



UNITED NATIONS
NIGERIA



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019



Health Security, Emergency Preparedness on the Agenda as WHO DG meets Nigeria's Vice President Osinbajo



Director General of World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus (Left), discusses with Nigeria's Vice President His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo (Right).

Health security and emergency preparedness was on the front burner of discussion as the Director General of World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, met with Nigeria's Vice President His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo in Abuja.

The WHO Director General who was in Nigeria from the 25 to 27 of July 2019, on the invitation of Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Foundation Forum 2019, held bilateral meetings with the Vice President and the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Kallon, on fast-tracking achievement of health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Presenting a paper titled "The role of health care in Economic Transformation: Critical role of quality, affordable and accessible healthcare", Dr Tedros emphasized on Primary Health Care (PHC) as the bedrock for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). "Health is a driver of economic growth and a platform for sustainable development", he said.

Other speakers included Professor Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President of The Federal Republic of Nigeria, Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo; Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda; Macky Sall, President of Senegal; Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda; and Benedict Oramah, President of AFREXIMBANK and Fareed Zakariyya of CNN, among others.

Dr Tedros concluded his trip with meeting with the WHO staff at the UN House, and said "Our staff are our greatest asset-it is great to be on ground at the UN House and heartwarming to be greeted by my colleagues. I thank you for your hard work on various complex issues to promote health and serve the vulnerable in Nigeria."

HIGHLIGHTS

UN Country Team Joins Cross River Government to Plant Trees in Calabar P. 4

"Place Competent Women in more high-level Positions" – Kallon P. 6

UN Pledges Support for ECOWAS Labour Market Governance P.10

UN Decorates Obong of Calabar, Others as SDGs Champions



Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon (Left) decorates the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V.

The United Nations in Nigeria led by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon, has decorated the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence, Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, as a Champion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Speaking in Calabar while decorating His Eminence, Mr Kallon acknowledged the influence of the Obong of Calabar in bringing peace and development to his kingdom. "Your Eminence, your decoration as a Champion of SDGs, is a call to greater service for the people and planet to bring prosperity and peace to the land." He explained...continue on page 2

UN Decorates Obong of Calabar, Others as SDGs Champions...Continued from page 1

...Responding, the Obong of Calabar, thanked the United Nations for the honour bestowed on him. His Eminence disclosed that he had a Council with experts in various fields of human endeavour and they would continue to promote the initiatives that would improve the well-being of his people.

The Resident Coordinator who was in Calabar for the annual retreat of the UN Country Team (UNCT), also decorated the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Prof Ivvara Esu (OFR) and the First Lady of Cross River State, Dr. Linda Ayade.



On behalf of the UN Country Team (UNCT), Country Director a.i. of WFP, Ms. Sarah Longford (Right) decorates the First Lady of Cross River State, Dr. Linda Ayade



UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Edward Kallon (Right) decorates the Deputy Governor of Cross River State, Prof Ivvara Esu (OFR), as SDGs Champion.

Mr Kallon enjoined them to champion and support all efforts geared towards the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

In his response, the Deputy Governor disclosed that the State Government was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and would do everything possible to ensure its success.

UN Country Team Holds Retreat in Calabar, Restates Continued Support to Nigeria

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on 11-12 July 2019, held its annual retreat in Calabar Cross River State capital. The retreat, presided over by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon, was declared open by the State Deputy Governor, Prof Ivvara Esu, and attended by eighteen Heads of UN Agencies in the Nigeria as well as other UN technical staff.

In his opening remarks, Mr Kallon restated the commitment of the United Nations to supporting the government and people of Nigeria in addressing national priorities, aspiration and roadmap.

He acknowledged that Nigeria has improved its engagement with UN human rights mechanisms welcoming five special rapporteurs since 2016 and expecting another two later this year. "Efforts in addressing gaps in the realization of human rights is central to enhancing Nigeria's performance in SDG implementation considering the linkages between the SDGs and human



Cross River State Deputy Governor, Prof Ivvara Esu addresses the UNCT members at its Annual Retreat in Calabar

rights." He added.

Welcoming the Heads of UN Agencies to Calabar, the Deputy Governor thanked the United Nations for selecting Cross River



Members of the UNCT and Cross River State Deputy Governor, Prof Ivvara Esu (5th from the right)

State for the retreat and expressed hope that the State would be the first open-defecation-free State in Nigeria. Achieving this aspiration, he noted, would require the support of the UN.



Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon, addresses the UNCT at its Annual Retreat in Calabar

Empowering Students to become Change Agents against Antimicrobial Resistance in Nigeria



Ambassadors demonstrating handwashing

With financial support of Global Affairs Canada, and in partnership with the Dr Ameyo Stella Adadevoh Health Trust (DRASA), the World Health Organization (WHO) is empowering students to become effective agents on antimicrobial resistance and health hygiene.

“I didn’t know that antibiotics are for bacteria. If I am sick, we usually do self-medication. My mummy gives us drugs. We just go to the chemist and buy drugs. But you taught us more about antibiotics and that it is not for all diseases or sickness. Now I know that if we’re using antibiotics for the wrong disease we are endangering ourselves,” said Naomi from Lagos Progressive Senior High school in Lagos State.

Naomi Adenira is one of the 320 students’ ambassadors trained by DRASA with the support of WHO and Canada to become drivers of good health, hygiene and antibiotic practices. Relying on a network of Health and Hygiene Clubs in 10 schools across Lagos State, this training aims at empowering young people in playing a major role against the rising threat of antimicrobial resistance and the promotion of good hygiene.

Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of a microbe to become resistant to drugs that once were successful in treating the infection they cause. It is today one of the major health concerns worldwide. While resistance occurs naturally over time, the misuse and overuse of those drugs is accelerating it. This is of con-

cern in Nigeria where drugs are needed to treat communicable diseases that still represent the major causes of morbidity and mortality. While 150,000 children under 5 die every year in Nigeria due to diarrhoea, the misuse and abuse of antibiotics have led strains of bacteria that cause diarrhoea to become more resistant to the drugs available.

Educating people to better use those drugs and adhere to good hygiene practices is crucial to prevent the spread of such diseases and ensuring that drugs remain effective to treat patients.

“Encouraging people to change their behaviours however require an approach to communication, education and awareness that goes beyond just educating or giving information. It is about engaging and empowering populations as well as changing perceptions to inspire new or different behaviours. School children play a critical role in changing these behaviours” said Niniola Soleye from DRASA.

To better educate school children on good health and hygiene practices and reduce antimicrobial resistance, DRASA established in September 2018 Health and Hygiene Clubs in eight public government secondary schools and two private secondary schools in Lagos State. Through these clubs, 320 Ambassadors were trained on handwashing and personal hygiene practices, knowledge of antibiotics, proper use of and disposal of antibiotics and proper food safety.

Evaluation conducted after the completion of their training showed important improvement in the Ambassadors’ knowledge of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance. At the beginning of the programme, only 34.1% of the Ambassadors were aware that antibiotics only kill bacteria and not viruses. By the end of the training, this increased to 80% of the Ambassadors. Similar progress were noted regarding the need to fully complete treatments even if feeling better (from 39% to 74%), the need to get tested before taking malaria drugs (from 67% to 89%) and in handwashing behaviour (from 56% of Ambassadors always using soap to wash hands to 72%).

As their understanding improved, those Ambassadors effectively contributed in sharing their new knowledge with family members and communities. “Those results are very promising” said Dr Peter Clement, Officer in Charge for WHO Nigeria.

Statement Attributable to the Spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Nigeria

The Secretary-General strongly condemns the recent spate of attacks against civilians in Nigeria, including the attack on 27 July in Borno State.

The Secretary-General expresses his deep condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of Nigeria. He wishes a speedy recovery to the injured. He hopes those responsible for these attacks will be swiftly brought to justice.

The Secretary-General calls for an end to these attacks and reaffirms that such acts of violence are grave threats to the security of human beings and constitute violations of international humanitarian law.

The Secretary-General reiterates the solidarity of the United Nations with the Government and people of Nigeria in their efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

UN Country Team Joins Cross River Government to Plant Trees in Calabar



Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the UN in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon, plants a tree on 13 July 2019, in Calabar

In contributing to the mitigation of climate change impact in Nigeria, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), on Saturday, 13 July 2019, joined the Cross River State government to plant trees in Calabar, the State capital. Led by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the UN in Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon, and the wife of the State Governor, Dr Mrs Linda Ayade, the tree planting exercise witnessed planting of scores of trees.

Speaking, Mr Kallon noted that the tree planting exercise was symbolic of the need for individual action to mitigate the impact of climate change. He explained that “The United Nations sees climate change as a “race for our future”, and that we can collectively win the race—by reducing emissions and pollution, while emphasis must be on the positive steps in this long-term effort that can be taken at all levels – whether by state actors, industry sectors, civil society or individuals.”

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator commended the Cross River State government for its commitment to SDG-13: Climate action.



Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Mr Ronald Kayanja, plants a tree, he named, ‘Hope’ on 13 July 2019 in Calabar

UNIDO Representative to ECOWAS and Regional Director, Nigeria Regional Office Hub, Mr Jean Bakole, prepares to plant a tree



The Country Representative of UNODC in Nigeria, Mr Oliver Stolpe, prepares to plant a tree on 13 July 2019 in Calabar

Director ILO Country Office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr Denis Zulu, prepares to plant a tree on 13 July 2019 in Calabar



UNDP Resident Representative to Nigeria, Mr Mohammed Yahaya plants a tree on 13 July 2019 in Calabar

UN Launches Spotlight Initiative in Calabar, Seeks End to all Harmful Practices against Women & Girls

The first of the three sub-national launches planned for the Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls in Nigeria, was on Friday 12 July 2019, held in Calabar, Cross River State. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in his remarks, called for an end to all harmful practices (Female Genital Mutilation-FGM, Child marriage, among others) against women and girls.

The initiative, a partnership of European Union in Nigeria and United Nations Nigeria, was jointly launched by the Deputy Gov-



A group photograph of the Spotlight launch held at the Government House Calabar, Cross River State.



R-L: UN Women Country Representative, Comfort Lamptey giving closing remarks; The Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Jens-Peter Kjemprud (Middle); and a Representative from the Norwegian Embassy.

ernor of Cross River State, Prof Ivara Esu (OFR) and Mr Kallon, with the support of Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Ifeoma Anagbogu; Director, International Cooperation, Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning and members of the UN Country Team (UNCT).

Community Volunteers: The Bedrock of Nutrition Programmes in Borno

As she steps out of her door, Hadiza smiles, remembering that she does not need to go into her neighbour's compound to check how her children are doing. Three of them were malnourished and have now recovered after accessing treatment. Hadiza Ibrahim is a UNICEF-supported community nutrition mobiliser (CNM) in Mafa Local Government Area, Borno State, whose role is to conduct routine nutrition screening, referral and follow up of severe acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months in her community.

"Inakwana," she greets her neighbour and proceeds to visit other families in need of her support.

Despite popular belief in the community, Hadiza is not a medical doctor. She is one of the 732 CNMs trained by UNICEF, with support from the Italian Government, in the prevention of nutrition-related deaths in their respective communities across Borno and Yobe states.

Her interest to become a CNM was triggered by her neighbour, whose three children were malnourished.

"That was my motivation to become a volunteer. Within a few weeks, I was able to counsel the family to enrol for treatment. Their main problem was the unhygienic environment they lived in. The training UNICEF gave me opened my eyes on how our everyday practices could hurt our health," she says.

Every day, Hadiza visits 50 households, looking out for signs of wasting and malnutrition in children aged between 6 and 59 months. Those who are malnourished are provided with ready-to-use therapeutic food, popularly known as "RUTF."

She also provides life-saving information to mothers on food and general hygiene, exclusive breastfeeding, child-care and optimal infant and young child feeding practices.

Between 2018 and 2019, Hadiza says on an average, she saw at least 30 malnourished children every month. She referred over 300 children to treatment sites where they could access nutrition support and treatment. She also established two peer support groups for caregivers such as pregnant women and nursing mothers.

According to Hadiza, the UNICEF interventions have helped to avert infant and child mortality in her community.

"We would have lost many children to malnutrition. I saw a lot of children in very bad condition in my community - children who obviously needed support. It would have been fatal if those children were not detected and supported on time," she says.

Through this Government-supported programme, UNICEF and partners admitted 12,297 children with severe acute malnutrition to treatment sites with a high cure rate. The programme, which lasted for two years also resulted in 58,497 caregivers being trained in effective infant and young child feeding (IYCF) while a total of 54,643 children between aged 6-23 months received multiple micronutrient powder (MNP) to boost their diet.

In Borno and Yobe States, UNICEF supports the State Primary Health Care Development Agencies to accelerate the reduction of child mortality and improvement of maternal health and nutrition. This is done through improved access to essential and quality maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition services.



With support from the Italian Government, nutrition community volunteers go door-to-door to ensure mothers practice exclusive breastfeeding, and also teach them about good infant and young child feeding practices. UNICEF Nigeria/2019/Owoicho

“Place Competent Women in more high-level Positions” – Kallon



The AWLN Nigeria Chapter Steering Committee presenting the “CALL TO ACTION” during the Official Launch of the AWLN Nigeria Chapter on 01 July 2019. Photo: UN Women

Mr. Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator, has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to consider more women in his next cabinet because the progress on women’s participation and leadership in politics and peace processes is still lagging in Nigeria. He made this call at the official launch of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Nigeria Chapter, on 01 July 2019. In his words, “I know that at the political heartbeat of politics, there are lots of hustling going on, but I want to call on President Muhammadu Buhari that in his solitary decision of the next cabinet to consider placing competent women in high level positions. Women deserve the chance to start building better future for their children and they have the right to participate in governance and to lead governance.”

Speaking also at the AWLN Nigeria Chapter launch was H. E. Bernhard Schlagheck, Ambassador of Germany to Nigeria; Dr. Tunji John Asaolu, Country Representative, African Union; H. E. Princess Adejoke O. Adefulire, Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDG; and UN Women Country Representative - Ms. Comfort Lamptey who emphasised that AWLN unites women’s networks in all their diversity around a common purpose of advancing gender equality in Nigeria. In her words, “This unity of purpose will in turn make the women’s movement stronger and better able to withstand the push-back that is threatening to unravel many of the gains that have been made in recent decades”.

Messages from Mme. Bineta Diop AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace & Security and H. E. (Dr.) Aisha Muhammadu Buhari, First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria were relayed through their representatives, Madame Thelma Awori and Dr. Sajo Hani, respectively and video messages from the UN Deputy Secretary-General - H. E. Dr. Amina Mohammed and the Executive Director, of UN Women - Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka were also played.

The launch of the AWLN Nigeria Chapter provided occasion for the Steering Committee to present a Call to Action to H.E. Dr Sajo Hani, Senior Special Assistant on Administration to the First Lady of Nigeria, who received it on behalf of H.E. Aisha Buhari, First Lady of Nigeria. The Call to Action acknowledges the challenges that women in Nigeria are facing; endorses the creation of the AWLN Nigeria Chapter and its priority areas; recalls the national, regional and global gender equality commitments that have been made by the Nigerian government and requests the government to honour these commitments.

The AWLN Nigeria Chapter seeks to enhance the leadership of women in the transformation of Nigeria with a focus on governance, peace, security and inter-generational dialogue. Over 200 women and young women leaders in politics, the diplomatic corps, academia, research, civil society, civil service, the private sector, women living in the rural areas, and the media participated in the launch. The network is an initiative supported by UN Women, the African Union and, the Federal Republic of Germany. In Nigeria, the network has also received support from the Office of the Senior Special Advisor to the President on the SDGs.

In the first year of its operations, the AWLN Nigeria chapter will focus on three of five priority areas of work of the network, namely: contributing to the advancement of the women peace and security agenda; supporting women’s participation in politics and decision-making; and supporting mentorship of young women and inter-generational dialogue. In addition, the AWLN Nigeria chapter will invest in strengthening the functioning of the Secretariat to support the work of the network and will also work with the Federal Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Social Development to update a comprehensive database of existing women’s networks in Nigeria.



L-R: Country Representative, African Union, Dr. Tunji John Asaolu; AWLN Steering Committee member, Dr. Thelma Awori; Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, Madam Finda Koroma; Ambassador of Germany H. E. Bernhard Schlagheck; Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Jens-Petter Kjemprud; Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator of the United Nations Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon; UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and Ecowas, Ms. Comfort Lamptey. Photo: UN Women.

Generation Equality: UN Partners Norwegian Embassy to mark Beijing +25



R-L: UN Women Country Representative, Comfort Lamptey giving closing remarks; The Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Jens-Peter Kjemprud; and Ms Ingrid Skjølaas, the Norwegian Deputy Ambassador to Nigeria.

UN Women, in partnership with the Norwegian Embassy, organized the Beijing +25 Young Women's Intergenerational Dialogue & Dinner to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). In line with the recently launched multigenerational campaign, "Generation Equity: Realizing women's rights for an equal future", the gathering brings together 25 young women (between 20-30 years) across various sectors in Nigeria and 25 women's rights advocates who were instrumental in setting the stage for the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and advancing the inclusion of women.

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, was one of the largest-ever gatherings of the United Nations, and a critical turning point in the world's focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women. With the 64th session of the UN CSW coming up in 2020, governments are reminded of their commitments to conduct comprehensive national-level reviews

of the progress made and challenges encountered in implementation of the BPfA. More importantly, to carry the young women along in the planning and implementation of a stronger network for advancing women's rights.

"With the inter-generational dialogue organized today, Nigeria takes a step forwards building on the commitments that was led by a global movement of women in 1995. UN Women is supporting the beginning of this journey, walking along the women of different generations towards the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform. A journey that will put Nigeria at the top of efforts going on globally to mobilize an inter-generational approach to advance the rights of women everywhere in the decades to come.", stated Comfort Lamptey, the UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, prior to the opening of the session.

The welcome address was given by a representative of the Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Jens-Peter Kjemprud, who stated "The Embassy of Norway is very excited to host powerful women here today. In Nigeria progress has been slow and uneven but at the top of our priority is closing the gender gap is a priority. The reason why Norway has such a strong economy is because we have women participation in the workforce.

The dialogue session provided a platform for the young women to address the 12 critical areas of concern as outlined in the BPfA, reflect on the achievements so far and the work that still lies ahead. During the interactive session, the young participants had the opportunity to ask 25 questions under topics such as S/GBV, women peace and security, politics and climate change. The activists shared their experiences at the time of Beijing conference in 1995, some of whom gave a detailed account of the excitement during that time, the vision they had for women back home in Nigeria. They also advised the younger women to work together and continue to push for gender equality and reforms through social media and not be afraid to speak up on issues, including S/GBV.

Nigeria Intensifies Cross-border Immunization, with Focus on Nomadic Populations

In renewed efforts to vaccinate children traversing in and out of Nigeria, the World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the government in an initiative to improve supplemental and routine immunization activities in the North Western region, which has a significant nomadic population.

Nomadic pastoralists live beyond the reach of established health care programs that are designed to serve sedentary populations. As a result, these groups are often under-immunized and out of the reach of existing disease surveillance activities.

Speaking on the intervention, Mallam Gwanda Mairakuma of Maiadua local government in Niger Republic said that, "with this intensified commitment, vaccination activities have reduced the number of complications associated with Measles infection on our children".

Tracking nomadic populations

Difficulties have been experienced in the past in tracking and reaching nomadic populations with services such as sensitization on early disease reporting, immunization activities and access to general healthcare services due largely to the nature of their movement, which often involves settling in hard-to-reach transit camps.

In collaboration with Katsina State government, WHO has intensified efforts to reach nomadic communities across the state with immunization services, sensitization on prompt disease reporting and on the need to access health care services. The nomadic settlements span across 14 Local Government Areas (LGAs), wards and settlements passing through international borders with Niger republic.

These communities are among the most marginalized, hard to reach and nomadic in nature who migrate across LGAs, States

and international borders due to their transitory movement and settlement in camps and hamlets. The State conducts series of activities to enhance immunity and interrupt transmission of Polio and other priority diseases along transit exit points and settlements with nomadic routes through immunization.

"WHO Nigeria supported a 10km strip vaccination along Nigeria-Niger border, using mOPV2 in October 2018 which was conducted along with vaccination at border cross points in March through April 2019," says Dr Audu Sunday, WHO Jigawa State Coordinator.

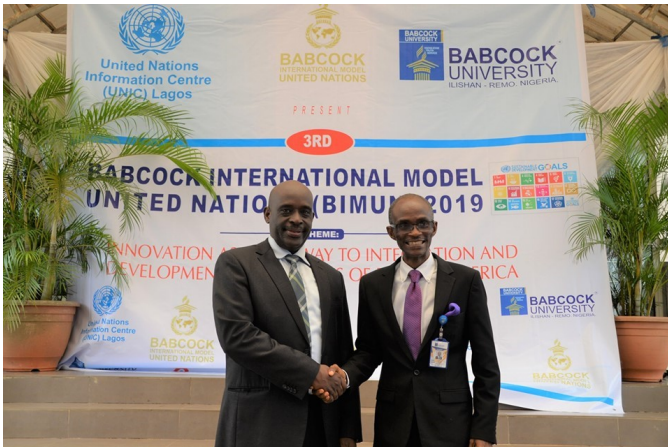
"WHO has also supported Jigawa state to establish in-between round vaccination teams providing routine immunization, polio vaccination and Measles vaccines along the border cross points as well as the Maigatari international market.

In Katsina state, 1,645 eligible nomadic children were reached during nomadic vaccinations in Ingawa and Maiadua LGAs between April and June 2019 from the conduct of Outbreak Response (OBR) and in between rounds, respectively.



WHO-supported immunisation services to nomadic populations in border communities of Katsina and Jigawa States.

Babcock Int'l Model UN (BIMUN) Opens with Over 400 Delegates from 20 Countries



President/ Vice Chancellor of Babcock University, Prof Ademola Tayo (Right), welcomes Director of UNIC Nigeria, Ronald Kayanja to Babcock University, Ilishan, Ogun State

Tayo, urged the delegates not to allow anyone to despise their youths. "Be agents of positive change." He added.



A group photograph of conference speakers and officials at BIMUN 2019 held on 9 July

Over 400 delegates, observers and volunteers from 20 countries gathered as the 3rd session of Babcock International Model United Nations (BIMUN) conference organised by Babcock University in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre - UNIC, Lagos Nigeria, opened its plenary on Tuesday, 9 July 2019.

The Director of UNIC Nigeria, Ronald Kayanja in his remarks, urged delegates to draw inspiration from the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon who participated in Model UN conferences in his school days and later became a top diplomat. Explaining the importance of multilateralism to building peace around the world, he noted that no one country could solve the problem of the world alone. Welcoming the participants, the President/ Vice Chancellor of Babcock University, Prof Ademola

Director General of NACCIMA, Ambassador Ayo Olukanni, who was the Keynote Speaker, underscored the importance of universal periodic review of human rights, noting that there is no human rights paradise anywhere in the world.



A cross-section of delegates at the BIMUN 2019 at Babcock University, Ilishan Ogun State.

UN, Partners Observe Youth Skills Day, Urge Girls to Acquire Skills



The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria, in collaboration with Yes I Believe Academy (YIBA) and Strategy for Mentoring Initiative and Leadership Empowerment (SMILE), joined the rest of the world to observe the World Youth Day on 13 and 15 July 2019.

In his remarks at the event organised with YIBA and held at UNIC premises, the Director of UNIC, Mr. Ronald Kayanja, underscored the importance of skills acquisition for young girls.

Represented by the National Information Officer, Mr. Oluseyi Soremekun, the Director urged the participants who were mainly girls, to be innovative and be a creator. "Don't let the society determine what you will become in life, because you are a girl. No profession is an exclusive preserve for boys or men'. He said.

At the event organised with SMILE and which held at Immacu

late Comprehensive High School, Maryland Lagos, Mr Kayanja, represented by UNIC Knowledge Management Assistant, Ms Bolanle Olumekor, emphasised that "Youths must equip themselves with skills for self employment using technology and innovation to address global issues and to prepare for the occupation of tomorrow".

Mrs Chinyere Tony Eke , founder of The Blatz Train and Mrs Omolara Yeku of Solution Pro addressed the youths respectively on 'Youth Enterprise Development' and 'The Future of Work: Importance of Skill Development' highlighted the benefits of being skilled which include financial autonomy and poverty eradication. Ms. Adeola Olaley, an auto mechanic at Pejahon Global Services Nigeria Limited, Ms. Dami Solesi of Smids Animation Studios, Ms. Abby Osoba of The Agile Advisor, Ms. Dolapo Asifat a furniture maker at Dollywhales Enterprise, Ms.Sikuola Adewuyi, a Chartered Accountant turned cake maker at cake-n-candy, Ms. Tewa Onasanya a pharmacist turned publisher and a master of ceremony at The Agile Advisor, all shared their experiences.



UN Launches Sustainable Livestock Report for Nigeria



L-R: Dr. Maimuna Habib, Director Project Coordination Unit (FMARD); the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment; the Permanent secretary FMARD, Dr. Mohammed Bello; and Suffyan Koroma the FAO Representative in Nigeria jointly Present the Report in Abuja.

The United Nations has launched the report to guide a long-term vision for the livestock sector in Nigeria. It seeks a one health approach to utilize opportunities and mitigate the challenges to livelihood, environment and public health, which are projected to constrain the sector in the next 30 years.

The report titled “The future of livestock in Nigeria: Opportunities and challenges in the face of uncertainty” is facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) under the project Africa Sustainable Livestock (ASL) 2050, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in six (6) African states: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda.

Launched 25th June 2019, by the Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) Dr. Mohammed Bello, the report seeks to safeguard Nigeria’s livestock future through securing the livelihoods of livestock value chain stakeholders; the Policy and Planning for the government to regularly design and implement effective livestock-related Public Private Partnerships (PPP) policies for the next three (3) decades.

The FAO Country Representative in Nigeria Suffyan Koroma said, stakeholders should always look to the future while designing policies and investments as the country is rapidly changing. “Evidences indicate that population growth, urbanization, industrialization and rising incomes have already triggered growing demand for animal source foods in the country further causing major changes in livestock systems and value chains”.

The report brings to the fore what actions can be taken today to ensure the sustainable development of the sector in the face of the expected rise in population, urbanization and other factors combined, Koroma stated.

Before launching the report, Dr. Bello said the initiative is an eye-opener for the country to tap into the available opportunities and also take “preventive measures to mitigate known or unforeseen risks and adapt to changes which are also necessary to achieve the UN Agenda 2030”. Knowing that the report take into account constraints and expectations by stakeholders and consider both the positive impact of livestock development of society and its potential negative effects on the environment and public health.

After two years of successful implementation in Nigeria, the project under the guidance of a steering committee composed of representatives from the ministries (FMARD, Health and Environment), the academia and other stakeholders, produced a number of qualitative and quantitative informative policy briefs on the future of Nigeria’s livestock.

Introduction of Hermetic Storage Reduces Food Loss in Yobe



A staff of WFP and some beneficiaries of hermetic storage training in Yobe

Training carried out by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Yobe State, North East Nigeria, has improved methods of food storage after the harvest season.

WFP, in collaboration with the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), trained 300 farmers on post-harvest best practices – using hermetic storage technology.

Hermetic storage bags are airtight and waterproof, allowing farmers to store and save grains from infestations or destruction by insects, rodents, mold and moisture, thus preserving them for long periods of time.

A bag-opening ceremony on 10 July 2019 in Gashua, Yobe State, marked the highpoint of the training which aimed to reduce the losses suffered by farmers due to improper food storage.

According to figures by the Nigerian Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL), Nigeria loses some US\$9 billion every year due to poor post-harvest management. More than 30 percent of staple food grains (maize, sorghum, millet) are lost due to poor storage, while 60 percent of vegetables perish.

After the training, each of the farmers received eight (8) specially made airtight 50 kg bags to store their grains for six months until the prices of grains rose in the market. The farmers stored cowpeas in the new airtight bags, while others stored theirs in the traditional ways.

“When the bags were opened in Gashua, the results were astonishing,” says Ms. Eden Guizaw, the WFP officer leading the Post-Harvest Loss Management Programme. “90 percent of the grains stored in the traditional way were lost, while 100 percent of those stored in the hermetic (airtight) bags were intact. It was amazing; indeed, beyond my imagination”.

One of the farmers, Hajia Taannabi, recorded a huge profit in her sales by using the hermetic storage bags to preserve her grains.

“I stored my grain with the hermetic bags, without losing any to infestation or rodents. I sold each mudu (measure for grains) for N400 and gained N300 on each mudu and was able to feed my family and pay my children’s school fees”, Hajia Taanabi said.

Building on the success of the pilot project, WFP will train more farmers nationwide in the use of the hermetic storage technology in the next phase of the programme – depending on the availability of funds. “Investments in this type of training and technology are critical to making progress in reducing food insecurity over time” says Sarah Longford, Acting Country Director for WFP Nigeria. WFP is also encouraging local businesses by supporting the production in Nigeria of the hermetic storage bags by some Nigerian private enterprises.

UN Pledges Support for ECOWAS Labour Market Governance

In order to strengthen dialogue, coordination and collaboration among Member States in the Labour and Employment fields within the region, the ECOWAS Commission organised a 3-day General Assembly of the ECOWAS Tripartite Social Dialogue Forum in Abuja.



A group photograph of dignitaries at the 3-day General Assembly of the ECOWAS Tripartite Social Dialogue Forum in Abuja.

The Assistant Director-General and Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Africa, Mrs. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, has called on stakeholders in ECOWAS region to institute proper labour market governance in order to promote the decent work agenda. She made this statement at the opening ceremony of the 2019 ECOWAS Social Dialogue Forum. In her address, she expressed her delight with the partnership that existed with ECOWAS Secretariat saying that with such a collaboration, some policies that address the issues of decent work in the region have been developed, adopted and were being implemented.

Mrs. Samuel-Olonjuwon also added that the Free Continental Trade Zone for Africa which needed a strategic response could be facilitated with the ECOWAS investing in the institutions of social protection, migration and social dialogue in the region. She therefore assured the meeting of ILO's continuous support to the Forum and urged the General Assembly to use the Forum as a medium to foster industrial peace.

The 2019 Social Dialogue Forum which had as its theme "Strengthening Social Dialogue for the Promotion of Decent Work in the ECOWAS Region" brought together tripartite partners (government, employers and workers organisations) from ECOWAS region to deliberate on labour issues affecting the region as well as review and validate some essential ECOWAS Policy documents on labour and social affairs.

Identifying the key work deficits in the region, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender, Dr. Siga Fatima Jagne represented by Dr. Sintiki Ogbe, in her opening remark, identified the need to provide more effective measures to address the issues of gender inequality, low per capita income and poor infrastructure facing youth and women in West Africa. Dr. Jagne further urged the meeting to contribute actively in the discourse by proffering solutions to the multifaceted problems facing the region. She also wanted the forum to provide effective guidance for an effective implementation of policies.

In his contribution, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Mr. William Nwankwo Alo, speaking on behalf of the Honourable Minister, recommended to the ECOWAS Member States to incorporate Social Dialogue, which was one of the 4 pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. On the issue of minimum wage, Mr Alo stated that without any doubt, social dialogue and collective bargaining were veritable tools in addressing inequality and ensuring fair wage distribution within the ECOWAS region.

Goodwill messages were given by representatives of the Organisation of Trade Unions in West Africa (OTUWA) and the Federation of the Employers of West Africa (FOPAO).

The 3-day (16 – 18 July 2019) forum was organised by Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with technical and financial support from the International Labour Organization (ILO). Over 70 participants including representatives from the 15 ECOWAS Member States were in attendance. These participants were also drawn from Government institutions, Ministries, Trade Unions, Employer groups, ECOWAS Parliament, ECOWAS Commission and the Media.



A group photograph of some of the participants.

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right and top to bottom:

1. Cross River State Deputy Governor, Professor Ivora Esu, signs the UN Delivery as One/ Spotlight Initiative Annual Work Plan for Cross River State on 12 July 2019, in Calabar
2. United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon signs the UN Delivery as One/ Spotlight Initiative Annual Work Plan for Cross River State on 12 July 2019, in Calabar
3. Cross River State Deputy Governor, Professor Ivora Esu (Left) and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon exchange pleasantries after signing the UN Delivery as One/ Spotlight Initiative Annual Work Plan for Cross River State on 12 July 2019, in Calabar
4. Members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and a representative of the Nigeria Police (2nd right) at the signing of the UN Delivery as One/ Spotlight Initiative Annual Work Plan for Cross River State on 12 July 2019, in Calabar



Editor: Oluseyi Soremekun (UNIC)

Editorial Team: UNCG members— Ronald Kayanja (Chairman) - UNIC; Charity Warigon (WHO); Eliana Drakopoulos, Geoffrey Njoku & Oluwatosin Akingbulu (UNICEF); Rupa Bhadra (UNAIDS); Lucky Musonda & Rejoice Emmanuel (UNDP); Vanessa Curney & Kori Habib (UNFPA); Pius Udo & Wura Ladipo-Ajayi (ILO); Husam Eldin Suliman, Gabriel Adeyemo (UNHCR); Amala Ibeneme; Maimuna Aboki (UN Women); Jorge Galindo & Ikechukwu Attah (IOM); David Tsokar (FAO); Olushola Macaulay (UNESCO); Sylvester Atere (UNODC); Chukwuemeka Ezekiel, Michaela Moye and Ivy Clem (UNIDO), Eve Sabbagh, Leni Kinzli & Abiodun Banire (UNOCHA); Chi Lael, Kelechi Onyemaobi and Adedeji Ademigbuji (WFP); Katrien Nollen (UNMAS).

Advisory: United Nations Country Team (UNCT)

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