



Newsletter



Sustainable growth and building resilience in Africa require structural transformation – Report

“Achieving sustainable growth and building resilience requires structural transformation. Successful industrial policy requires both sectoral focus as well as getting the basics right. It is essential for countries to identify optimal combinations of policy actions to nurture an industrial program.” This is according to the Economic Report on Africa 2023 (ERA 2023) which was launched on December 18, 2023, in Abuja, Nigeria.

Titled: “Building Africa’s Resilience to Global Economic Shocks”, and presented by the Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Adam Elhiraika, the report shows that the current global economic architecture affords opportunities for African countries to leapfrog and accelerate industrialization through careful experimentation of what has worked elsewhere and adapting it to local conditions.

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The UN Nigeria two-day Gender-Responsive Procurement Symposium

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The school art exhibition educational outreach to commemorate 75 years of the UDHR

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Workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for journalists and CSOs to commemorate Human Rights Day



and more stories.

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Elhiraika, who also presented the 2023 Africa Sustainable development Report, further explained that firm survival and growth in Africa were closely linked with exporting, working with international capital and international or global firms, adopting international managerial norms and standards as well as developing industrial clusters.

These elements, according to ERA 2023, come in different shades depending on the type of firms and their technology intensity. Broadly, however, three economic fundamental gaps require attention to get the basics right: skill gaps; infrastructure gaps and overall institutional quality gaps.

On Promoting regional value chains, the report states that countries can collaborate in creating, for example, regional agricultural commodity markets that will help to connect surplus economies with net importers for wheat, sugar and rice. This will reduce dependence on Russia and Ukraine.

“Financial integration could also protect the continent from the vicious cycle of debt distress and liquidity crunches through regional bond markets that would enhance savings mobilization, risk pooling and funding for regional and national infrastructure.” The report explains.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale, represented by the Economist in the Resident Coordinator’s Office, Nonso Obikili, noted that the convergence of many

crises, such as the shocks generated by the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic, the ripple effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and climate change had resulted in Africa experiencing a setback or lack of progress in achieving the targets set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He cited an example of the impact of shocks on poverty, in 2021, when almost 30 million Africans experienced severe poverty, and the loss of 22 million employment occurred.

“The top ten countries with the highest number of poor people account for 64.7% of the continent’s poor population. The first four countries—Nigeria (100 million), the DR Congo (67 million), Tanzania (36 million) and Ethiopia (33 million)—account for 42% of the poor population.” Schmale said.

The ERA 2023 therefore calls for new approaches for African countries to address challenges of global economic shocks. The report calls for improving risk management and building resilience strategies through well-designed national development plans and good governance, as well as structural transformation through equitable green growth and smart industrial strategies.

Special Adviser to the President on Economic Matters, Dr Tope Fasua, highlighted economic recessions that Nigeria had experienced in the past: Commodity price crashes of early 1970s after the oil boom in 1973; recession of the 1980s due to fall in commodity prices; and another crash in the mid-2000s due to crude oil crash. “We live life of volatility in terms of our finances, and most of Africa is still tethered to these kinds of risks.” He said.

At the launch were representatives of the United States Embassy, European Union, USAID, Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning; Federal Ministry of Finance; Central Bank; and UN Agencies.



Director, Macroeconomics and Governance Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Adam Elhiraika,



Group photo of some the dignitaries at the launch

UN organises 2-day gender-responsive procurement workshop



Group photograph of participants

The United Nations Nigeria hosted a dynamic two-day Gender-Responsive Procurement Symposium to advance gender equality through procurement.

The symposium places a special emphasis on engaging and empowering female entrepreneurs. Recognizing the importance of dismantling barriers, the event actively involves women in business and encouraging their participation in procurement processes.

From thought-provoking panel discussions to interactive workshops, female entrepreneurs were at the forefront of discussions aimed at reshaping the landscape of economic opportunities.

The Chair of United Nations Procurement Network in Nigeria, Mr Daniel Terkula Kuhe highlighted the need for Women to push past competition and collaborate more with one another to lift each other to great heights.

Mr. Lansana Wonneh, the Deputy Representative of United Nations Women Nigeria appealed directly to the government and stakeholders, urging increased engagement of women in businesses, underscoring the interconnectedness of gender equality and societal advancement.

The symposium stands as a testament to the United Nations' dedication to advancing gender equality through tangible and transformative measures

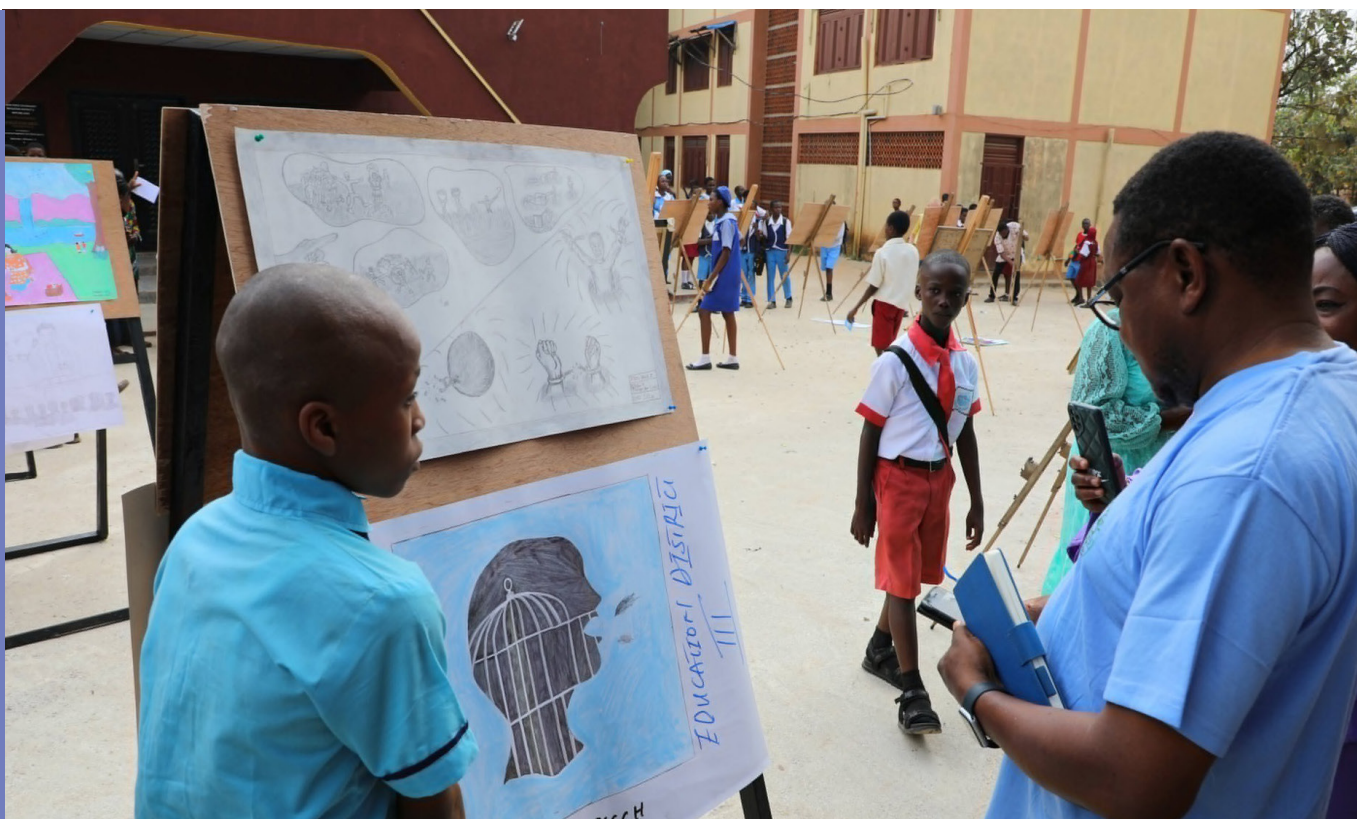


Group photo of United Nations Procurement Network (UNPN) team



Group photo of some of the participants

UN commemorates UDHR@75 with school art exhibition



A student with his art exhibition

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Day, UNIC Abuja held educational outreach with over 400 students from across the Lagos State Education Districts.

The Coordinator of the National Human Rights Office in Lagos State, Mr Lucas Koyejo, briefed the students on Child Rights, and the role of the commission to ensure all children are respected, and protected from all forms of abuse and violence.

The students were enjoined to treat each other and everyone with dignity and respect without discrimination based on their faith, sex or tribe.

The school art exhibition at the outreach also expressed the students understanding of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The students held a panel discussion and highlighted the most prevalent human rights abuse in their communities which include discrimination based on gender, political affiliation, religion and ethnicity.

They called on everyone to promote tolerance, live together in love and unity and uphold the rights and freedom of one another without discrimination or segregation.



Human Rights Day: UN sensitises journalists, CSOs on UDHR



A facilitator makes a presentation at the sensitisation meeting

To empower journalists and civil society members with a deeper understanding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and to effectively report on and advocate for human rights issues, the UN Information Centre Abuja with Office of the UN Human Rights Advisory in Nigeria in collaboration with Human Rights Journalists Network Nigeria have organized a one day training workshop on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for journalists and CSOs to commemorate Human Rights Day and to celebrate UDHR 75th anniversary.

The various sessions at the workshop highlighted and discussed ways to enhance the skills of journalists and CSOs in Human Rights advocacy

and reporting, and improved understanding among the participants on the role of journalists & CSOs in promoting, upholding and safeguarding human rights.

The interactive discussions underscored the challenges and opportunities in reporting and advocating for human rights issues in Nigeria

The participants explored avenues for creating sustainable partnerships and collaborations for fostering a human rights – centric narratives and strategies, including leveraging various media platforms and communication strategies for maximum impact.



UN supports FG to Unveil Ambitious Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) III 2023 – 2027



The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), with the participation of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, formally launched Nigeria's Decent Work Country Programme III (DWCP III), which is expected to be implemented within a five-year period (2023 and 2027)

In his welcome remarks, the Director of Employment and Wages Department FMLE, Mr John Nyamali expressed appreciation to the ILO for its support to the Government of Nigeria and the social partners throughout the process. He thanked all the stakeholders and consultant for their cooperation during the formulation of the DWCP. He remarked that the DWCP III has 3 pillars, namely,

- Job creation for men, women, youths and people with disabilities
- Rights at work
- Extending Social protection

The III generation DWCP builds on the pillars and successes of DWCP I and II implemented from 2005. The DWCP III exemplifies the stakeholders desire to make decent work a key component of national development. He urged all stakeholders to support and commit to the implementation of the DWCP III.

In her goodwill message, the ILO Director for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala expressed her delight in the inclusiveness and human centred process of developing the DWCP III. She noted that it was critical for the DWCP to be data driven, and reflective of the labour priorities of the country. According to her, with this framework, the DWCP will ensure that

the ILO support was directed at the most important concerns of the tripartite constituents and contribute to the development of the country. She highlighted the fact that the DWCP III priorities were aligned with National development priorities, including United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Nigeria 2023-2027, regional priorities like Abidjan Declaration, Agenda 2063, and other global priorities like the ILO centenary declaration and SDGs.

In his goodwill message, Mr. Adewale-Smatt Oyerinde, Director General NECA stated that NECA was committed to labour and employment relations of the country and growth policies for the macro economy. He expressed the commitment of NECA to continually work to strengthen labour relations in Nigeria including the implementation of the DWCP III. He emphasized the need for more engagement through tripartism and social dialogue to enhance the implementation of the priorities of the framework which focuses on job creation, rights at work and social protection. He stated that NECA just celebrated its members who were working in alignment with the fulfilment of labour standards and priorities especially around employment for people with disabilities.

Speaking through Mr. James Eustace, the NLC President, Comrade Joe Ajero stated that the pursuit of Decent Work for all workers was a search for Social Justice. He indicated that workers' rights as expressed in DWCP III, Priority 2: "Rights at Work", was key to a healthy work-life and peaceful society. According to Ajero the protection of fundamental and other rights at work were understood against the backdrop of the conclusion that social development was anchored inevitably on workplace productivity which in turn was a function of healthy workplace relations. He stated that "as the NLC, we are privileged to be a part of this developmental journey. Throughout the formulation phases of the DWCP III 2023-2027, we recognized the collective efforts

of stakeholders, including government agencies, employers' organizations, workers' unions, civil society, and the international community, in shaping a future where decent work is not only a fundamental right but also a reality for all Nigerians”.

Comrade Hassan Ankar, who represented the TUC President, Comrade Festus Osifo, at the launch commended the tripartite partners and other stakeholders including the ILO for the milestone achievement in formulating the DWCP III and looked forward to the implementation of the provisions of the DWCP III.

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Mattias Schmale, speaking at the launch stated that the Nigeria DWCP III was formulated in line with the Nigeria UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023 -2027. He stated that the framework was meant to guide the UN’s work in the country based on its SDGs priority. He stated that the UN hopes to scale up workable solution to address decent work issues across the country. He affirmed that Nigeria’s commitment to decent work would influence the sub-region too. He commended the ILO for being an institution that brought together organizations with opposing views to work together for development.

In his address, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Simon Lalong, commended the ILO for its support and called for continued collaboration. He stated that the Federal Government was aware of the activities of some exploitative employers, asserting that the Federal Government would take punitive measures against those violating local and international labour laws.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the DWCP III was signed by the tripartite partners and the ILO symbolizing a united commitment to transformative change. The Honourable Minister, joined by the UN Resident Coordinator, ILO Director, ILO social partners and other dignitaries at the high table thereafter launched and presented the DWCP document to the public.

The ILO believes that the launch and full implementation of the DWCP III would enable the country to make significant progress towards achieving decent work for all Nigerians.



ILO Director for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Liaison Office for ECOWAS, Ms Vanessa Phala



2023 has been a year of enormous suffering, violence, and climate chaos.

Humanity is in pain.

Our planet is in peril.

2023 is the hottest year on record.

People are getting crushed by growing poverty and hunger.

Wars are growing in number and ferocity.

And trust is in short supply.

But pointing fingers and pointing guns lead nowhere.

Humanity is strongest when we stand together.

2024 must be a year for rebuilding trust and restoring hope.

We must come together across divides for shared solutions.

For climate action.

For economic opportunity and a fairer global financial system that delivers for all.

Together, we must stand up against the discrimination and hatred that are poisoning relations between countries and communities.

And we must make sure new technologies such as artificial intelligence are a force for good.

The United Nations will keep rallying the world for peace, sustainable development and human rights.

Let's resolve to make 2024 a year of building trust and hope in all that we can accomplish together.

I wish you a happy and peaceful New Year.

UN and Japan contribute to peacebuilding in Gombe state by supporting IDPs and vulnerable families



Some beneficiaries with their works and some members of the UNESCO monitoring team

UNESCO, with funding support from the Government of Japan is implementing a project on Strengthening Peacebuilding and Resilience in Northeast Nigeria through Education, Economic Empowerment and Social Change in Gombe state, Nigeria. The project is to contribute to deradicalization and support peacebuilding in Gombe state through education, economic empowerment, and improved community-based efforts.

Through the project, the Government of Japan and UNESCO are supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable families in host communities, particularly young women and girls, with experiential learning for peacebuilding, psychosocial support for long-term recovery, and opportunities for socio-economic empowerment. From 7 -10 November 2023, UNESCO Office in Abuja in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Adult and Non-formal Education Agency (ANFEA), Gombe Sports Commission, and IDP leaders, conducted a monitoring exercise in the state to assess the progress made since the commencement of the one-year project in April this year.

The monitoring team toured the various safe spaces used for counselling sessions and the vocational skill acquisition centres in eight communities located in seven LGAs of the state. The observations and reports from the beneficiaries indicated that the project implementation has made very good progress.

The Psychosocial Support Manual for Internally Displaced Persons developed by UNESCO has been a very good resource for the counsellors, and the beneficiaries remarked that they have been supported to process trauma and embrace and internalize tolerance and forgiveness. Regarding the vocational skill acquisition programme for economic

empowerment of the IDPs and vulnerable families in the host communities, beneficiaries demonstrated very good success in skill acquisition. Those engaged in poultry farming and animal husbandry have successfully concluded their training. Other beneficiaries who are engaged in tailoring, barbing, shoemaking, etc. have made remarkable progress as well.

Mary Samuel attached to Yaghal Ventures Poultry Farm in Gombe, on successful completion of her training, took the initiative to set up a small poultry farm with 15 birds in her compound without waiting for the expected start-up support from the project.

One of the beneficiaries, Saddiya Ali (IDP from Adamawa State) sharing her experience said, “We’re grateful for the progress and the hope we’ve found. When we arrived here, we didn’t know anyone, and we faced stigmatization. But thanks to the psychosocial support from UNESCO, we’ve learned how to forgive, let go of overthinking that causes issues, and we have peacefully integrated in our host communities.” In addition, Sadiq Usman (IDP from Yobe State) stated:

“I’m working hard to learn and I’m making progress with the help I’m getting. Once I finish my training in tailoring, I want to use what I’ve learned to improve my life and be a valuable part of our community. Thanks to UNESCO and the people of Japan for their support!”

UNESCO Office in Abuja remains committed to collaborating with the state partners to ensure an efficient and successful project implementation until the close of the project next year.

Rethinking the commons; Session of the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference



Participants the UNESCO intellectual reflection session "Commons" in a group photograph.

As part of the high-level segment of the 42nd session of the General Conference, UNESCO held an intellectual reflection session at Headquarters on 9 November on the theme "(re)thinking the commons". To contribute to this reflection and ensure that it has a global impact, UNESCO contacted seven countries namely Bosnia Herzegovina, China, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, and United States of America to organize duplex sessions with reputable universities to shed light on the theses developed by a world-renowned intellectual, Professor. Dipesh Chakrabarty.

UNESCO Abuja office organized a duplex session with the University of Ibadan on November 9th, 2023. The session had in attendance over 270 staff and students drawn from University of Ibadan, Dominion University, Dominican University, Kola-Daisi University and Lead City University. The keynote address was livestreamed from the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris and a notable Nigeria professor contextualized it for better understanding in Nigeria. These two-presentations led to a robust debate on the theme of the day.

The session was introduced by Ms. Nuhu Yachat who represented the Head of UNESCO Abuja Office. She gave an overview of the essence of the session and its format. She also stated the aims of the session which were to rethink the way in which we can still build a world in common; and to identify, in line with UNESCO's tradition, the elements that enable us to reweave our common humanity - whether in terms of rights, values or narratives.

Professor. Dipesh Chakrabarty (India), historian, author of "Provincializing Europe" and, more recently, "The Climate of History in a Planetary Age" gave the keynote speech from UNESCO Headquarters by stating that humans fight one other, especially with regards to shared natural resources, which cannot be divided (for example air, oceans, etc.). Using his homeland as a point of reference, he underscored his idea of "Commons" as not something that can be touched or felt or possessed, but rather in the intangibles that contribute to the sustainability of life on the planet. He thus urged that, by virtue of this conference we begin to turn our minds to the intangibles. Although

he acknowledged the fact that things have deteriorated badly, he was of the opinion that having this awareness early would contribute to slowing things down in such a way and manner that life could still be sustained on earth for future generations.

Professor Senayon Olaoluwa of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan came in next with his presentation titled "Commons, Compromises, and Correctives". By using his theory of "Ordinarification" - a mode or tool by humans to reduce things that are and should be of import as if they were nothing, he expressed how humanity has been hindered from identifying "Commons" and ultimately led to the selfish, self-seeking lifestyle of humans' pursuit today. He emphasized what human evolution and activities have done to the environment over time and opined that "the future of our commons must begin with a realization of the original sense of our commonality, a review of our compromises, and the imperative of correctives to the compromises for the assurance of a just future.

"Today's event was quite educative; I learned a lot of things such as the fact that our environmental elements affect us as human beings, our future as well as what would become of us in the future. All these put together make us appreciate the history of where we are coming from and how to plan for a better society. It also pointed out the fact that a lot of things need to be done to correct many of these damages. I am fascinated by the idea of 'sustained damages' in the SDGs as mentioned by Prof. Senayon Olaoluwa. Thank you so much, this is really an Laye Mofewakemi, Faculty Member of the Dominion University

The discussion featured local personalities and a generation of emerging intellectuals in Nigeria, who would entrench the sense of 'commons' in their immediate communities. Participants underscored the need to be intentional about the change they envision in their communities before making global considerations. These discussions will be the subject of a dedicated publication, of UNESCO Publishing and the Courier de l'UNESCO, in collaboration with Le Grand Continent, which closely tracks the global intellectual landscape.

UDHR @75 marked with Human Rights Festival in Abuja



A cross section of audience at the film festival

The UN in Nigeria, in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Embassy of Brazil and the Embassy of Belgium organised a Human Rights Film Festival in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The event which took place at the Brazilian Embassy in Abuja, started on Tuesday 5 December and ended on Saturday, 9 December.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale, thanked the Embassy of Brazil and the Embassy of Belgium, and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for the collaboration to advocate and promote the observance of human rights through film screening, invite debate and open dialogue about human

rights, and to empower audiences with the knowledge that personal commitment can make a difference in the promotion of human rights. Deputy Ambassador of Brazil to Nigeria, H.E. Joao Marcelo Soares highlighted the efforts of the Brazilian government in reviewing its constitution to ensure human rights of all.

Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Dr Tony Ojukwu urged all communities that still practice the caste system, to abrogate the discriminatory custom and uphold the principle of equity and equality.



Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Dr Tony Ojukwu



Deputy Ambassador of Brazil to Nigeria, H.E. Joao Marcelo Soares

World AIDS Day: UN, Global Fund, USAID, PEPFAR, others support Nigeria's HIV/AIDS strategic plan for 2023-2027



Group photograph of dignitaries at the launch of Nigeria's HIV/AIDS Strategic plan for 2023-2027.

The United Nations Joint Team on AIDS UNJTA have pledged its commitment to supporting the government of Nigeria in ending AIDS as a global epidemic by 2030. The joint team made the assurance during the World AIDS commemoration and the unveiling of the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2023-2027. The document is a collaborative effort of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS, NACA, PEPFAR, the United Nations Joint Team on AIDS (UNAIDS), the Global Fund and other partners on an initiative labelled the new business model, aimed at ensuring country ownership and sustainability of national response beyond 2030.

Speaking at the event, the UN resident coordinator Matthias Schmale commended the leadership of NACA and donor investment in fighting AIDS in Nigeria. He noted that the year's theme "Let Communities Lead" and domesticated in Nigeria as "Community's leadership to end AIDS by 2030," demonstrates the government's understanding of the crucial role of taking the services to the grassroots and empowering the communities to better respond to their needs. Schmale noted:

"This year we are paying particular attention to the leadership at the community, and grassroots level, and I would like to recognise in particular people living with HIV. I think we've learned over decades that your leadership in this fight is crucial to overcoming HIV and people with disability are another important community touched by HIV and are crucial in the fight against HIV, I think again that at the community level many of the leaders in my understanding our volunteers, we need to recognise their important contribution".

The USAID Mission Director, Melissa Jones, said the US government has invested 7.8 billion dollars in Nigeria as part of the US government's commitment to AIDS response.

"We have done that under the President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to ensure that all Nigerians living with HIV have complete access to quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services. Today, over 1.6 million Nigerians are accessing antiretroviral therapy, which is incredible for the country, but it should just be known that most of us expected it would happen here in Nigeria because of the fierce leadership commitment from the government to its citizens.

She noted that over the years Nigeria has made significant progress in combating HIV/AIDS, yet more efforts are needed to reach the goal of eliminating AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. By closing in the gaps on PMTCT, finding the missing adolescents living with HIV, pregnant women who are living with HIV, and ensuring that no woman gives birth to an HIV child

During the panel discussion; "Communities Leadership for the Sustainability of HIV Response in Nigeria," moderated by Dr Murphy Akpu, UNAIDS Adviser, Science Systems and Services. The panellists enumerated some of the challenges hindering the community's leadership role in AIDS response and suggested sustainable ways to enable the communities to take the lead in solving their problems, especially in PMTCT.

Speaking during the panel session, PEPFAR Nigeria Coordinator, Funmi Adesanya, said that in the new business model, 70 per cent of the resources designated for Nigeria from other nations are directed towards local organizations. Noting that this strategic allocation aims to enhance the long-term sustainability of Nigeria's HIV response. "We have recognised that these local organisations get into an emergency phase, and need money to move quickly and so lots of interna-

tional organisations were funded directly to work in communities. But if we are going to continue to sustain the games, and we will continue to optimise and leverage and be effective and efficient at what we have, we need to redirect those resources,” she said.

The HIV/AIDS national strategic document is aimed at ensuring an effective and efficient HIV response owned, driven, resourced and led by the people and the government of Nigeria at different levels, with minimal support from partners. It is expected to demonstrate a new HIV response initiative which promotes efficiency, Government-led shared responsibility and strengthens HIV multi sectoral response.

The global theme of the 2023 World AIDS Day is “Let Communities Lead” and is domesticated in Nigeria as “Communities: Leadership to

End AIDS by 2030”, and acknowledges the essential role of community leadership in our last mile push to ending AIDS by 2030.



UNJTA mobilises \$800k to support state-led AIDS response from 2024-2025



The United Nations Joint Team on AIDS (UNJTA) says the UN joint team in the country comprising 11 agencies has a joint plan to support the AIDS response from 2024 to 2025 and has mobilized so far about \$800,000 to achieve that. This was made known by the UNAIDS Country Director, Dr Leo Zekeng who was represented by the Senior Strategic Information Adviser, Dr. Koubagnine Takpa during the 2023 UN commemoration of the World AIDS Day in Nigeria.

Dr Takpa said it is important for communities to lead the HIV response in the country, noting that evidence in the last 40 years has shown the effectiveness of the community-led response to HIV, adding that this year's theme; 'Let Communities Lead' demonstrates the United Nations commitment to supporting and enabling community-led response in the last mile intervention to ending AIDS by 2030.

"The UNAIDS as the UN secretariate for the coordination of AIDS response in Nigeria, is working in collaboration with other UN partner agencies, the government of Nigeria through NACA and funding partners, like global fund and PEPFAR, to make sure that Nigeria and sustainably take ownership of managing the global epidemic and to make sure HIV/AIDS are no longer an epidemic in Nigeria, beyond 2030."

While answering questions from the participants on the issues of dwindling funding of HIV/AIDS on the scale of other health emergencies by donor partners, he assured that the donors are not ending funding of AIDS by 2030, but would have confidently through the new business model of state-led intervention enabled state ownership, accountability, and management of HIV in the country.

Doris Ogbang, National programme officer (Strategic Information) in her presentation estimated that the national HIV/AIDS statistics of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) stands at about 1.9 million, which is 5% of global PLHIV, this number, 1.8 million are adults representing (92%), 63%F, 37%M, while, 160,000 are children representing (8%).

She also, stated that Nigeria's record of new HIV infection estimate is about 77,000, 60% F, 40% M, and 22,500 infected children representing (29%) of all recorded infections, while, 17,800 young people between the ages of 15-24 years (23%) were infected.

Ms Ogbang lamented the rate of new infections among women, children and adolescents, stating that the joint team is recommitting its efforts towards addressing the treatment and ART gaps for children and indolence.

"We are not very satisfied with the data and responses from these vulnerable groups. That is why we are seriously engaging government in the state and local communities, to help reach and find these children. It is a moral burden for us as a country and as a team to not let any child in Nigeria, or anywhere in the world as a matter, be born of HIV or die of AIDS anymore, or even denied access to quality life treatment or anti-retroviral. That is why we have also invited ASWHAN's leadership to help us reach to women and girls at the community level."

UNAIDS community adviser, Gaberial Undelikwo while responding to inquiries from participants on How the UN will be supporting the Communities to take the lead to end AIDS by 2030, noted that the joint team led by UNAIDS will be rolling out a multisectoral coordinated series of capacity strengthen intervention for the Network of people liv-

ing and affected by HIV/AIDS, NEPWHAN, Association of women living with HIV/AIDS, ASWHAN, Association of positive youths, APYIN and other CSO's in HIV response in Nigeria to be able to effectively manage donor resources, be accountable and hold government accountable in the implementation process.

Undelikwo said the community of PLHIV has proven over the years that they are not only beneficiaries of donor support but are also partners in contributing to the implementation of the HIV response in Nigeria. He enumerated some of the achievements of the community-led responses in Nigeria like the Mentor-Mothers initiatives and the Testing and Referral support carried out at the community health centres by HIV/AIDS support groups.

This year's UN commemoration of World AIDS Day featured musical presentations from young people who through their songs encouraged others to know their HIV status and members of the media who engaged with UN medical staff on prevention and treatment options on early exposure.



Photo News



Photo news captions,

1. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale and Nigeria's former President Olusegun Obasanjo, discuss how the UN can work towards greater impact in supporting Nigeria's efforts at achieving the SDGs.
2. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf M. Tuggar (OON) presents a gift to the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Matthias Schmale on his final work day in Nigeria.
3. The UNICEF team led by the Deputy Representative in Nigeria, Dr Rownak Khan visits HRH Amb. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, Emir of Zazzau, to advocate for continuous support to children's education, health, and nutrition.

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

Editorial Team: UNCG members— Ronald Kayanja (Chairman) - UNIC; Kulchumi Isa Hammanyero (WHO); Rajat Madhok & Anike Alli-Hakeem (UNICEF); Stella Onah (UNAIDS); Christabel Chanda-Ginsberg & Rejoice Emmanuel (UNDP); Anthony Abu (UN Women); 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 & Chima Onwe (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