



Newsletter



Nigeria shares UN's guiding principles - President Tinubu

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria has emphasised that Nigeria shared the guiding principles of the United Nations. "Nigeria's objectives accord with the UN's guiding principles: peace, security, human rights and development," he said at the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 20 September 2023, in New York.

The President assured that "In Nigeria, we shall build political consensus by highlighting remedial actions which also promote economic good."

PG 03

Let's get the SDGs back on track
- Schmale

PG 04

UN, Nigeria Immigration Service launches Personnel Training Resource Centre (PTRC) in Kwara State

PG 05

NISS, UN launch 'Organised Crime in Nigeria' report



and more stories.

Cover story cont.



President Bola Tinubu addresses the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

However, he noted that Climate change had severely impacted Nigeria and Africa. Northern Nigeria, he said, “is hounded by desert encroachment on once-arable land. Our south is pounded by the rising tide of coastal flooding and erosion. In the middle, the rainy season brings floods that kill and displace multitudes.”

He cited projects such as a Green Wall to stop desert encroachment; halting the destruction of our forests by mass production and distribution of gas-burning stoves; and providing employment in local water management and irrigation as examples of efforts that equally advance both economic and climate change objectives.

Addressing the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, emphasized that it was high time to renew multilateral institutions based on 21st century economic and political realities – rooted in equity, solidarity and universality and anchored in the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

“That means reforming the Security Council in line with the world of today. It means redesigning the international financial architecture so that it becomes truly universal and serves as a global safety net for developing countries in trouble.” He said. Guterres explained that he had no illusions about reforms being a question of power and competing interests and agendas.

According to him, the alternative to reform is not the status quo. The alternative to reform is further fragmentation. It is reform or rupture.

The Secretary-General added that “We have all the tools and resources to solve our shared challenges. What we need is determination. Determination is in the DNA of our United Nations – summoning us with the first words of the Charter: “We the peoples of the United Nations... determined”: Determined to end the scourge of war. Determined to reaffirm faith in human rights. Determined to uphold justice and respect international law. And determined to promote social progress and better lives for all people.



President Bola Tinubu (Left); UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed (Right)

Let's get the SDGs back on track - Schmale



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

Ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit which started on 18 September 2023, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Matthias Schmale advocated for the getting the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the SDGs back on track.

In a video message released on 17 September 2023 in Abuja, Schmale noted that the world was halfway to 2030, and the delivery of the SDGs promise of 2015 was in peril.

“Our progress towards the SDGs has stalled, beset by the combined negative impacts of Covid, climate, and conflict. Like every nation, Nigeria has grappled with these cascading crises and witnessed the destruction of lives and livelihoods, increasing economic inequalities, and the harsh realities of climate change.” The Resident Coordinator explained.

“The September’s SDG Summit marks the halfway point on the road to 2030. The Summit offers leaders a vital opportunity to move from

rhetoric to reality, from promises made to promises kept. Everyone has a role to play, not just leaders. And no one has a moment to lose.” He said.

Schmale further noted that “Now is the time for all actors in Nigeria to regroup, rethink, and recommit to the SDGs. It is not too late for us to get back on track. Together, we can do it.”

According to him, unless we take urgent action now, the 2030 Agenda will become no more than an expression of a world that might have been. ‘And the biggest burden of this collective failure’, he said further, ‘will fall upon nations like Nigeria - and upon its poorest, most vulnerable people.’

He said the United Nations in Nigeria looked forward to close collaboration with the government ‘as we work to implement our agreed Co-operation Framework for Sustainable Development and bring about transformative change in the lives of all Nigerians.’

UN, Nigeria Immigration Service launch Personnel Training Resource Centre (PTRC) in Kwara State



Newly commissioned NIS Personnel Training Resource Centre (PTRC) in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Photo: IOM

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), has launched a new Personnel Training Resource Centre (PTRC) at the Kwara State Command of the Service. This initiative is part of the ongoing "NIS Training Strategy Implementation Programme - Phase 2 (TSI-2) Project," led by IOM and funded by the Government of the Netherlands.

The project, which builds on the successful pilot phase, aims to enhance the capacity of border officials to address migration-related issues. It also seeks to raise awareness about the importance of continuously improving and monitoring the quality of border security and management. To date, more than 3,000 NIS officers and 190 NAPTIP officers have received training across nine established PTRCs nationwide, including those at NIS HQ, Abuja, as well as in Anambra, Edo, Cross River, Kano, Kebbi, Lagos, Borno, and Ogun State Commands.

The TSI-2 project is the result of an assessment conducted by IOM in 2014, which revealed challenges in the NIS training system, including long waiting periods for courses and limited opportunities for personnel to benefit from crucial training. To address these gaps, IOM and NIS jointly developed a new training strategy, adopted in 2015. The strategy emphasised the establishment of training centres equipped with modern facilities to serve as learning hubs at NIS commands across the country.

On September 28, 2023, this new PTRC was inaugurated at the NIS Command in Kwara State. The intervention is of particular significance as the command experiences growing migration and border operations, primarily driven by cross-border movements along its borders with the Benin Republic. The newly established PTRC is equipped with

solar power, 12 computer systems, e-learning tablets, the Learning Management System (LMS), furniture, and other essential training materials and equipment. It is poised to provide training to NIS personnel as well as sister agencies such as NAPTIP and PHS.

"The PTRC in Kwara State is suitable and will meet the capacity development needs of personnel of the Nigeria Immigration Service and its sister agencies like NAPTIP and PHS", remarked the Controller General of Immigration's Representative, CIS Aminu M. Shamsuddin.

Ms. Paola PACE, IOM Deputy Chief of Mission, highlighted the importance of the project, saying, "The project will provide NIS and sister agencies with the required knowledge and expertise in handling the growing migration challenges like irregular migration in the country and the region."

As part of the initiative, a comprehensive training curriculum, trainers' guide, and LMS have been developed for PTRCs. This will enable NIS officers to access regular training on the legal frameworks, policies, and regulations governing NIS operations. The project also includes a joint training component involving NIS, NAPTIP, and PHS, fostering synergy, interagency coordination, and cooperation in addressing migration challenges related to migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the country.

The launch of the Kwara State PTRC marks a significant milestone in advancing border security and management, as well as enhancing the response to migration challenges in Nigeria.

NISS, UN launch 'Organised Crime in Nigeria' report



The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E Kashim Shettima Mustapha (2nd from the right); Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Mohammed Buba Marwa (Right) and other dignitaries at the official presentation of the report.

The National Institute of Security Studies (NISS) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched their Organized Crime in Nigeria: A Threat Assessment on the occasion of the annual conference of the Heads of Drugs Law Enforcement Agency Africa hosted this year by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in Abuja.

The study aims to improve our collective understanding of illegal markets in Nigeria and the structures and modus operandi of criminal groups operating in and out of the country.

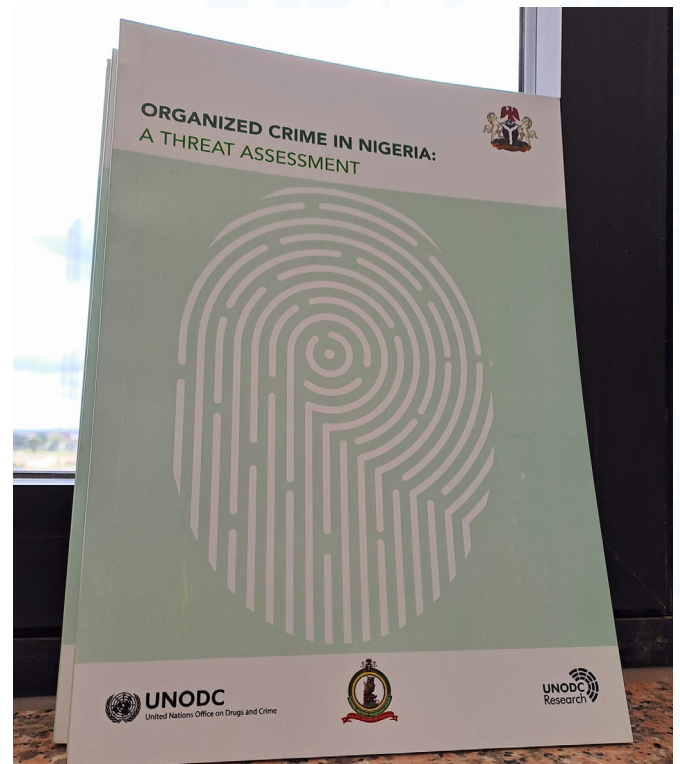
Presenting the report at the launch event, the head of the National Institute of Security Studies, A.S. Adeleke noted, "By dedicating our collective talent, energy and resources to this task, we can defeat the scourge of organized crime and give Nigeria the prosperous future it deserves."

The report found organized crime to be one of the main drivers of insecurity in Nigeria, posing an acute threat to its people, economy and environment. Over the last two decades, organized crime affecting Nigeria has evolved structurally, becoming both more violent and more sophisticated.

Drug markets have undergone multiple changes, with Nigeria no longer being only a transit country for cocaine and heroin but having also become a major market for drugs, in particular pharmaceutical opioids, and a producer of cannabis and methamphetamine. Over the span of just 10 years, Nigeria has become a hub and source for the illicit extraction and trafficking of wildlife and forestry products, in particular ivory, pangolin scales, and rosewood, mainly to Asian countries.

Trafficking in persons stands out for the physical and psychological toll it takes on its victims, most often Nigerian women and children. Today most victims are trafficked within Nigeria and the region for sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude. Victims of trafficking

continue to be rescued in Europe and the Americas and, increasingly, the Middle East and Asia.



UN calls for collaborative approach to tackling migrant rights violations



Senior Human Rights Adviser, National Human Rights Commission, Mr Hilary Ogonna, addresses the participants on behalf of the Commission's Executive Secretary, Chief Tony Ojukwu (SAN).



UN Human Rights Advisor, in Nigeria, Ms Adwoa Kufuor Owusu

The UN Human Rights Office in Nigeria with UNODC Nigeria, IOM Nigeria, the Kingdom of Netherlands in Nigeria, in collaboration with National Human Rights Commission under the PROMIS (Protection of Migrants) project have organized a 2-Day capacity training from 25-26 September to strengthen Civil Society Organisations on Human Rights based approach to Migration.

The PROMIS project is aimed at strengthening the capacities of West African states to develop a human rights-based response to smuggling of migrants (and related crimes) and to effectively combat #Human-RightsViolations related to irregular migration in West Africa.

The UN Human Rights Advisor, in Nigeria, Ms Adwoa Kufuor Owusu in her remarks urged participants to see the training as a platform to deepen understanding of the intricacies of migration and to reaffirm commitment to core human rights principles of dignity, equality and non discrimination for everyone.

The Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, who was represented by Mr Hilary Ogonna, the Senior Human Rights adviser of the Commission reiterate the need for government and CSOs to work closely together to be able to protect human rights and to ensure migrants are protected under national and international principles of human rights.

SRSR for UNOWAS, commends members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission



Special Representative Leonardo Santos Simão commends Lake Chad Basin Commission member states

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Mr. Leonardo Santos Simão, has commended the invaluable efforts of member states of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in addressing the multiple challenges in the region.

He said this in Abuja, Nigeria at the end of his 5-day visit to the country as part of his regional familiarization tour.

Mr. Simão reiterated UNOWAS engagement, in collaboration with UN-OCA and other UN entities, to advocate for continued political support of Lake Chad Basin countries.

In Abuja, the Special Representative participated in the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of areas affected by the Boko Haram crisis in the Lake Chad Basin.

He also met with the Chairperson of the National Peace Committee, former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar who also doubles as the mediator in the Niger crisis. Exchanges focused on how both actors could jointly support ongoing efforts to address the situation in Niger.

The Special Representative, in his capacity as Chairman of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC) held a meeting with the Director General of the National Boundary Commission to advance the

work of the Commission. He also met with the UN country team and members of the diplomatic corps in Nigeria where exchanges focused on developments in West Africa and the Sahel, including in particular the situation in Niger and its impact in the region as well as the need to find viable solutions and provide humanitarian assistance to populations affected by terrorism.



Mr. Leonardo Simao, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for United Nations Office for West Africa

Youth, Women, Peace and Security on focus as UN, partners observe Int'l Day of Peace



Rafiat Atanda of UNODC facilitates a discussion Session during the event.

Youth Peace and Security (YPS), and Women Peace and Security (WPS) were on the front burner of discourse at the commemoration of the 2023 International Day of Peace, organised by the United Nations in Nigeria.

Led by the Peace and Development team in the Resident Coordinator's Office, the observance featured a panel discussion of the 2023 International Peace Day theme, "Actions for Peace: Our ambition for the Global Goals," by young people, and attended by Secondary School students, CSOs, and other stakeholders working on Peace and Development.

The Panelists made recommendations stating that an improved educational system, promotion of human rights, functional security architecture, inclusion of women and youth in decision making, respect for diversity, promotion of innovation and tackling climate change are vital for sustained peace and development in Nigeria.

The event, held at the UN House Auditorium, also featured poem recitation and a short drama showcasing Peace as key driver of development and social cohesion, by the students. and performed a short drama showcasing Peace as a key to There was a rendition of Spoken words and music by members of the creative industry and community to promote Peace.



L-R: Rafiu Adeniran Lawal, Executive Director of the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation; Fransis Duru, Nollywood Actor; Jessica Bongos, International Performing Artist

UN collaborate NCDC, BA-N on risk communication training for public health and Media practitioners



Now certified Risk Communication Trainers, two of the media professionals proudly show-off the Facilitators' Training Manuals and Modules

As part of efforts to improve coordination and strengthen partnerships to fully apply the One Health Approach, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and Breakthrough Action Nigeria (BA-N) organized a week-long training to improve risk communication capacity and coordination among public service veterinary officers and media professionals in Nigeria.

The training jointly facilitated by the trio, held in Karu Nasarawa state from the 18 – 22 September 2023 with participants drawn from related Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government at both the national and state levels, and representatives from the print, broadcast, and online media organizations. A similar training previously held, catered for government stakeholders in human, environment and animal health sectors at the national but did not include contemporaries from the veterinary sector at the state level.

The Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria CVON Dr. Columba Vakuru, represented by the Chief Veterinary Officer Division of Veterinary Public Health in the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Dr Samuel Anzaku, declared the training open and noted that issues of public health must be communicated professionally, especially as it relates to the livelihoods of people.

“The relevance of risk communication training to public health practitioners and media professionals in the quest to fulfil the core target of the One Health operationalization cannot be overemphasized. He noted that the training is both timely and appropriate “especially at the time when the need to bring together stakeholders in the human, animal, environmental health, and other relevant sectors in designing

programs and activities to improve the overall health, is encapsulated in the One Health approach.”

At the opening of the training, Dr. Otto Vianney Muhinda the Country Team Leader of the FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) said it is an opportunity to have all stakeholders understand risk communication using the One health approach. “It is organized with the major aim to improve confidence and capacity of one health partners, veterinary officers and media professionals to effectively respond to public needs and concerns regarding priority zoonotic diseases (PZDs) and public health emergencies to minimize conflicting information, rumours, and misinformation”, Dr. Muhinda said.

On her part Dr. Olayinka Umar-Farouk the Deputy Director Risk Communication and Community Engagement, Breakthrough Action-Nigeria, while emphasizing that the concept is “a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach, that recognizes the interactions between humans, animals, and their shared environment”, said effective response to public health needs and concerns must be well coordinated and it is based on accurate information acquired, that the appropriate action would be taken.

Ms. Pretty Onyejiaku a senior correspondent with the African Independent Television (AIT) networks noted that the training provided the platform to address the misunderstanding that exists between media practitioners and public health workers. “While we look for information to disseminate to the public, some health workers conceal relevant information, forgetting that we have deadlines to meet. Most often the available information is fed to the public”, she stated.

Strengthening healthcare collaborations: Global Fund, PEPFAR, and PMI Unite with Nigeria



Oliver Stolpe, UNODC Country Representative in Nigeria (Left); Dr. Leopold Zekeng, UNAIDS Director and Representative in Nigeria (Middle); Mohamed Yahya, UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria (Right)

In a landmark event from September 11th to 15th, 2023, the leaders of three global healthcare powerhouses – the Global Fund, PEPFAR, and the President’s Malaria Initiatives (PMI) – converged in Nigerian to engage in high-level discussions with Nigeria’s newly elected President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and other key stakeholders. The visit marked a significant milestone as it brought together the executive heads of these organizations, including Mr. Peter Sands, Dr. John Nkengasong, and Dr. David Walton, to set the stage for a robust and collaborative partnership aimed at advancing Nigeria’s healthcare landscape.

The objectives of the mission were to align the strategic vision of the Nigerian government with these three major healthcare organizations, forging a strong partnership that promises to deliver transformative healthcare solutions and to provide a comprehensive update on the significant progress made in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria, while outlining ambitious future plans.

During the visit, the Nigerian government thanked and appreciated the trio- leaderships for the substantial contributions made to the nation’s healthcare sector. The global leaderships were received by the Vice president of the federation, Kashim Shettima who confirmed the administration’s commitment to political leadership, increased domestic resource mobilization for healthcare, and the recognition of local pharmaceutical production as a priority.

Also, the coordinating Minister of Health, Dr. Mohammed Ali Pate outlined four critical priorities for Nigeria’s health system. He noted that healthcare sector reform, enhanced health outcomes, strengthening the health value chain through local pharmaceutical production to stimulate economic growth and create jobs, and building robust na-

tional and sub-national health systems for effective pandemic prevention and response is of great interest to this administration. Dr. Pate sought support for the training and upskilling of 130,000 frontline healthcare workers, fortifying public institutions at federal and state levels, and initiating a digital transformation of the healthcare system.

The global leaders also visited the UN Joint Team on AIDS (UNJTA) to express gratitude to the UN family in Nigeria for their enduring partnership. The UNJTA team while welcoming them, underscored the urgent need to leverage the newfound trust in the administration and devise innovative approaches to global health financing, within fiscal constraints. U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) leadership, Ambassador Nkengasong highlighted the 4Cs- Cooperation, Collaboration, Coordination and Communicate as the guiding principles in the new alignment, while calling upon stakeholders to integrate these principles into their work to enhance synergies. They called for a more holistic approach, rather than working in silos on HIV, TB, and malaria to ensure daily management of response efforts of both programmatic and financial sustainability.

The UN agencies, especially, the UNAIDS, says they are ready to continue to offer crucial technical assistance towards this goal. Their resolute support extends to Nigeria’s Alignment 2.0 agenda, empowering state institutions, driving community-led responses, ensuring data accuracy, and closing the treatment gap for marginalized groups.

UN marks the International Day of Peace with a 7km Health Walk in Abuja



UN Staff and partners during the walk

In its commitment to sensitise the public about the importance of creating a culture of peace in Nigeria, the United Nations system in Nigeria has organised a 7-kilometer walk in Abuja to commemorate the International Day of Peace (IDP), observed every 21 September.

“Peace begins with me. Let’s unite to act for peace.”; “We need peace today and everyday.” “Fostering peace contributes to the realisation of SDGs”; were some messages displayed on placards by some participants in the road walk.

This year’s theme is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #Global-Goals. It is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will create a culture of peace for all.

“We will contribute to Peace in this country and beyond, if we are able to support the government to significantly accelerate the achievement of the #SDGs, in doing so, Leave No one Behind”, said the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, represented by Peace and Development Adviser to the UN in Nigeria, Ms. Kimaris Toogood.

He added that we must reinvigorate our efforts to tackle the drivers and root causes of conflict to end cycles of violence in this country.



Increased investment in women's empowerment will improve national GDP and overall development – says UN Women Regional Director, Maxime Houinato



Dr Maxime Houinato, Regional Director UN Women WCARO at a press conference with Media persons in Abuja. Photo: UN Women

To bridge the multisectoral gender gaps in Nigeria and improve the standard of living for women and girls, Maxime Houinato, UN Women Regional Director for East Africa, West Africa, and Central Africa, appealed, during a press conference on his executive visit to Nigeria, for the government of Nigeria to commit a specific percentage of the national budget and development funds to interventions that address gender disparity in Nigeria. This was in congruence with the demand earlier made by the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres.

“Gender inequality is crippling the economy”, said Mr. Houinato, “Women are at the heart of human capital for economic development in any nation – health, education, agriculture, and business. Gender disparity and the suffering of women are having a detrimental impact on the building of that human capital which is at the centre of productivity and development”.

The regional director during the press conference informed the media that while in Nigeria he has had meetings with stakeholders to whom he advocated for increased investment in gender equality and women's empowerment and allocation of specific. This includes advocacy meetings with Sen. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Minister of Budget and National Planning, where Dr. Houinato advocated for increased allocation of specific budget lines to address gender disparity in Nigeria.

The regional director also echoed this during his meeting with the Director General of the Public Procurement Agency in Lagos where an AfDB/UN Women-assisted gender-affirmative procurement project is being implemented to promote participation of women-owned businesses in public and private procurement. The DG assured him of the

government's commitment to promoting best practices that enable women-owned businesses to access public contracts.

While meeting with the management of Nigeria Exchange Group, Dr Houinato requested that the corporation commit a percentage of its returns to gender-responsive interventions and encourage its clients to do the same. Also, while in Lagos, the regional director was at a roundtable with women CEOs in Nigeria where a 25-million-dollar GBV fund was launched. The launch of the \$25 million Private Sector-led GBV Fund is a landmark in UN Women Nigeria's effort to increase private sector participation and investment in GEWE initiatives in Nigeria.

Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, in her remark, stated that the financial implication of GBV is enormous and reiterated that if the prevalence of violence against women and girls reduces, family income and earnings will improve and so will the economy of the society at large.

The private sector is a key stakeholder in community development. As a major contributor to national income and a significant job creator and employer, it contributes to advancements in technology, governance, research development, workforce development and capacity building. The private sector plays an important role in the promotion and advocacy for gender equality and women's empowerment. With the GBV fund, UN Women is charting a new direction in addressing at a large scale the prevalence of women and girls in Nigeria. This laudable initiative will make resources available for strategic GEWE interventions and improve for GBV survivors, access to justice, livelihood and other economic opportunities.

From cultivation to nourishment: a journey of empowerment and health

In this tale of resilience and enlightenment, Aishatu and her husband, Abubakar discovered the transformative power of knowledge for child nutrition.



Aishatu and her family

Aishatu Zakari and her husband, Abubakar, reside in Briyel, a small village in Bayo Local Government Area of Borno State, northeast Nigeria. The couple are engaged in farming, cultivating a diverse range of crops to support their growing family.

"My husband cultivated millet, beans, guinea corn, maize, groundnuts, and soybeans. But all these were mostly for sale in the village market. As a family, we were not eating all these food items. The guinea corn was what we mostly cooked for the children, and I never knew I could add soybeans and groundnuts to the guinea corn to prepare a balanced diet for them," said Aishatu.

Aishatu's first son, Mohammed, eventually became malnourished and was managed at home with herbs by his parents. His symptoms of weight loss, fever, and diarrhea persisted until a community nutrition mobilizer, Hauwa Idi, visited the family and facilitated the child's admission into the UNICEF-supported outpatient nutrition programme in the village.

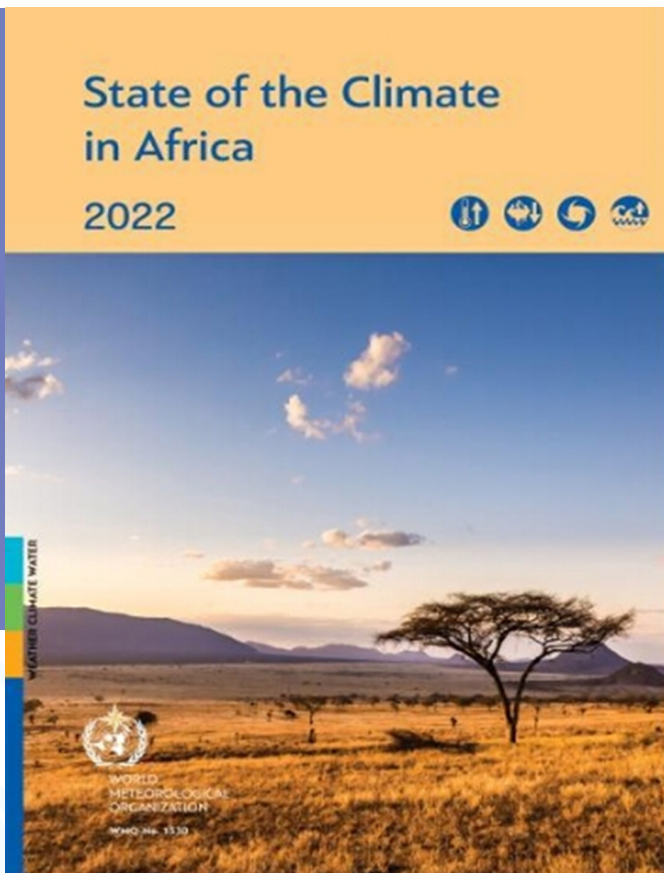
The support group, part of the Multisectoral Integrated Nutrition Action in North-East Nigeria (MINA) project delivered by UNICEF and funded by the British Government, is building the capacity of caregivers to provide nutritious diets to children affected by conflict. Often located within a short distance from their homes, support groups deploy practical cooking demonstrations with available, affordable, and nutritious crops.

Support groups are led by a community nutrition mobilizer (CNM) who is trained on best practices in infant and young child feeding as well as personal and environmental hygiene. The CNMs are also trained to screen children for acute malnutrition and refer affected children to health facilities.

Aishatu's life changed when Hauwa Idi, one of the CNMs in Briyel, took a particular interest in her family and started paying them regular visits.

The UK-funded MINA project is critical to ensuring support for families in North-East Nigeria to access better food sources, acquire skills and behaviours. The project also supports groups of households to transit to food sufficiency, which will in the long-term, reduce the need for humanitarian aid. Through the MINA project, families in northeast Nigeria are learning healthy nutritional practices to enhance good health and better living.

UN, partners release state of the climate in Africa 2022 report, advocate increased climate financing



The State of the Climate in Africa Report 2022 revealed that Temperature rise in Africa has accelerated in recent decades with weather, climate and water related hazards becoming more severe.

According to the report, more than 110 million people on the continent were directly affected by weather, climate, and water-related hazards in 2022, causing more than US\$ 8.5 billion in economic damages. There were a reported 5,000 fatalities, of which 48% were associated with drought and 43% were associated with flooding attributed to the Emergency Event Database. But the true toll is likely to be much higher due to under-reporting.

The current estimated population of Africa is over 1.4 billion. Unfair as it appears, Africa is responsible for only a fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions but is suffering disproportionately from climate change. The impact of this harming food security, ecosystem, and economics, fueling displacement and migration, worsening the threat of conflict over dwindling resources.

In 2022, according to data from the Federal Government of Nigeria, floods displaced over 1.4 million people, killed over 603 people, injured more than 2,400 persons. About 82,035 houses had been damaged and 332,327 hectares of land had also been affected. This snapshots in Nigeria mirrors to a reasonable extent what many other African countries are facing.

The State of the Climate in Africa Report 2022 is the result of multi-agency collaboration efforts. It is the fourth in the series of the annual African report, with a special focus on loss and damage. The report released during the just concluded Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya includes input from the African Union Commission, African National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, African Regional Climate Centers, World Meteorological Organization, specialized Agencies of the United Nations, the African Development Bank, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and numerous experts and scientists. The report provides informed climate analysis, describes notable hydro-meteorological events, impacts, and risks, and identifies key climate policies and strategic elements to build a more sustainable and climate-resilience future for Africa.

The key highlights of the report are as follows:

Temperature: The average rate of warming in Africa was +0.3 °C/decade during the 1991–2022 period, compared to +0.2 °C/decade between 1961 and 1990. This is slightly above the global average.

Rainfall: The Horn of Africa faced its worst drought in 40 years, with Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia particularly hard hit. The “triple-dip” La Niña was a substantial contributor. Five consecutive failed rainfall seasons reduced agricultural productivity and food security. Many parts of the Sahel experienced significant flooding during the monsoon season, with Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and the southern half of Sudan particularly affected.

Tropical Cyclones: The South Indian Ocean experienced an active tropical cyclone season despite an unusually late start. The Southern Africa region was hit by a series of tropical cyclones and tropical storms in the first months of 2022, leading to flooding and population displacement. There was little time for recovery between shocks in nations like Madagascar.

Sea-level rise: The rate of coastal sea-level rise in Africa is similar to the global mean value of 3.4 mm/year. It is, however, slightly higher than the global mean along the Red Sea (3.7 mm/year) and along the western Indian Ocean (3.6 mm/year).

Climate Adaptation: Per capita emissions of carbon dioxide in Africa in 2021 were 1.04 metric tons per person, compared with the global average of 4.69 metric tons per person.

More than 50 African countries have now submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Agriculture and food security, water, disaster risk reduction, and health are the top priorities for adaptation.

Implementing Africa’s NDCs will require up to US\$ 2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has doubled its climate finance to US\$ 25 billion by 2025 and devoted 67% of its climate finance to adaptation, in addition to its effort to raise up to US\$ 13 billion for its Africa Development Fund.

Photo News



Photo news captions,

1. L-R: Mr. Robert Andrew Piper, UNSG Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement; Dr. Betta Edu, Hon. Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation; The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale
2. UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale in Awka with Anambra State Governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo as part of critical stakeholders engagements at the sub-national level.
3. Director of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) Mr. Ronald Kayanja Introduces the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to an audience in Abuja while representing the UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale at a Model UN event.

Editor: Oluseyi Soremekun (UNIC), **Layout:** Michael Achimugu (UNIC)

Editorial Team: UNCG members— Ronald Kayanja (Chairman) - UNIC; Charity Warigon (WHO); Rajat Madhok & Geoffrey Njoku (UNICEF); Stella Onah (UNAIDS); Christabel Chanda-Ginsberg & Rejoice Emmanuel (UNDP); Anthony Abu (UN Women); Kori Habib & Adewole Ajao (UNFPA); Pius Udo (ILO); Edward Ogolla & Gabriel Adeyemo (UNHCR); Elijah Elaigwu (IOM); David Tsokar & Oluoma Mezie-Osuocho (FAO); Yachat Nuhu (UNESCO); 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)**, Abuja. E-mail: unic-lagos@un.org