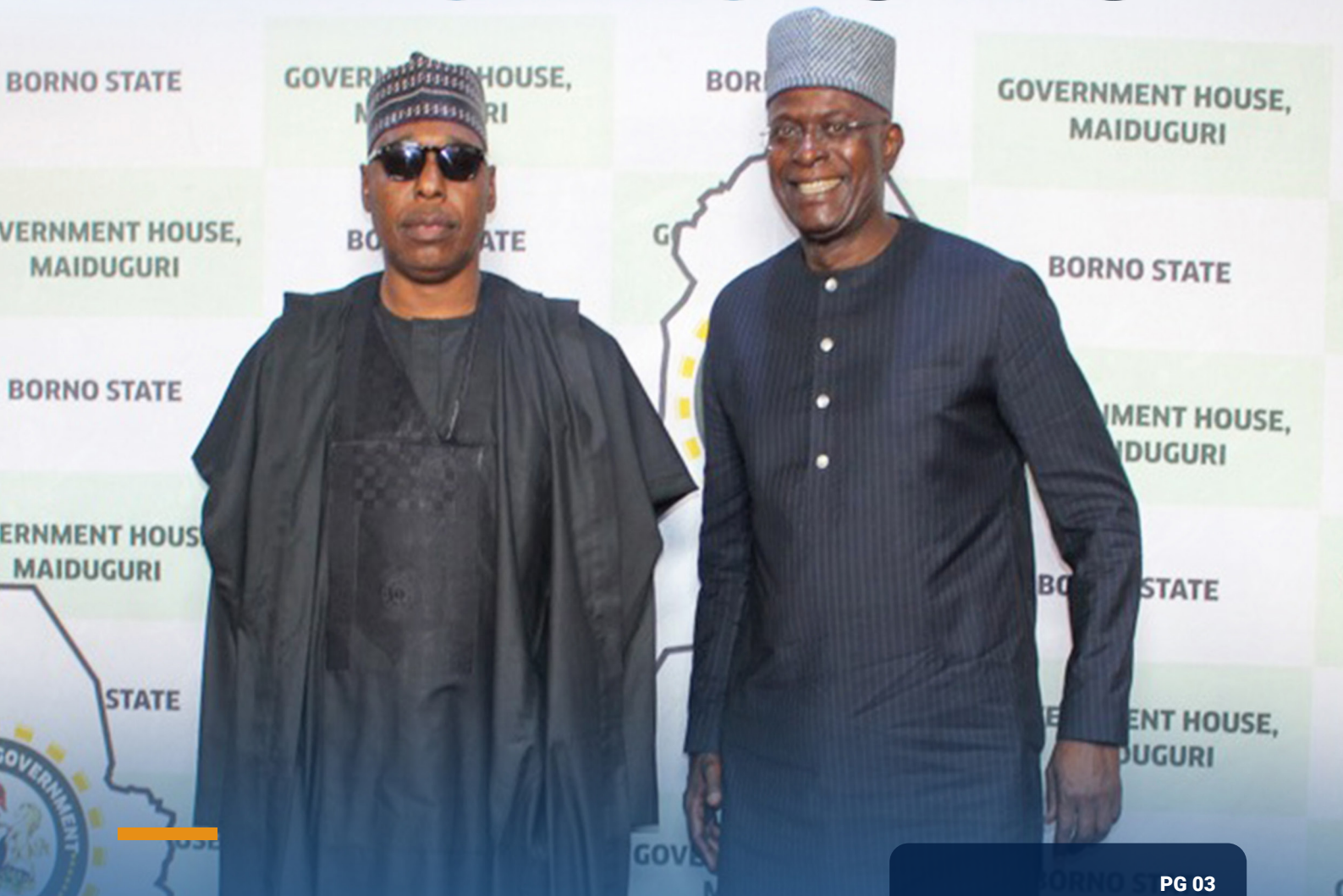


Newsletter



UN, Borno Gov't commit to strengthening partnership for development

The United Nations in Nigeria and the Borno State Government have restated their commitment to strengthening partnership for peace and development in the state.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall during a courtesy visit to the Borno State Governor, Prof Babagana Zulum, assured of continued support of UN in Nigeria to Borno State Government in its efforts to mitigate the impact of conflict on the vulnerable populations.

PG 03

Secretary-General appoints Mr. Mohamed M. Malick Fall of Senegal as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria

PG 04

SRSB Simão meets New UN Resident-Coordinator Fall

PG 05

Unstereotype the world: The power of advertising for progressive change



and more stories.

continued from cover page:

Fall noted that Borno State has achieved so much in peace and development of the communities affected by the crisis, especially when compared to where the state was in 2016. He commended Governor Zulum for his efforts towards improving the lives of Borno people, and added, "Every initiative you implement or undertake, you can count on my support and that of the entire UN system."

Governor Zulum expressed gratitude to the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the visit while noting his numerous contributions to the development of Borno and the entire northeast when he was the UNICEF Country Representative between 2016 and 2019.

Zulum, however, made it clear that his administration is committed to resettling IDPs to their ancestral homes or another place safe for them to source their livelihood themselves.

The Governor assured of his commitment to collaborate with the UN and ensure that humanitarian and developmental services were rendered concurrently for the people of Borno State.



Mohamed M. Malick Fall at the Government house in Borno State.

Secretary-General appoints Mr. Mohamed M. Malick Fall of Senegal as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Mr Mohamed M. Malick Fall of Senegal as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, with the host Government's approval.

Mr. Fall has more than 20 years of experience in development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding. Prior to his appointment, he served as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, where he provided oversight and guidance to 21 UNICEF Countries Offices, including on the formulation and implementation of the Country Programme Documents, the UN Reform process, and the engagement with the Regional and Economic Commission and African Union and the private sector. Furthermore, he has led the response to multiples and complex crisis with massive humanitarian needs and high security challenges, and managed the strategic review of the country

documents, research and knowledge-management related activities, ensuring that the results are used to inform programme and policies.

Before that, he served as UNICEF representative in Nigeria (2016-2019), Central African Republic (2014-2016) and Mongolia (2012-2014), as their Senior Education Adviser in Haiti (2010-2012), and as Chief of Education in Indonesia (2006-2010) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (2003-2006). He was also temporarily assigned as Education Officer (2001-2003).

Mr Mohamed M. Malick Fall has a master's degree in Demography from Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne – France and a B.A. Degree in History (Licence d'Histoire) from Université de Dakar – Sénégal.

SRSB Simão meets UN Resident-Coordinator Fall



(L-R) Leonardo Santos Simão, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS; Mohamed M. Malick Fall, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria

At the head of the Extraordinary Summit of the ECOWAS authority of Heads of State on Saturday 24 February, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), Leonardo Santos Simão, on Friday 23 February 2024, met with the UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall at the UN House in Abuja.

They discussed Peace and security, and humanitarian situations in Nigeria. UN's commitment to member states in consolidating peace, security and democracy through strengthened partnership is unwavering. The meeting also reviewed the sustainable development context in West Africa and the Sahel, as well as promoting the women, peace and security agenda, and the youth, peace, and security agenda.



Unstereotype the world: The power of advertising for progressive change



From the left, Madam Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Nigeria Country Representative, Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General and CEO of UN Global Compact (UNGC), Ms. Amina Oyagbola, Founder & Chairperson, Women in Successful Careers (WISCAR) Photo: UN Women/Angela Muruli

Recognizing the power of partnerships to accelerate progress, this industry-led initiative, convened by UN Women unites advertising industry leaders, decision-makers and creatives to end harmful stereotypes in advertising. The Unstereotype Alliance has been embraced by businesses and organizations championing the end of bias in advertising. It further aligns with the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) led by the UN Global Compact and UN Women to promote gender-progressive practices in the private sector. To date, 220 organizations in Nigeria have signed on to the WEPs – the largest number in Africa.

The Unstereotype Alliance works to affect positive cultural change by using the power of advertising to help shape perceptions. Members collaborate to help create a world without stereotypes, empowering people in all their diversity, whether that be related to gender, race, class, age, ability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, language or education. Membership of the Unstereotype Alliance Nigeria Chapter includes: Unilever West Africa/Unilever Nigeria, Guinness Nigeria (Diageo), Women in Successful Careers (WISCAR), Association of Advertisers Nigeria (AAAN), SO&U, First Bank Nigeria.

Despite growing global challenges across the world, the advertising and media industry can accelerate positive social norms and drive momentum towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Unstereotype Alliance Global Member Summit sought to inspire, unite, and affirm collective impact. Led by the UN Women Representative to Nigeria & ECOWAS, Ms. Beatrice Eyong, the UA Nigeria Chapter contributed to the Summit ongoing spotlight-

ing promising practices in mentorship to nurture the next generation of advertisers working to dismantle harmful stereotypes in gender and ableism. Speaking on the importance of structured mentorship during the panel on the Next Gen Initiative – Mrs. Amina Oyagbola, Chairperson of Women in Successful Careers (WISCAR) – “It’s been 16 years since we founded WISCAR and we use structured mentorship as a tool for development and the empowerment of women. We build well-rounded professionals and give them the crucial skills they need to accelerate their professional growth”.



Mr. Steve Babaeko, CEO X3M Ideas speaking virtually during the event. Photo: UN Women/Angela Muruli

In Nigeria's women's leadership in elective position remains below 5% and whilst the number of women in Executive Boards surpasses the global average, it is still a far cry from parity. For this reason, the Unstereotype Alliance Nigeria Chapter has a strategic priority 'To use advertising as a force for progress by depicting positive portrayals of women and girls, and ensure the industry rejects all harmful stereotypes, including gender stereotypes'. Nigeria has an estimated Advertising market size (US\$): 500 million. Furthermore, the Nigerian Film Industry, closely linked with media and advertising, is widely recognized as among the top three largest film producers in the world.

Data from PwC show that the industry contributed NGN 231 billion to Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016. "If we get marketing and advertisement right in Nigeria, it will set a strong example for the region given Nigeria's importance to the continent." Speaking during the Leadership Dialogue with C-Suite Executive Leaders, the UN Women Representative to Nigeria, Ms. Eyang emphasized the need to have "our own

stories, our experiences and the society we want for Nigeria, translated into our advertising – using tools and narratives that make sense for our development reality."

During the Summit, a number of Best in Class Ads from Nigeria were spotlighted including 'New Yam Festival' by Nigeria Chapter Member Guinness Nigeria spotlighting the cultural vibrancy of Nigeria and the role of women in society, as well as the 'Glo Teacher' by Nigeria Chapter Member, X3M Ideas, campaign highlighting positive masculinities. When we work together, leveraging the influence and creativity of the private sector, great change happens for women and girls and society as a whole.



Speaking, Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary General and CEO of UN Global Compact (UNGC) Photo: UN Women/Angela Muruli

Rwandan Embassy, UN to jointly mark 30th year of the 1994 Genocide Against The Tutsi In Rwanda

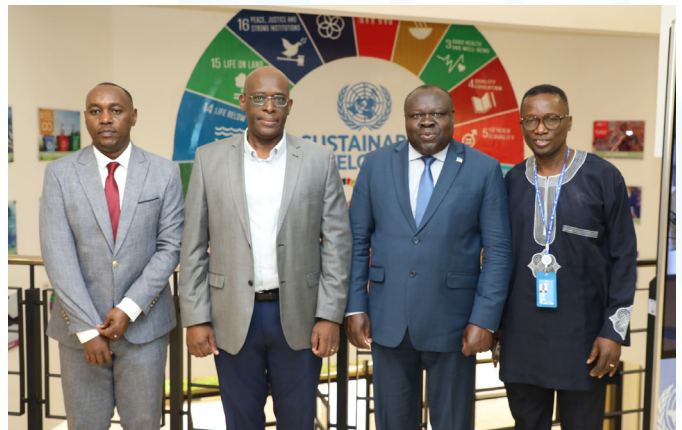


(L-R) Director, UN Information Centre (UNIC), Ronald Kayanja; Rwandan Ambassador to Nigeria H.E. Ambassador Christophe Bazivamo

Ahead of the 7 April Int'l Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the Rwandan Ambassador to Nigeria H.E. Ambassador Christophe Bazivamo, on Wednesday 21 February 2024, engaged with the Director, UN Information Centre (UNIC), Ronald Kayanja and his team on the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the genocide. At the meeting, the Embassy of Rwanda and UNIC committed to joint activities for the commemoration. This will include a symposium, survivors' testimonials, and an outreach to schools involving a live video engagement between secondary school students in Nigeria and their counterparts in Rwanda. 7 April marks the start of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda. Every year, on or around that date, the United Nations organizes commemorative events at its Headquarters and at UN offices around the world.

The United Nations General Assembly adopts resolution A/RES/58/234 designating 7 April as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda and encourages "all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as civil society organizations, to observe the International Day.

cid in Rwanda and encourages "all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as civil society organizations, to observe the International Day.



(L-R) Second Counsellor, Rwanda High Commission, Vianney Rubagumya; Director, UN Information Centre (UNIC), Ronald Kayanja; Rwandan Ambassador to Nigeria H.E. Ambassador Christophe Bazivamo; National Information Officer UN Information Centre (UNIC), Oluseyi Soremekun.

UN, FG commemorates World Radio Day 2024



Mr. Mohammed Idris Malagi, the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, and Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, the Head of UNESCO Abuja Office, and Representative of UNESCO to Nigeria, were featured on the Radio Nigeria breakfast show to commemorate the 2024 World Radio Day and discuss its theme

The year 2024 marks a milestone in the history of radio since its creation at the end of the nineteenth century. For a century, radio has been with us, bringing us together around powerful moments and shared emotions, informing, educating, and entertaining us. This was re-echoed by the theme of the year Radio: A century informing, entertaining, and educating. This theme shines a broad floodlight on radio's remarkable past, relevant present and promise of a dynamic future. Radio is also the medium that reaches places others do not: while almost a third of the population did not have a decent Internet connection in 2023, a proportion that rises to half of the population in rural areas, radio is more inclusive and accessible, particularly in crisis situations.

For the UNESCO Abuja Office, this was a great opportunity to commemorate the 100-year-plus milestone of Radio and celebrate the medium's extensive virtues and ongoing potency, its gains, and challenges

in Nigeria. The Head of UNESCO Abuja Office Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo accompanied the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi to some major radio stations in commemoration of the day.

The radio houses visited include Federal Radio Corporation Nigeria (FRCN), News Agency Nigeria (NAN) and Human Rights Radio. The Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation and the Head of UNESCO Abuja Office were both interviewed on issues ranging from the theme of the year, sustainability of radio in Nigeria and national issues as they affect the citizens of the nation. This was an opportunity for the Minister and UNESCO to assure the radio houses of their support and plans beyond the World Radio Day while also interacting with citizens as comments from the public were entertained. Partners all over the country also joined in the commemoration of the day.



The Brekete Family radio program commemorated the 2024 World Radio Day, featuring the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mr. Mohammed Idris Malagi, and the Head of UNESCO Abuja Office and UNESCO Representative to Nigeria, Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo.



Mr. Mohammed Idris Malagi, the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, alongside Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, the Head of UNESCO Abuja Office and Representative of UNESCO to Nigeria, gathered with staff from NAN, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Information and National Orientation for a group photograph following the radio broadcast, commemorating and discussing the theme of the 2024 World Radio Day.

From displacement to leadership: Meet Hussain, the class monitor



Hussain Mohammed during a TARL class at Shehu Sanda Kura Primary School, Dikwa

Hussain Mohammed, a 15-year-old boy from Dikwa, northeast Nigeria, has overcome incredible challenges to become a class captain in his school. But his ambitions don't stop there. Hussain dreams of becoming an engineer and eventually the Federal Minister of Works, with a mission to repair bad roads in his country.

"I want to become an engineer first and then the Minister of Works. I want to help repair bad roads," says Hussain.

Hussain's journey has been far from easy. Born in Faltawa, a community east of Dikwa, his family was forced to flee due to persistent attacks by armed groups. They sought refuge in Cameroon, where they lived for four years. During that time, Hussain was unable to attend school.

Eventually, the family decided to return to Nigeria, settling in the Shuwari IDP Camp on the outskirts of Dikwa. However, insecurity still plagues Faltawa, leading to an increase in the number of out-of-school children in the town.



Hussain Mohammed reads from a syllable chart

In 2019, Hussain was among those children until a local NGO enrolled him in a non-formal education class called the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP). Two years later, he transferred to the formal learning system at the UNICEF-supported Shehu Sanda Kura Primary School. Through Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) classes, Hussain has learned to read and write, thanks to the small group settings and engaging teaching methods.

"We are always in small groups in TARL class, compared to our regular class, and our teacher makes sure that we all participate. It was after I joined the TaRL class that I started understanding the meaning of words," he says.

Hussain's responsibilities as a class monitor have also contributed to his growth as a learner. He takes pride in ensuring that everyone's uniforms are clean and the classroom is tidy. He even inspects the nails of his classmates and ensures that there is no noise during lessons.

Despite the challenges he has faced, Hussain remains determined to achieve his dreams. He sees education as a pathway to making a difference in his community and country. With his passion for engineering and his desire to repair bad roads, Hussain hopes to one day become the Federal Minister of Works.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the government and funding from the Government of Norway, has been implementing the Self-Inclusive Learning and Skills (SILSA) programme in Dikwa, where in 2023, a UN agency put the number of out-of-school children at 22,000. This programme includes the innovative Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) methodology, a transformative teaching and learning system that enables children to learn in their mother tongue with illustrative materials, and a creative teaching system for retention, which aims to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of children affected by conflict in Northeast Nigeria.

Ending female genital mutilation: The survivor stories from South-East Nigeria



Miss Uzodinma Lucy Ogodo, the Executive Director of Tomorrow is a Girl Initiative, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

"In my clan, they do it in infancy; some others do it in adulthood. My mother was even cut off when she was about to get married. I was cut when I was just five years old, so I didn't know much about it" said now-26-year-old Miss Uzodinma. Lucy Ogodo, the Executive Director of Tomorrow is a Girl Initiative, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

"I am a survivor of female genital mutilation (FGM). In my community, Abakaliki, FGM is a common practice. Young girls and women are brainwashed into accepting it as our culture. I first learned about it when I was in sixth grade. I asked my mother to explain what it was about. I asked whether I was cut since I can't remember how much it hurt, the implications to my health, the psychological effect of knowing that an essential part of me was brutally chopped off, and the other harmful effects," Uzodinma explained.

"Upon further inquiry, my mom said that I was cut out of ignorance; on their own part, she and my father realised it was wrong to have cut me," Uzodinma continued, her expression betraying her self-assured manner. As a result, my other siblings were not cut, "no girl or woman deserves to be cut; it simply destroys our spirit."

"My NGO, Tomorrow is Girl Initiative, was founded in a bid to advocate for an end to FGM practice, and it was in my quest for deeper understanding that I became emotionally invested in the cause. Growing up, I was deeply troubled by the fact that no woman deserves to be cut, knowing the dangers involved," she explained.

Every year, millions of girls and women around the world are at risk of undergoing FGM, with Nigeria contributing to 15% of the total population, globally. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a harmful practice

that specifically alters or damages the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Although the practices that uphold female genital mutilation (FGM) differ from one culture to another, the operation is typically performed between the ages of infancy and adulthood, and it is well-documented that it has health, social, economic, emotional, and sexual complications.

From what I observed, the system-transformative strategy that called for our collaboration with boys men, and women, traditional rulers and priests, was quite effective. Therefore, I propose that we employ that strategy more frequently.

In a similar tone, 51-year-old Mrs. Josephine Ezaka, from Amudo, in the Ezza South local government area of Ebonyi State, said she knew about FGM as a child. "It was my grandmother who took me to where I was cut. It was very painful. After the cutting, they use hot water to wash the cut part. As you can imagine, it's very painful. I was like six years old then. I didn't know the implications of the FGM."

"Since I got married, I realised that I don't have the urge for sex, as other women used to tell me how sweet it is. My husband has even complained to some people." Josephine Said.

Through joint support from UNICEF, UNFPA, and the government, FGM is no longer practiced in Amudo. Josephine acknowledged the significant role played by UNICEF and UNFPA interventions, coupled with high enlightenment facilitated by the involvement of the church and traditional rulers.

Expressing her commitment, Josephine affirmed, "I did not subject any of my children to FGM. We are actively combating the practice, actively seeking those rumored to use Vaseline powder for cutting. The proven dangers of FGM emphasize the urgency of preventing daughters

from undergoing it, as evidenced by numerous cases of women dying during childbirth due to FGM."

"There's a popular story of a woman, though late, who had no opening but a little opening for her to urinate just because of a dangerous vaginal cut in the name of FGM. She died without having a child." Josephine said it sadly.

What more can you do?

FGM is a practice that needs to stop, and those who have experienced it and those from affected communities must lead the charge. Survivors and community members possess unique insights and local wisdom, making their voices crucial in reshaping narratives and finding solutions to eradicate FGM. These are the voices that must be heard. Affirming this approach, Josephine acknowledged the transformative

power of personal narratives within communities. The joint programming of UNICEF/UNFPA and the Government of Nigeria has successfully raised awareness in Ebonyi State, with communities abandoning the age-old FGM tradition. Key to this success is collaborating with youths and survivor-led initiatives to advocate for the well-being of women and children, ensuring a life free from FGM and other harmful practices.



Nigerian museums elevated to the register of cultural property under General Protection of Blue Shield Emblem



Curator National Museum Ibadan with staff under the Blue Shield Emblem

Encomiums poured in from culture stakeholders and enthusiasts on the first of its kind feat achieved by Nigeria in the World Heritage Community. On January 24, 2024, select Nigerian museums come under General Protection of the Blue Shield emblem, a global symbol issued and administered by the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee.

The national museums located in Enugu, Gidan Makama, Kaduna, Calabar, Ibadan, Katsina, Port Harcourt, Owerri, Benin, Jos and the Sukur World Heritage site have come alive with the Blue Shield emblem and now under General protection.

While congratulating Nigeria on this feat, the Head of Office UNESCO Abuja Office, Mr Abdourahmane Diallo noted that these select museums have become the first cultural monuments in Nigeria to come under the general protection of the Blue Shield emblem.

These museums will be followed by other Cultural Property in a collaboration between UNESCO Abuja Office, Technological Support for Aiding Humanity (TechSAH) Initiative, the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy (FMACCE), THE National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), and Blue Shield International Committee.



The Blue Shield emblem protects cultural heritage under the 1954 Hague Convention



Curator National Museum Enugu with staff under the Blue Shield Emblem

UN biogas initiative: Promoting time-saving green energy for rural women in Nigeria



Madam Victoria Alade, one of the beneficiaries of the Biogas pilot phase, standing by the bio slurry container that supplies gas for fire. Photo: UN Women/Unwana Umosen

“Since I started using Biogas, I have saved a lot of money because I no longer buy firewood or charcoal. The cow dung is readily available and much cheaper for me,” says Madam Victoria Alade, a beneficiary of the UN Women Nigeria's Biogas Initiative. Her story reflects the transformative impact this project is having on rural women across Nigeria.

In 2023, UN Women commenced the pilot phase of a nationwide Biogas mega project, aiming to address several pressing issues faced by rural women. One significant problem is the time and effort expended in collecting firewood from distant locations, which does not only contribute to deforestation in Nigeria, but is equally unsafe for women. Traditional cooking methods using firewood or charcoal also create unhealthy indoor environments with soot and harmful particles, impacting the health of women and children and contribute to the pollution of the atmosphere through CO2 emissions.

Recognizing these challenges, UN Women initiated the Biogas project to provide a cleaner, cheaper, and more sustainable way of cooking, saving time and improving the overall well-being of rural women. The project has already made significant strides, with implementation starting in Lafia, Nasarawa State, and remote parts of FCT, Abuja.

The project's objectives align with broader goals of promoting gender equality and women's participation in development. “The biogas makes my cooking faster than firewood and charcoal. With charcoal, I have to wake up early by 4:30 am because it takes a long time before the fire starts. The biogas saves my time and my energy.” said Mrs.

Jummai Yohanna, another beneficiary of the biogas project in Lafia. By reducing the time spent on fuel gathering, the initiative allows women to engage in other activities such as income-generating activities, pursue education or cater for their families more efficiently.

The project aims to improve agricultural production by using biogas slurry as organic fertilizer, thereby enhancing food security, and boosting rural economies. Madam Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Nigeria's Country Representative, on her visit to Lafia to meet with beneficiaries emphasized the economic and agricultural benefits of organic fertilizers, promoting food production and year-round crop growth. She noted that, the transition to biogas will improve women's health by providing clean cooking environments and reduce health hazards associated with traditional cooking methods.

The project will also contribute to poverty reduction by lowering household expenses on fuel and creating opportunities for entrepreneurship through the production and sale of biogas. As the initiative expands, it is guaranteed to transform the lives of more rural women, creating more opportunities for change in communities across Nigeria.

Building resilience for refugee women: The drive towards independence



Cameroonian refugee women produce quality crafts to enhance their self-reliance in the Ikyogen refugee settlement, Benue State. © UNHCR/ Lucy Agiende.

Imagine being compelled to escape your home, abandoning everything familiar and dear to you, in a bid to save your life. This grim scenario is a daily reality for countless refugees and other individuals forced from their homes. For these people, fleeing means leaving behind their means of livelihood and any chance of a normal life, setting off into the unknown, fraught with potential perils and uncertainties, in search of safety and a chance to start anew.

In Nigeria, the plight of refugees is compounded by food security challenges and scarce opportunities for earning a living, driving some towards desperate measures for survival. These include engaging in transactional sex, child labour, and entering into early marriages. Additionally, some are compelled to drop out of school, while others confront mental health and psychological issues.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in collaboration with government agencies and partners, supports refugee women and girls to help them rebuild their lives and achieve self-sufficiency in the face of these challenges. Through vocational training programs, refugees are actively engaged and acquire new tools and skills, which enable them to forge stable and independent futures.

"Before the cooperative was established, most of these women did not know the craft any other way to stand on their own two feet. As such, they relied heavily on humanitarian aid, which was insufficient to meet their food needs," says Irene Donation, UNHCR Associate Community Based Protection Officer, who piloted the cooperative's activities. It all began as a gender-based violence prevention initiative by UNHCR and its partners in 2022, with the training of five refugees in the project's first phase. Subsequently, with support from the European Union Humanitarian Aid, more than 50 individuals comprising refugees and hosts who are mainly survivors of Gender-Based Violence, young girls, ado-

lescents, and older women have undergone training in various phases. "Many women and girls struggle to earn a living in this harsh economy. I like making these crafts because it prevents me from staying idle," says Oveh Onorien, a Cameroonian refugee and one of the group leaders in the Ikyogen refugee settlement, Benue State.

Beautiful crafts ranging from beaded slippers, necklaces, traditional bride beads, purses, handbags, hair bands, bangles, waist beads and earrings to laptop bags and foot mats produced by the group are marketed and displayed in urban cities and nearby communities.

"The business is lucrative, and people from urban areas and the immediate communities buy our products. Proceeds from selling these items help us support our families and prevent our girls from being exploited," added Oveh. Due to high market demands, they plan to diversify into knitting cardigans, sweaters, and shirts for school pupils.

The collaborative effort among the women led to significant positive changes, prompting a need to expand and diversify its activities. This inspired the establishment of a Mothers Club, where members received training to make supplementary food they have dubbed "sweet mama meal". Crafted from locally obtained nutritious grains, this meal has become a powerful tool in combating child undernutrition and bolstering the community's overall well-being.

These women's prospects are endless as they work towards self-reliance. Their story of resilience not only inspires but also emphasises the urgent need for enhanced livelihood opportunities for other refugees striving to make ends meet in an environment with limited economic prospects. "Thanks to this initiative, many have found their path to independence alongside a nurturing space where healing and sharing life stories flourish," concluded Irene.

Climate change: Shun stereotypes and fictions, deal with facts, UN tells Lagos fishing communities



A group photograph of resource persons and some participants.

Fisherwomen and fishermen in Lagos coastal communities of Badagry, Oyingbo, Ikorodu, Makoko and Mosafejo have been urged to shun all forms of stereotypes related to fishing and how they relate with the sea. “Declining fish populations, low catch, rise in sea level and flooding of coastal communities are not acts of god neither are they indication of the gods being angry,” said the Director of the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Nigeria, Ronald Kayanja, while speaking on ‘Approaches to communicating Climate change impact to strengthen resilience of women in coastal communities’, at the Coastal Rural Community Conference organized by Revamp Rave Network (RRN) at Maryland Lagos.

Kayanja, represented by the UNIC National Information Officer, Oluseyi Soremekun, noted that those stereotypes were manifestation of climate change and mostly caused by human actions.

“Climate change is real and already affecting our health, ability to grow food. Changes in rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, a warming ocean, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events are just some of the changes already impacting millions of people.” He explained.

The UNIC Director therefore called on coastal communities to develop their peculiar community-based communication system that would serve as their early warning system. He encouraged them to do social media posts about situations in their communities while also not shying away from radio and television talks to promote climate change activism in coastal areas.

The Founder of Revamp Rave Network, Ms. Abimbola Abikoye, in her welcome remarks, noted that the mission of the conference was to promote vulnerable groups’ inclusion in climate and ocean governance and policymaking while equipping them with relevant knowledge through community engagement to foster active participation in climate related matters and promote ocean conservation for frontline communities.

She explained further that the objectives of the conference were to acquire information about possible communities’ climate change and environmental challenges for the target fishing communities; Acquire an understanding of communities’ proposed solutions to inform policymakers, government councils on climate change and other MDAs; amongst others.

Themed, “Strengthening the Capacity of Coastal Communities in Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for more Ocean Governance,” the conference brought together 300 coastal rural women, men and persons with disabilities from across five largest fishing communities in Lagos.

REVAMP RAVE NETWORK

Happening in Maryland, Lagos

Coastal Rural Community Conference 2024

10 FEB. 2024

Bringing communities! together for a change.

meet the Speakers

Ronald David Kayanja
Director, United Nations Information Centre, Abuja

THEME
Strengthening the Capacity of Coastal Communities in Climate Adaptation and Mitigation for more Ocean Governance

Venue: Immaculate Hall, Maryland Comprehensive, Lagos **Time:** 10 am

SPEAKER

Logos of partner organizations: UNICEF, DCCCE, Lagos State Government, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT, Ministry of the Environment & Water Resources, OSA, ECOP.

New UNDP Resident Representative assumes duty



A new UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria, Ms. Elsie G. Attafuah, has assumed duty.

Prior to this appointment, she served as UNDP Resident Representative for Uganda from 2019-2023 where she led from the front and navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, Ebola outbreak and other development challenges of national and global significance.

Ms. Elsie G. Attafuah is a senior level United Nations executive and results-oriented development practitioner with over 25 years of global experience. She has led multicultural and multidisciplinary teams in Africa, Europe and America, engaging Governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society, private sector and research institutions at the highest levels across countries, particularly in Africa.

Her professional experience spans years of working with UNDP, the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Government Ministries, private sector, and civil society.

Ms. Elsie G. Attafuah holds a Masters Degree in International Affairs from the University of Ghana, a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma in Education from the University of Cape-Coast. She is a certified partnership broker.

Photo News

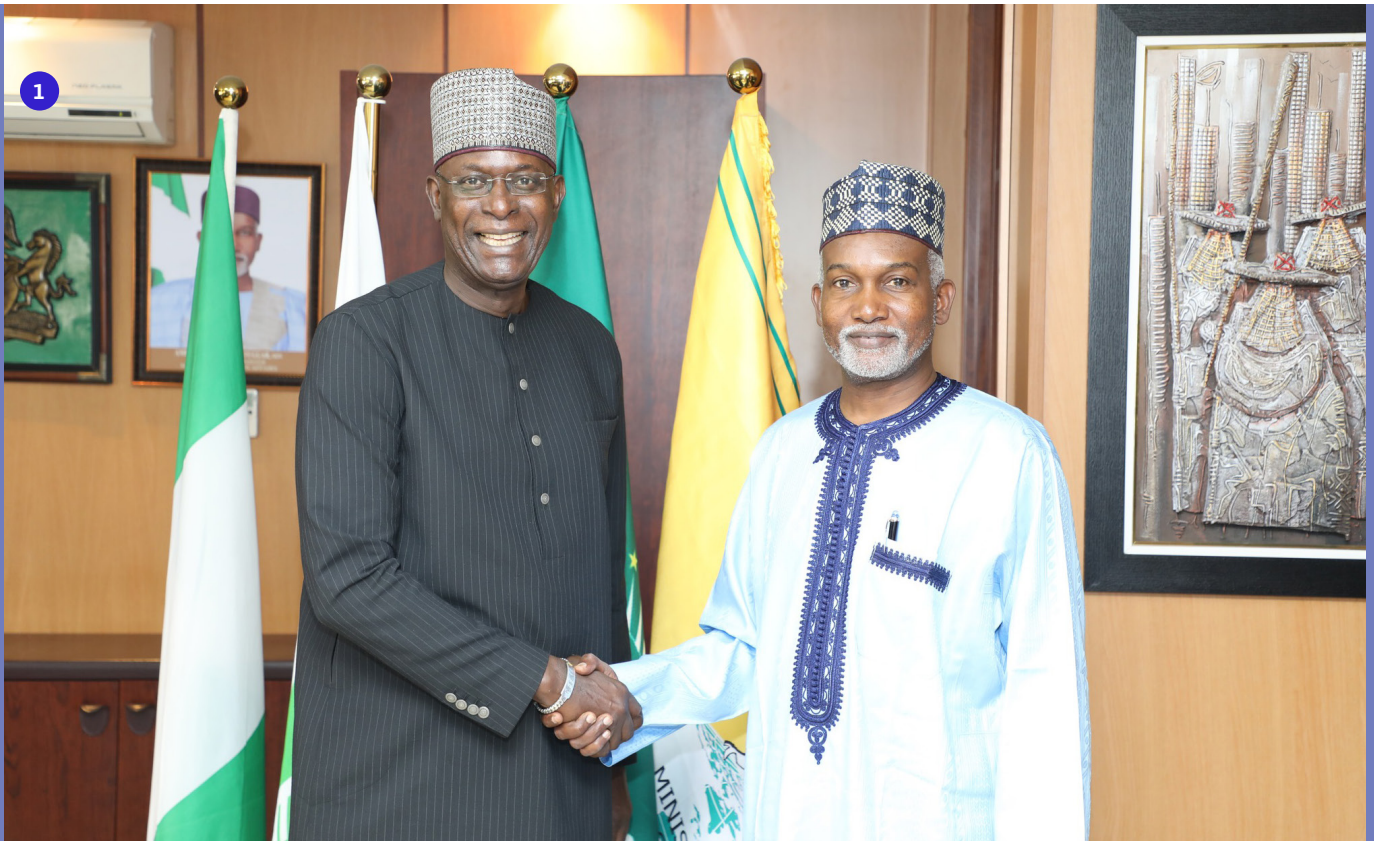


Photo news captions,

1. UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall has met with the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Yusuf Tuggar. They discussed bilateral cooperation towards achieving the development aspirations of Nigeria and the UN's support to Nigeria in achieving the SDGs.
2. Chairperson, Federation of United Nations Staff Association in Nigeria (FUNSAN), Ms Margaret Adaba-Soyemi (Left) and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall at his inaugural meeting with UN staff in Nigeria.
3. UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall with UN Staff in Maiduguri, Borno State.

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-Osuocha (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