as the journalist who interviewed, covered, and reported more women's sto-

ries, ensuring gender-balanced reportage emerging as the ReportHer Journalist of the Year. She also won a scholarship to train at the British Broadcasting Corporation in the United Kingdom, courtesy UN Women and the Government of Canada.

At the event, Beatrice Eyong, UN Women's country representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS thanked media organisations for advancing the rights of women and girls in Nigeria through media visibility. She faulted the stereotype and biased representation of women which birthed the need for UN Women to address the seclusion of women in national affairs and gender inequality. Ms Eyong acknowledged the media as active shapers of perception and as such must be intentional in giving prominence to women-related issues to change the narrative that has been on for so long.



Beatrice Eyong, Country Representative of UN Women to Nigeria, at the red carpet of the event. Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

“If we do not achieve gender equality and empowerment, we cannot achieve sustainable development goals”, said Ms Eyong.

The 2023 ReportHer Awards received 106 entries. Judges were Ene Ede gender advocate and publisher of the Woman Today newspaper, Lanre Arogundade, Executive Director of International Press Centre (IPC), Chinonso Clark CEO Lead for Good Africa and Hamzat Lawal, Chief Executive Officer of Connected Development (CODE).

Lanre Arogundade who spoke on behalf of the board of judges revealed that the selection period was from March 2022 to March 2023 and highlighted the basis of selection which included the informative nature of the entries, ethics and professionalism, social responsibility of journalists on the female gender reportage, the extent to which women were used as news sources and the 50-50 representation of women in everyday stories.

thanked Women’s Radio for its dedication to amplifying the voices of women and urged UN Women and Women Radio to extend training to media in Ogun State.

Toun Okewale Sonaiya, co-founder Women’s Radio 91.7 thanked media owners, executives, editors and journalists who break stereotypes in their reportage of Women, especially during the 2023 elections and

urged the winners not to rest on their oars as there is more to be done to achieve a 50:50 balanced reportage of men and women.

Motunrayo Alaka, Executive Director, Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) noted that ReportHer Awards come at a critical time in Nigeria’s history. She emphasised the need for media to lead the way towards gender-balanced reportage that will enhance the development of both the media and the country.

Dr. Kole Shettima, Africa Director of MacArthur Foundation highlighted the importance of the ReportHer Awards and celebrated media organisations that are committed to gender and social inclusion.

Notable dignitaries at the event include Balarabe Shehu Ilelah, Director General National Broadcasting Commission NBC, Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, Executive Director WARDC, Olusola Momoh, vice-chair of Channels Media Group represented by Joke Rogers, Mufiliat Fijabi, chief executive officer of Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Wale Olanrewaju, Chairman NUJ Ogun State Council, Nollywood Legend, Joke Silva, and heads of media organisations.



Beatrice Eyong, Country Representative of UN Women to Nigeria, at the red carpet of the event.
Photo: UN Women/Anthony Abu

World Day Against Child Labour 2023 - National walk against child labour in Nigeria



National walk against child labour in Nigeria held in Abuja

The national walk against child labour commenced at the premises of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FML&E), signalling the government's commitment to combat child labour. The walk was led by the Permanent Secretary of the FML&E Daju Kacholom, Vanessa Phala the Country Director of the ILO, and members of the children's parliament, adding the voices of the young to the campaign against child labour. Participants at the walk are members of the National Steering Committee on the elimination of child labour, and several NGO/CBO actors working towards the elimination of child labour in Nigeria.

Ms Daju professed the commitment of the Federal Government to contributing to the global fight against child labour. This is symbolized by several achievements like the successful adoption and ratification of the ILO conventions no 138 and No 182; the validation of the 2nd phase of the National Policy on Child Labour and the National Action Plan on the elimination of child labour, among others, However, Ms Daju opined that the high number of children involved in child labour as reported by the 2016/2017 MICS survey reflects "the degree of urgency required by various actors working on child labour to proffer solutions to the reduction and possible elimination of child labour in Nigeria and global".

She called for "support to grassroots organisations and implement initiatives dedicated to combating child labour, rehabilitation and empowerment of child labour victims and vulnerable households."

The ILO Country Office (CO) Director, Ms Vanessa Phala stated that the ILO is engaging stakeholders to ensure that young people are educated and able to make meaningful contributions to the economy of Nigeria. Additionally, the ILO has also partnered with the National

Bureau of Statistics to enable data-driven decision-making by policy-makers, actors, advocates, and the government on issues regarding child labour in the different states of the country.

At the National Commission for human rights(NHRC), the Director of the Women and Children Department representing the Executive Secretary mentioned that the responsibility of the agency goes beyond the day, and she mentioned that the agency will work with other collaborators to ensure that legislation that protects children is enacted. She further stated that "despite considerable progress in recent years, an alarming number of children in Nigeria and across Africa still toll in hazardous conditions and are denied the opportunity to grow, learn and thrive. This commemoration provides us with an opportunity to confront these statistics head-on and devise comprehensive strategies that protect the rights of our children and secure a better future for generations to come."

The President of the Children's Parliament in Nigeria, Miss Rohama Waziri Ijonada, on behalf of the parliament called on the government to enact relevant legislations that will effectively address the plights of children in the country.

The 2023 World Day Against Child Labour in Nigeria was a powerful demonstration of the country's commitment to eradicating child labour and promoting social justice for all children.

UN and Edo State Government Launch the "Edo Sure 4 You" Campaign to Promote Safe Migration Pathways in Edo State



Dance performance at the official launch of the "Edo Sure 4 You" campaign.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Edo State Government, launched a creative campaign in Benin City on 20 July 2023, targeted at providing information on the risks of irregular migration and trafficking in persons in addition to available local opportunities in Edo State.

The campaign, Edo Sure 4 You, was developed through a community-centred approach, bringing together the collective inputs of community representatives, returnees, relevant ministries, and organisations at design lab and pretest workshops held in Benin City. Therefore, adopting a Communication for Development approach will ensure community ownership of the initiative, thereby ensuring the campaign's sustainability.

The campaign materials (jingle, short video, and graphic illustrations) will be disseminated primarily through social media in addition to television and radio. A baseline survey on safe migration carried out to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practises of youths in the key target areas of the campaign, Ikpoba Okha, Etsako West, and Esan Northeast local government areas, showed that 66% of the respondents prefer receiving information on safe migration through social media. Through this campaign, potential migrants and community members, including vulnerable migrants, will be able to have accurate information on safe migration pathways and the available local opportunities in Edo State.

"A lot of potential migrants are not well informed about the opportunities available within the state. Therefore, they seek alternative means of livelihood and, in the process, fall victim to false job promises abroad. At the end of the day, they discover that the picture painted before migrating is entirely different from the reality abroad. Through this campaign, we hope potential migrants will be well informed on the available local opportunities, alternatives to irregular migration, and safe migration pathways", said Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Development Partnerships, Uyi Osifo.

The project aims to work closely with key partners, social media influencers, and community members to ensure ownership and sustainability.

"The MMDP 2.0 project strives to create awareness on the opportunities present in the state and ensure a change in behaviour on irregular migration and Trafficking in Persons", said Cyprine Cheptepkeny, IOM Nigeria, Awareness Raising Project Officer.

This campaign is funded by the Government of Italy, and it is aimed at producing creative campaign content that will show the dangers of irregular migration and trafficking in persons as well as provide access to information on safe migration and available local opportunities.

Getting HIV epidemic control in Nigeria is possible and within the UN reach



Across section of UNJNT, Donor partners, NACA, FMoH, NEPWHAN, ASWHAN, CSO's and LASACA

The United Nations Joint Team on AIDS has assured the Nigeria government of its continued support through the country's coordination support mechanism. Dr Leo Zekeng who represented the UN Resident Coordinator Matthias Schmale, made the assurance at the retreat of the joint team held at the Sheraton hotel, in Lagos State. He said that the retreat provided an opportunity for the UN system to review its support strategy to the government of Nigeria to strengthen the ownership, leadership, management and accountability of the government in the new alignment 2.0 global funding structure.

Dr Zekeng noted remarkable progress in AIDS response in Nigeria, saying that about 1.8 million people out of 1.9 million are on treatment. Which translates to a decline in the mortality rate and a decline in new infections. The government is also putting its resources to put about 150,000 people on treatment, however, more needs to be done. He said, to get to epidemic control, the UN and its partners must work harder to reduce new infections in adolescents and young people, mother-to-child transmission which is still a reoccurring challenge, treatment gap for children and address the issues of Gender and human rights abuses.

He informed the team that the Programme Committee Board -PCB of the UNAIDS have reached a consensus on accelerating primary prevention, scaling up access to treatment and scaling up access to new technology in long active PreP.

He said:

“ The retreat is an opportunity to digest the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda of Action, which is about the country's ownership, leadership and using the country mechanism systems and building the capacities within the framework of the UN as a multilateral organization, severing a member state like Nigeria “

Dr Zekeng encouraged the government partners present at the retreat to leverage the new leadership at the three tiers of the government to maximize the funding opportunity of the Global Fund one billion dollars three years' investment in Nigeria to strengthen the community led approach and domestication of the global priorities. He emphasized equitable financing of HIV response, and private sector investment through the HIV Trust Fund Nigeria basket fund.



The UN joint team on AIDS was created in 2005 to improve the effectiveness and harmonization of multi-lateral organizations in responding to AIDS. To ensure that stakeholders, partners and government could easily access the relevant resources within the UN system. It is in line with enhancing and supporting country system mechanisms. It is also about the division of labour, to increase understanding of the roles each agency plays in AIDS intervention.

Update on UNEP work in Nigeria on food systems and youth climate action solutions – 2023



Deputy Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Africa Office, Nairobi, Richard Munang at a UNEP project site in Nasarawa State Nigeria.

Empowering Communities through Innovative Environmental Solutions: A Sustainable Model for Enhancing Food Security and Livelihood and youth wealth creation in Nasarawa.

Leveraging Local Governance and Academic Partnerships to Drive Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria

Context

Work focused on supporting the country to take up nature, climate, pollution, and action solutions that address on-demand areas in communities, generate data on impacts, and leverage this data to inform policy implementation pathways that will enhance food and livelihood security and the realisation of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Accordingly, solar dryers for application in food systems to cut postharvest losses, enhance food safety and earnings, and waste recovery to clean cooking to reverse dependence on unclean cooking were the focused solutions. To ensure wide participation, the work leveraged an innovative approach of leveraging structures that are accessible to mobilise the community to co-create solutions. The other strategy was to train the community to take up and implement the solutions in their own context, thereby generating the much-needed contextual data to inform optimal policy implementation pathways to expand these solutions accurately. Accordingly, the trainings leveraged the structure of local governance of the emir of Nasarawa and academic institutions – the Nasarawa State University at Keffi (NSUK) to enhance uptake.

Impact

The training followed a “training of trainers” model, where a group of 4 active, youthful entrepreneurs were trained first. These youth were then guided to train the community on solar dryers and waste recovery to fuel briquettes, where up to 500 community members, including additional youth, benefitted. They also trained up to 200 students/youth from different disciplinary backgrounds in the Nasarawa State University Keffi (NSUK) entrepreneurship school to develop and apply solar dryers to improve food and livelihood security. From these trainings, solutions were decentralised for community uptake with 3 large solar dryers of between 1500 – 2500kg capacity each and 11 box dryers being developed and decentralised for community uptake. Testing of dryers demonstrated superior performance towards enhancing food and livelihood security compared to traditional open sun drying. Data showed that using a solar dryer can dehydrate cassava to safe moisture levels of 9.8 – 10.7%, which are needed to prevent the growth of mycotoxins within 5 hours. This could not be adequately achieved with open sun drying, the alternative used by communities. The application of solar dryers lowered PHLs by 50%, resulting in cassava processors increasing earnings by 3,000-5,000 Naira more from a bag of processed cassava called “garri”, while at the community level, earnings increased by 100%, and the value of postharvest losses reversed estimated at 50,000 – 200,000 Naira. Considering that the cassava was grown using nature approaches, these earnings are ploughed back to expand the land area under nature-driven agriculture. Uptake of fuel briquettes made from recovered waste showed

that the briquettes were two times cheaper than fuel wood and up to 3 times cheaper than kerosene. The price for a kilo of briquettes is between N200-300. At the same time, 1 kg of fuelwood goes for about N500-600, equivalent to about 2 litres of kerosene that sells for N710 but produces the same amount of energy—over 300 community members who switch to applying these environmental solutions in their food system activities.

Alignment to policy and the Nigeria UNSDCF 2023 – 27

These impacts informed implementation pathways of key policies. The data informed the implementation of the environmental action Entrepreneurship Curriculum of the NSUK as well as its revisions to ensure entrepreneurship training aligned to enhancing food and livelihood security from the lens of tapping nature, climate, and pollution action solutions. Data also informed implementation of the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) tomato quality standard, a policy for en-

surging quality standard, including for dried tomato to reduce spoilage/PHLs, and thus enhance food and livelihood security; the Nigeria NDC which prioritise clean cooking, to ensure the ecological base of producing food is not destroyed by the leading risk driver – wood fuel, and the Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) which calls for economic diversification. In all these areas, gender inclusion was a critical target that was achieved through sector prioritisation. Specifically, the targeting of food systems and clean cooking – all of which are areas that engage the majority of women, and the policy implementation pathways that were informed further serve to enhance the uptake of these solutions that are vital for gender inclusion. This work also enhances One-Health through enhanced food safety and reduction of indoor pollution risk. These are areas for uptake to inform Nigeria UNSDCF strategic priority area 2 outcomes 2.1 & 2.2.



Breaking barriers, building bridges: the collaborative effort to reach every child in Nigeria



WHO supported vaccination teams going the distance to reach children in hard-to-reach areas with life-saving vaccines in an integrated immunization campaign in Niger State, Nigeria. Credits: WHO/Ogbeide E.

Immunization remains a mainstay in safeguarding children's health worldwide but achieving universal vaccination coverage has been a significant global challenge. In lower and middle-income countries, more than 12.4 million children received no vaccines in 2020. These vulnerable children, known as “zero-dose children”, account for a substantial portion of preventable deaths in children. Nigeria faces a particularly alarming situation among these countries, with over 2.2

million estimated zero-dose children in 2021 . To address this pressing issue, the signatory agencies of the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (SDG3 GAP) are collaborating with the Nigerian government to reach every child with immunization services. Through their joint efforts, SDG3 GAP partners embrace a collaborative approach as the most effective path toward achieving this critical goal.



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

Collaborating to locate zero-dose children and missed communities



WHO mobile health teams reaching eligible children in the Nomadic settings in Borno State Nigeria. Credit WHO/Eromosele

Reaching zero-dose children requires locating and engaging the communities they belong to. Since such communities often include remote rural, urban poor, or conflict affected areas facing various forms of deprivation, cross sectoral collaboration is needed to identify and reach them.

Starting in 2020, SDG3 GAP partners and the Nigerian government collaborated to create a data system to identify zero-dose communities. Led by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and supported by UNICEF and WHO, this effort combined data from various sources, such as immunization records, health facilities, surveys, and local community data at the sub-national level.

Joint workshops and meetings with stakeholders were organized, resulting in a detailed analysis pinpointing 100 local government areas (LGAs) in 18 states that account for 1.5 million of Nigeria's 2.2 million zero-dose children. This analysis informed the design of zero-dose priority actions within the National Strategy for Immunization and PHC

System Strengthening (NSIPSS), providing a comprehensive framework for improving immunization coverage. It also provided the basis of collaborative efforts and plans between partners to reach these communities. NPHCDA and partners including WHO and UNICEF developed an Immunization Recovery Plan 2022-2025 that incorporated a Big Catchup Plan specifically targeting zero-dose children. Through the GAVI-HSS project, GAVI collaborated directly with eight priority states, addressing low immunization coverage and a high burden of zero-dose children with a USD 50 million PHC and immunisation grant.

The World Bank partnered with 16 priority states through the Immunization Plus and Malaria Progress by Accelerating Coverage and Transforming Services (IMPACT) Project, focusing on strengthening vaccine supply, cold chain equipment, and monitoring systems to reduce under-five mortality rates. Additionally, funding channels and technical assistance from the Global Fund, WHO, and UNICEF supported 17 states in reaching identified zero-dose local government areas.

Extending the reach for zero-dose children



An eligible child receiving a vaccine during an immunization campaign Credits: WHO

In their pursuit to reach zero-dose children across Nigeria, SDG3 GAP partners are leveraging their previous investments in polio eradication and COVID-19 response to expand immunization coverage nationwide.

These investments have not only established valuable infrastructure and skilled human resources but also fostered strong community networks with trusted relationships with local leaders. Leveraging these networks, partners are now facilitating the delivery of immunization services to zero-dose children across the entire country. Supported by UNICEF, GAVI, and WHO, these networks are being transformed into formal Community Health Influencers, Promoters, and Services (CHIPS) as part of the Nigerian government's community engagement strategy.

The CHIPS program, initiated in 2018, promotes local ownership and engagement, employing community-led case-finding strategies to identify and immunize zero-dose children within the national com-

munity engagement framework. Through joint efforts, SDG3 GAP partners, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) and other stakeholders have developed national implementation guidelines for the CHIPS strategy, ensuring effective local participation and progress in reaching every child with life-saving vaccines.

As of January 2023, integration of routine immunization in COVID-19 vaccination efforts have seen more than 4 million eligible children immunized since March 2021, out of which over 700,000 received Penta-3 vaccination.

NPHCDA continues to engage with the 100 priority zero dose LGAs to design and implement customized and effective strategies to reach zero dose children in settings unique to each community/LGA.

Building sustainable financing for immunisation and PHC



The lifesaving drop of the oral polio vaccine being administered to a child. Credits: WHO/Ogbeide E.

SDG3 GAP partners and the Government of Nigeria are committed to sustainable financing and strong primary healthcare as key accelerators of continued progress in reaching every child in Nigeria. The Government of Nigeria has shown strong political commitment and leadership in these areas, leading to active engagement, and coordinated approaches with SDG3 GAP signatories and other partners to drive important reforms. Recent reforms such as the National Health Insurance Authority Bill and the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund are being implemented nationwide to ensure financial protection and sustainable financing for primary healthcare services, including immunization. An accountability framework with state governments is also in place to secure incremental Government funding for immunization and primary healthcare, with the goal of achieving full state government funding by 2028. The presidential health reform committee has also prioritized PHC revitalization to address gaps in immunisation coverage.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, coordination and alignment with country-led efforts have been enhanced within the UN system, as seen in the Nigeria - UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027, and with other partners through ongoing multi-partner health financing interventions. Through these collaborative approaches the Nigerian government, SDG3 GAP partners, and other stakeholders are establishing sustainable funding mechanisms to enhance primary healthcare and effectively close immunisation gaps in the country.

To ensure that SDG3 GAP support continues to be aligned with country-led priorities and approaches, SDG3 GAP partners have established a monitoring framework through which National governments provide feedback regarding ongoing collaborative work, including strategies and opportunities for better collaboration. Feedback from Nigeria in 2022 highlighted improved collaboration, alignment with national plans and budget priorities, utilisation of national monitoring systems, and effective coordination mechanisms resulting from SDG3 GAP support. While significant progress has been made, the government feedback highlighted areas requiring further action, including carrying forward good practices such as the country compact between development partners, increased resource commitment, and the co-creation of partner implementation plans with local stakeholders, particularly at the sub-national level.

What is the SDG3 GAP?

The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Wellbeing for All (SDG3 GAP) is a set of commitments by 13 agencies that play significant roles in health, development, and humanitarian responses to help countries accelerate progress on the health-related SDG targets. The added value of the SDG3 GAP lies in strengthening collaboration across the agencies to take joint action and provide more coordinated support aligned to country owned and led national plans and strategies.

Mariam Magaji: From struggles to dreams of a brighter future



Mariam Magaji

Mariam Magaji, a primary three student hails from a large family of 20 siblings. Growing up in Banganange, a rural community in Sokoto, Nigeria’s northern most state, she dreams of following her mother’s footsteps and becoming a successful trader. With a passion for mathematics, Maryam embraces her studies, hoping to pave the path for a brighter future.

At only 11 years old, Maryam’s journey has not been easy. Till a few weeks ago, the 17th of 20 children was responsible for ensuring there is water for the family’s daily needs. With no water source near her home, she had to embark on long, tiring and sometimes unsafe journeys in search of water. The routine was tedious, two trips in the morning and the same in the evening, often walking alone and for several kilometers. The physical strain of the daily chores was overwhelming, leaving the 11-year-old exhausted upon her return.

Despite this, she had to complete this chore before heading to school each morning and before eating dinner in the evening.

Mariam only found respite from the arduous task of fetching water whenever she was menstruating. Her brothers would take up the task for a few days and fetch water, however it was never enough for Maryam to keep herself clean during her period.

The weight of this responsibility took a toll on Maryam, often leaving her exhausted and drained, yet she persisted, fulfilling this crucial duty before attending school each morning.

“I was always tired before going to school in the morning because I had to walk for one hour to fetch water in the morning. By the time I got to school, I could not focus on math, which is my best subject, so I struggled a lot to catch up” adds the 11-year-old.

A Beacon of Hope - The Gift of Water Near Home

It seems like Maryam’s prayers were answered a few weeks ago. UNICEF built a small structure near her home. It was a solar-powered water facility in their village. A gift so precious that Maryam could not hold back her tears.

The burden of long-distance trips and heavy water containers lifted from her young shoulders would soon become a thing of the past. Maryam will now be able to attend school, focusing on her favourite subjects and most importantly, do things that children do at this age, play. She will also enjoy a sense of relief and security during her menstrual cycle.

Inspired by her mother, Maryam aspires to establish and run a flourishing Fura (a local yoghurt drink) shop one day. “I know that if I learn mathematics well, I can calculate my income and run my business successfully”

With each lesson learned and skill honed, she embraces the opportunity to make her mother proud and contribute to her community. With clean water now at her doorstep, and an unwavering drive to succeed, Maryam paves her own path towards a brighter and safer tomorrow.

Link to accompanying [short video link here](#)



Photo News



Photo news captions,

1. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale (3rd from the left) and other dignitaries at the 4th Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum at Ndjamen, Chad.
2. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale (4th from the left) leads some members of the UN Country Team to engage with the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu (4th from the right), at the State House in Abuja.
3. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Matthias Schmale presents a copy of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) to H.E. Governor Agbu Kefas of Taraba State during his visit to the state.

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