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NEWSLETTER



16 Days of Activism Campaign Sparks New Level of Awareness of Gender-Based Violence



2nd Right: UN Women Representative to Nigeria and Ecowas, Ms Comfort Lamptey, wife of the Vice President, Her Excellency, Mrs Dolapo Osinbajo, the first Lady of Lagos State, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, on 5th December 2019 at EU-UN joint Spotlight Initiative: Survivor Summit to end sexual harassment in Tertiary Institutions, in Lagos

“United Nations will continue to provide support that will ensure that damaging impact of sexual exploitation and abuse especially in tertiary institutions in Nigeria is mitigated.”

The UN Women Representative to Nigeria and Ecowas, Ms Comfort Lamptey stated this in Lagos at EU-UN joint Spotlight Initiative: Survivor summit to end sexual harassment in Tertiary Institutions.

Ms Comfort Lamptey stated that 16 days of activism and survivor summit to end sexual harassment in tertiary Institutions, had provided a sense of hope, describing ‘sex for grade’ menace as unacceptable.

In her submission, the wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo who doubled as the Executive Director, Women’s Helping Hand Initiative, noted that the Government of Nigeria would continue to partner with United Nations through various interventions and initiatives especially the Spotlight Initiative to end all forms of Gender Based Violence. She said, ‘deepening of collaborative activities becomes imperative in view of the damages done to female gender, through abuses and violence’; and therefore called to secure and protect the rights and dignity of girls and women from all forms of violence.

The event which also called for action on prevention, policy, legislation and implementation of laws that will make tertiary institution safe for learning, had in attendance the first Lady of Lagos State, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and a number of sexual abuse survivors.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

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Gender-based Violence have huge Losses - DSG Amina Muhammed



2nd left The Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline Tallen; UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Muhammed and UN Women Representative to Nigeria and Ecowas, Ms Comfort Lamptey

The UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed has stated that “rape and other forms of gender-based violence have huge economic, social and political losses to individuals, households and nation states and continue to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development and peace.”

She was speaking at a joint press briefing on the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign tagged Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape and held on 25 November 2019 in Abuja. At the press briefing were Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline K. Tallen, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Women’s Affairs, Sen. Betty Apiafi and the UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Comfort Lamptey.

Candlelight Memorial for Victims of Violence against Women and Girls



The Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline Tallen lighting a candle during the memorial

The first day of the observance of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence in Abuja was symbolic as dignitaries and stakeholders from the civil society, government and the private sector gathered for a candlelight memorial to honour the victims of rape and other forms of gender-based violence.

Attended by over 1,000 women and girls at the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) in Abuja, the memori-

al was flagged off by the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Her Excellency, Aisha Muhammadu Buhari, represented by Dr. Hajo Sani, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Administration (Office of the First Lady). In her remarks, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen spoke on the significance of lighting candles as a way to dispel the darkness of violence against women and girls.

UN House Lights up in Orange as Commitment to Ending GBV



Left: UN House, Abuja lit in orange during the 16 Days of Activism . Right: The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Edward Kallon, Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline K. Tallen and UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Comfort Lamptey and officials of the Nigerian Police Force during the 16 Days Lighting Up ceremony at Police HQ

The UN House in Abuja was officially lit up in bright orange on December 2 2019, to signify the United Nations' commitment to putting an end to sexual and gender-based violence in Nigeria. Key officials in attendance included the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Edward Kallon, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline K. Tallen and the UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Comfort Lamptey.

The second part of the Lighting Up ceremony took place on 03 December 2019 at the Police Headquarters in Abuja. The event was officiated by the Honorable Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline K. Tallen with the support of the UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria and UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, who reaffirmed the importance of the role of the police to putting an end to gender-based violence.

EU-UN Spotlight Initiative - 370 Out-of-school Girls Empowered with Vocational skills



Wife of the Vice-President Mrs Dolapo Osinbajo, and other dignitaries with beneficiaries of the training programme

In line with prevention strategy of EU-UN Spotlight initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, a Total of 370 out of school girls and young women In Ikorodu and Yaba LGAs of Lagos state were empowered with income generating vocational skills and also life skills and sexual and reproductive health and right (SRHR) information.

A colourful graduation ceremony attended by the wife of Nigeria's Vice-President, Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo and other dignitar-

ies took place in Lagos to mark the training for the young girls and women. Beneficiaries received startup kits and certificates during the ceremony.

Over the weeks of the training, the 370 Girls and young women were taught income generating skills including bead making, head gear tying, make-up, party services – cocktail drinks , snack making, event decoration and event management. The income generating skills will enable the girls and young women become empowered and generate some income for themselves within their localities with minimal startup requirements.

During the course of the training, beneficiaries also accessed SRHR information that will promote their Sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing and prevent them from teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted Infections including HIV.

Violence against women and girls is a widespread public health issue, a violation of human rights and one that is rooted in gender inequality. Empowering Women and Girls enhances quick and sustained progress in preventing and ending gender-based violence. The best way in ending violence against women and girls is to prevent it from happening in the first place by addressing its root and structural causes. One of these is poverty - which this empowerment intervention seeks to address.

The graduation event was welcomed in particular as it coincided with the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence as this provided yet another opportunity to showcase GBV prevention interventions within the period of the 16 days campaign.

UN Trains Journalists on Gender-Based Violence



National Professional Officer for Communications & Information (UNESCO), Mr Olushola Macaulay (Left); UNIC Lagos Director, Mr Ronald Kayanja (3rd from right); Dr Olunifesi Suraj (2nd from right), and other dignitaries

Journalists have been urged to tell stories that will change the narrative on Gender Equality and Women's empowerment towards the elimination of Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria.

Media trainers made the submission at a training programme organized by, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, in Lagos for Journalists on Spotlight Initiative, Sensitive Reporting and Investigative Journalism on Gender-Based Violence.

Facilitators from Department of Mass Communication, Dr Olunifesi Suraj, and Department of Sociology, Dr Franca Attoh from University of Lagos submitted that journalists need a robust understanding of Gender issues because they have a significant role to play to change narratives on the issue. The trainers admitted that though gender issue was a sensitive one based on cultural influence; gender must be viewed in a new perspective in the light of changing economy in a dynamic world

Another facilitator, Dr Jide Attah also buttressed the need for

journalists to understand the concept of inclusion, stereotype, and strive to produce evidence-based stories with superior arguments that will promote social change.

The Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists, Lagos State, Mr Akinreti, stated that the capacity building would enable journalists approach their reportage from informed angle.

The Communications Consultant (Regional Office) of UNESCO, Mr Olusola Macaulay remarked that the training which attracted 33 journalists drawn from 6 focal states of Lagos, Abuja, Adamawa, Ebonyi, Sokoto and Cross River states was in line with the objectives of spotlight Initiative to end gender-based violence in Nigeria and fulfil Goal 5 of the #SDGs as well through capacity building for journalists.

2020 Marks the 75th Anniversary of UN and a Year to launch a Decade of Action for SDGs.

To mark its 75th anniversary, the United Nations is launching a global conversation on the role of international cooperation in building the future we want. The world is undergoing a number of transformations. Our climate is changing rapidly. We are seeing major shifts in technology and in the make-up of our population.

And we face risks from growing inequalities, long-running conflicts and new forms of violence. Managing these trends will require cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. So will achieving our shared vision for a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

What would you advise the UN Secretary-General to do to address global trends?

News Titbits

International Community Mourns the Death of Four Aid Workers

On 13th December, the Humanitarian Community in Nigeria received tragic news that armed group reportedly killed four Aid Workers who were amongst the six abducted on 26 July near Damasak in Mobbar LGA. They were abducted when their convoy came under attack, while they were working on a health project implemented by the INGO Action Against Hunger. One of the drivers was killed during the attack and another was reportedly executed on 24 September 2019.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon – along with other aid organizations – condemned the announced execution, reiterated by His Excellency, President Buhari, and the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development, H.E. Sadiya Farouq.

"This is another sad day for the people of Nigeria and the humanitarian community," Mr. Kallon regretted. "These colleagues were devoting their lives to helping the most vulnerable communities in Borno State. Despite the risks, they were driven by the values of solidarity and humanity." Since the beginning of the year, nine aid workers have been killed. Two others, Grace Taku and Alice Loksha, are still being held captive.



Youth SDGs Network at Human Rights Day, Lagos.

Human Rights Day Deepens Conversation on UDHR

Active involvement of youths in human right campaign as well as awareness creation has been described as a step that will deepen civil rule in the country. Several stakeholders who participated in the year 2019 commemoration of Human Rights Day Stakeholders made the submission at a programme organized by United Nations Information Centre, UNIC, Nigeria, in collaboration with Nigerian Youth SDGs Network.

Nigerian Youth SDGs Network converged in 6 states including Lagos, Abuja, Ekiti, Cross River, Enugu and Kaduna States. In Ekiti, the Senior Special Assistant to the Ekiti State Governor on SDGs, Dr. Mrs. Abimbola Solanke; the Coordinator National Human Rights Commission, Ekiti State, led by Mr. Adigun and BOT/Executive Director, Gender Relevance Initiative Promotion (GRIP), Barrister Rita Illevbare, unanimously submitted that Human Rights protection are basic drivers of development.

Speaking at the Abuja Round table, Ms. Funke Adeoye, the Executive Director, Hope Behind Bars Africa, submitted that there was the need for young people to engage in collaborative efforts and commitments that at ensuring accountability for action that will make the society exercise courage on human rights matter.

Discussants at the panel called for more awareness on human rights education as well as the use of social media for nation building. The group urged all young people to shun all forms of discrimination based on ethnic, religion, political or social standing.

Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement: A Promise for Prosperity



UN Resident Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon at the opening ceremony of the National Forum on the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)

Nigeria will experience expansion in Intra-African export with successful implementation of Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement

The UN Resident Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr Edward Kallon stated this in Lagos at the opening ceremony of the National Forum on the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Mr Kallon who expressed commitment of the United Nations to support Nigeria to make the AfCFTA work for "the county's people," pointed that the outcome of a model exercise conducted by ECA indicates that AfCFTA could potentially increase jobs and move informal traders into the formal sector,

"The ECA forecasts that the AfCFTA could boost intra Africa trade by 52 percent, with the industrial sector forecast to gain the most. GDP and exports would increase by US\$ 44 Billion and US\$ 56 respectively and AfCFTA could potentially increase jobs and move informal traders into the formal sector.

In an address, the Executive Director of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, Mr Segun Awolowo who represented the Ministers of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo submitted that the Federal Government acknowledged UN & ECA for their support to Africa economic development.

He said that for effective implementation of AfCFTA, there was the need for identification of actionable impact and specific action.



A Cross-section of discussants at (AfCFTA). National Forum in Lagos

Partnership, Key to Acceleration of Agenda 2030 and SDGs—Kallon



Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria, Mr. Roland Kayanja, representing the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon

Partnership with Government and its agencies has been identified as a way to accelerate Agenda 2030 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nigeria, Mr. Roland Kayanja, made the submission in Lagos at the

United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) Annual Review Meeting with Lagos State Government. Mr Kayanja who represented the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Edward Kallon noted that the UN will work with a single document and strategy as contained in partnership framework to accelerate the actualization of Agenda 2030 in Nigeria.

“From the year 2020 this is going to be the single most important document between the UN and all the work that is done in Nigeria including that of non- resident and resident agencies“. He noted.

While urging Lagos state to remain in the lead in the actualization of SDGS, Mr. Kayanja expressed confidence that with the review activities, UN cooperation will become stronger with the Lagos state government, urging the state delegates to be active in the process to identify area of priorities.

‘As you discuss our plan for the year 2020 let us refer to the targets that we must achieve so that Lagos will take the lead in Agenda 2030 and SDGs Ronald Kayanja The Lagos State Government #SDGS



Participants at the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) Annual Review Meeting with Lagos State Government.

Migration Dialogue Raises Awareness of Migrants’ Challenges and Opportunities

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) attended the National Migration Dialogue at the State House in Abuja. The focus of this year’s dialogue was on localizing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the development of a national implementation action plan.

“The National Migration Dialogue provides the much-needed opportunity for us to set the agenda to develop the National Framework and action plan on the objectives of the GCM,” said Franz Celestin, IOM Nigeria Chief of Mission during his opening remarks. “IOM will always provide its support to achieve this goal.”

The event is held every year on the eve of International Migrants Day, a global celebration of migrants, their families and their communities. It is a day to remember these individuals and reiterate the need to respect the rights and dignity of all.

“Nigeria can be on the right side of history on migration. We need to demonstrate ownership of the Global Compact for Migration and localize it to improve policies and programmes,” said Sadiya Umar Farouq, Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development.

“Safe, orderly and regular migration through the GCM is our ultimate goal. We will continue to advocate for bilateral agreements for the promotion of regular pathways to reduce risks take by women, men and children,” said Senator Basheer G. Mohammed, Federal Commissioner of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI)

There are currently 272 million migrants worldwide, of which the total number of Nigerian international migrants by mid-2019 was 1.3 million. According to the World Migration Report 2020, Nigeria received USD 24.31 billion in remittances in 2018.



IOM Nigeria Chief of Mission, Franz Celestin delivering a speech at the National Migration Dialogue in Abuja

On that same day, Ingrid Skjølaas, Deputy Ambassador of Norway to Nigeria hosted the grand finale of the Global Migration Film Festival at the Norwegian Residence in Abuja. The event featured *The Lost Café*, a film by Kenneth Gyang. The film tells the story of Ose, a young girl

from Nigeria and her journey to a leading film school in Norway. As she attempts to rise above dark family secrets and culture shock to live her dreams abroad, she ends up finding the most unusual answers to her troubling questions somewhere in Drammen where she meets the strange owner of a quaint coffee shop.

For the second consecutive year, IOM and Aware Migrants brought the Film Festival to Nigeria. On 30 November, Edward Kallon, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator inaugurated the Festival. Films from Norway, Nigeria, The Gambia, Netherlands and Belgium drew close to 200 cinephiles in Abuja and Maiduguri, featuring stories of footballers, filmmakers and other people on the move.

The Festival was supported by the Cube Café, the UN Information Centre (UNIC) and the Embassy of Norway in Nigeria.

“Echoes of 16 Days of Activism”

The 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women and girls was characterized with lots of activities, street shows, symposium, workshops and civic engagements

Entertainment: a veritable tool for GBV Campaign - Muma Gee

Entertainment must be adopted as a tool to amplify messages to end all forms of Gender Based Violence especially at the grassroots.

A star Artiste High Chief Eke Muma Gift, popularly called Muma Gee made the submission at an event organized by United Nations Information Centre, UNIC, in collaboration with Warien Rose Foundation as part of 16 Days of Activism Campaign to end all forms of Gender Based Violence

Muma Gee noted that entertainment industry must work with civil based organizations to address fundamental cultural factors fueling sexual violence against women and girls.

A key note speaker, Ms Toun Okewale Sonaiya wants Nigerians to understand that when a woman says no, her no must not be misconstrued, calling for reviews of laws such as one that suggest age 11 as the age of consent to sexual relationship.

The event which attracted several clusters of people living with disabilities witnessed stage performance, exhibition and cutting of #IDPD commemorative cake



A star Artiste High Chief Eke Muma Gift, popularly called Muma Gee, at the event held at UNIC Auditorium at Ikoyi Lagos.

Keeping Girls Safe Online

The internet is the largest pool of resources ever made available to man but not all its free resources are suitable for young minds, therefore making digital environment safe for girls would help in the realization of Goal 5 on Sustainable Development Goals, Gender Equality.

Director Whitney M. Young Jr America Centre Public Affairs, Mr Seyi Eytayo made the submission as a guest speaker at a programme organised by the United Nations Information Centre, UNIC, in collaboration with W.TECH STEMHer initiative series to end violence against women and girls especially online.

Mr Eytayo whose presentation centred on keeping girls safe on the cyberspace and promoting digital equality explained that young girls need digital education, citing example of the United States where online crime was said to be the fastest growing crime and children becoming the fastest growing victim.



Director Whitney M. Young Jr. America Centre Public Affairs, Mr Seyi Eytayo addressed participants on Online safety

UN Reached out to Slum Community

United Nations Information Centre, (UNIC) Nigeria in collaboration with HAUK Foundation reached out to a slum community in Salawe, Ikosi Ketu, Lagos as part of activities marking 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

The outreach stressed the need for members of the community to join the conversation by breaking the culture of silence through prompt report of cases of violence and abuse

The Knowledge Management Assistant UNIC, Nigeria Mrs Bolanle Olumekor, while presenting the message of the United Nations Secretary-General on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women said though 'sexual violence against women and girls is rooted in centuries of male domination' the 'United Nations is committed to ending all forms of violence against them.

The President, HAUK Foundation, Ms Hauwa Sodeinde, used the occasion to provide residents with help lines, 08155770000 through which they can promptly report sexual assault and violence of all kinds. The Community had earlier raised concern on the need for Gender-Based Violence Campaign to be all inclusive to target not only women and girls but men.



Knowledge Management Assistant UNIC, Nigeria Mrs Bolanle Olumekor, addresses the participants at the Salawe community.

UN Signs Partnership Agreement with National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies

UN Women has entered into a partnership agreement with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS); the organ of the National Assembly mandated to increase capacity, as well as provide legislative services to National/State Assemblies and other democratic institutions.

The signing of the document took place on the 13th of December, 2019 at the NILDS Office in Abuja by the UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS; Comfort Lamptey and the Director-General of NILDS; Prof. Abubakar Suleiman.

The Memorandum of Understanding is a strategic step towards the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for both men and women. Despite Nigeria's commitment to the 30% and 35% affirmative action for women with the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the National Gender Policy respectively, there has been consistent underrepresentation of women in governance. In the current legislature, women make up only 6% of parliamentarians at both Senate and House levels. The prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls is also of growing concern.

UN Women has thus pledged to support the NILDS to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in Nigeria through legislation and legal reform, to provide the institute institutional support for the mainstreaming of gender policies and initiatives



L: UN Women Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS; Comfort Lamptey and the Director-General of NILDS; Prof. Abubakar Suleiman.

through capacity building, and to help strengthen the legislature to implement existing instruments and policies on gender.

UN Nigeria Partners Google, Trains Returnees in Digital Skills



The Google-IOM training drew 93 participants, including returning migrants in Benin City and Ikeja. Photo: IOM/Barinedum Agara

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been partnering with Google Nigeria to conduct IOM's first Digital Skills Training for returnees and potential migrants in Benin City, Edo State and Ikeja, Lagos State.

The training drew 93 participants, including returning migrants, interested in setting up small-scale businesses as well as mentorship and job placement opportunities. The one-day training consisted of hands-on sessions on how to build participants' online presence and improve their search campaigns, job-seeking skills online.

"Today I learned how to register my business online and how to use Google ads. This will help me get more customers and it will save me a lot of money and time," said Owegie, a trainee.

Most Nigerian returnees are between the ages of 18-35, and many of them return with knowledge, skills and experiences they gained prior to- or during their migration experience.

IOM's partnership with Google highlights the private sector's contribution to returnees' sustainable reintegration in Nigeria.

"This training is aimed at helping participants start a career in digital marketing, be encouraged to build digital start-ups, and advance in the workplace," said Temitope Saliu, Growth Tribe Africa trainer for Google Digital Skills Programme.

The initiative complements the traditional business skills training, which equips Nigerian returnees with the knowledge and skills to prepare themselves for the next steps in their reintegration and kickstart small businesses.

"The digital skills training will help improve the participants' use of digital skills to contribute to their economic growth as entrepreneurs, thereby further filling in critical gaps in the labour market, fitting their businesses within existing supply chains, and invariably contributing to development," explained Alex Cole, IOM Nigeria Programme Support Officer - Migrant Protection and Assistance.

This activity is co-financed by the GIZ, commissioned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany under the Strengthening Assistance for Returnees and Potential Migrants and Promoting Safe Migration Practices Project in Communities of Origin.



The Google-IOM training in session. Participants included returning migrants in Benin City and Ikeja., Lagos.

Lagos Secondary Schools Model UN Advocates Safe, Resilient, and Sustainable Cities



President of LASSMUN General Assembly, Master Abdulganiu Nurudeen (Middle) and Secretary General of LASSMUN, Master Joseph Awogbenle (Right) and the General Assembly Rapporteur, Miss Aminat Sulaimon.

The Lagos Secondary Schools Model United Nations (LASSMUN) conference has called upon governments and Habitat Agenda Partners to develop strategic responses to the problems of sustainable urban development and requested international agencies to facilitate the access of cities to climate change mitigation and adaptation financing.

This was one of the resolutions adopted at the First Session of LASSMUN conference held on 10 December 2019 and organized by the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) Lagos in collaboration with Lagos State Education District III, which was attended by over 500 delegates from 132 public schools.

In his message delivered by the Director of the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) Lagos, Mr Ronald Kayanja, the United Nations Secretary – General Antonio Guterres thanked the delegates to the conference for getting involved in some of the biggest issues of our time such as peace, climate action, sustainable development and human rights.

“Climate change is an existential threat and the defining challenge of our time. You are the first generation to grow up in the shadows of climate change and the last who can prevent its worst consequences. The world needs your strong engagement to increase ambition, to cut emissions and to hold leaders to account” he said.

The resolution also urges government and Habitat Agenda Partners to make provisions to increase resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and upgrading.

In her address to the delegates, the Permanent Secretary and Tutor General of Education District III, Dr Mrs Olufolayimika Ayandele expressed her gratitude to UNIC Lagos, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Principals of the schools, and the delegates for supporting this initiative, which she said was a unique moment for the students with the opportunity to engage and learn about diplomacy, international relations and the United Nations.

The President of LASSMUN General Assembly Master Abdulganiu Nurudeen, noted that an unplanned urbanization could generate problems such as pollution, crime, inequality, disease while well-planned cities can facilitate economic growth and sustainable low-emission development.

In her message to the conference, the Commissioner for Education, Mrs Folasade Omobola Adefisayo pointed that 1st LASS-MUN was a huge step for the state as it would reposition the education system and Lagos state for efficient service delivery.

The Deputy Governor, Dr Obafemi Hamzat who was represented on the occasion said with the Model UN initiative which promotes, dialogue and compromise, there was hope for this generation.

The First LASSMUN conference simulated three General Assembly committees; Second Committee (Economic and Financial committee), the Third Committee (Social and Humanitarian Committee) and the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee). The theme for the Conference was “Make Cities Safe Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable”.

One hundred and thirty-two schools participated in the first Lagos Secondary Schools Model United Nations, LASS-MUN which has the theme: Making Cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The Consul General of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Madam Bessem Manga was among dignitaries at the occasion.

The First LASS MUN conference adopted three resolutions and adjourned the General Assembly till year 2020.



A cross-section of delegates at the 1st Session of the Lagos Secondary School Model United Nations (LASSMUN) General Assembly on 10 December 2019, in Lagos

Thousands in Rann town, Borno State Face Dire Food Insecurity

An estimated 40,000 men, women and children in Rann town, Kala/Balge LGA of Borno State are struggling to survive with little or no access to food or services following flooding that has destroyed up to 80 per cent of farmlands. The ongoing flooding began on 5 November when the River Kaalia in neighbouring Cameroon overflowed. The situation is further compounded by reports that a herd of elephants is damaging the remaining crops and instilling fear amongst the local population.

Crops are the main source of food for IDPs staying in Rann, a remote town in an area cut off from major supply routes due to poor road conditions and insecurity. Flooded roads and frequent attacks by non-state armed groups hinder movement in and out of the town, thereby making it challenging for humanitarians to access Rann to deliver essential services. The only means to reach the area currently is by helicopter via the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service; however, flights are limited to three days per week.



A flooded area in Rann town, Kala/Balge LGA of Borno State

The town's market is nearly deserted, with extremely limited availability of food and inflated prices that the majority of people cannot afford. Stranded populations are paying large sums to cross the river on make-shift boats and travel onward to nearby Ngala, putting their lives at risk.

Since the middle of November, nearly 1,000 people have left Rann, mostly to Ngala, according to the International Organization for Migration. In Ngala, people are arriving in overcrowded conditions in camps for internally displaced people, exacerbating protection and health concerns. Humanitarian actors are providing the people arriving at the reception center with emergency assistance shelter, food, and basic utensils such as pots, plastic cups and soap.

On 3 December, a team of humanitarians carried out an inter-sectoral needs assessment in Rann town, Kala/Balge LGA. Humanitarian partners from food security, health, NFI/shelter, education, nutrition, protection and water/sanitation sectors participated in the assessment to identify the most urgent needs and mobilize resources.

WFP and other organisations working in the Food Security Sector have prepositioned food assistance and other life-saving aid while exploring ways to try and reach Rann. Securing access to deliver urgent food assistance is the main priority, along with emergency health services, nutrition interventions, shelter and safe drinking water.

UN's New Country Programme to boost Nigeria's Industrialisation – Government



L-R: UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Edward Kallon; UNIDO Representative to ECOWAS and Regional Director, Nigeria Hub Office, Mr. Jean Bakole; and Kebbi State Governor, H.E. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu

The Federal Government has said that the new UNIDO Country Programme (2018-2022) would help Nigeria to achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Otunba Niyi Adebayo, stated this during the Partnership Round Table Meeting organized by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, and the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in Abuja, on Friday.

Adebayo noted that the new UNIDO -Nigeria Country Programme aligned with the Federal Government's current economic and industrialization priorities and agenda.

Also speaking during the Partnership Roundtable, the Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba who was represented by the Director, International Cooperation Department in the ministry, Mrs Elizabeth Egharevba, noted that partnership with UNIDO would complement government's economic programmes aimed at diversifying the economy through industrialization.

"We are happy with UNIDO's technical support to Nigeria towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. As a government, we will do our best provide the necessary support for UNIDO."

In his introductory remarks, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, United Nations System in Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon, stressed the importance of industrialization as a critical tool for poverty reduction, job creation, and economic prosperity.

Kallon said, "The trajectory for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria and Africa can only be possible with industrialization. UNIDO and other UN agencies are ready to support Nigeria achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development as well as the Sustainable Development Goals"

In his keynote address, the UNIDO Representative to ECOWAS and Regional Director, Nigeria Hub Office, Mr. Jean Bakole, commended the Federal Government for its strong commitment and support to UNIDO's activities in Nigeria.

He said, "Nigeria is one of the countries that has provided a substantial part of its contribution to our country programme."UNIDO's last country programme was about \$30m and Nigeria contributed about \$10m.

The UNIDO – Nigeria Country programme which covers 2018-2022 was signed in November 2018 . It has a budget of \$60m and the Federal Government is expected to provide half of it as government counterpart contribution.

“BINTU - The Musical” Brings the Crisis in Nigeria’s NorthEast to the Stage



The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has presented the premiere of *Bintu - The Musical*, at the MUSON Centre in Lagos, Nigeria. The theatre production is a bold and thoughtful dramatization of the humanitarian impact of the decade-long crisis that has plagued Nigeria’s north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. WFP taps into Nigeria’s vibrant performing arts and entertainment industry to tell a story of conflict-driven hunger, resilience and humanity. “We hope the play will spark conversations around the crisis in the North East and lead to greater engagement of all parts of society – the private sector, government agencies and individuals – boosting efforts to achieve zero hunger in Nigeria,” said Paul Howe, WFP Representative and Country Director in Nigeria.

The play follows a young girl called Bintu, whose dreams of going to university are dramatically cut short when insurgents strike. Bintu and her friends find refuge in a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), where they receive humanitarian assistance. While in the camp, Bintu slowly begins to rebuild her life. Written and directed by Agozie Ugwu, a Nigerian playwright who teaches performing arts at the Nile University of Nigeria in Abuja, the play uses powerful song, dance and poetic performances to depict people’s struggles, their will to survive and the vital humanitarian assistance they receive.

“This work goes beyond a theatre piece. It is a call to action from humanity to help humanity,” said Ugwu, whose Mosaic Theatre Production developed the play with WFP.

Bintu - The Musical, whose premiere in Lagos will be followed by a showing in Abuja in the first quarter of 2020, is based on the real-life experiences of people caught in the conflict which has driven an estimated two million people from their homes. Nearly three million people struggle to meet their food needs in the three crisis-affected states - almost double the number at the same time last year. Since 2016, WFP has been providing a lifeline for vulnerable families affected by conflict in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, supporting internally displaced people, returnees, young children and pregnant or breastfeeding women with life-saving food and nutrition support. In 2019, WFP and partners have served an average of 800,000 people with food or cash every month.



In Niger Delta, FG, UN, NDC Launch \$129m Livelihood Project



Dignitaries launch the \$129 million livelihood project in Portharcourt, Rivers State

The Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has launched a \$129.17 million Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) to create jobs and reduce youth restiveness.

Speaking at the formal launch of the project recently in Port Harcourt, the Country Representative of IFAD, Nadine Gbossa said the agricultural project would transform the rural economy of the oil-rich region and would create opportunities for the people, particularly the youth and women in the communities.

Gbossa said the overall goal of the programme is to contribute to the attainment of food security and economic growth of Nigeria through job creation, value addition, and promotion of business enterprises in agriculture, increasing rural income generation and improved livelihoods for youths and women.

“LIFE-ND aims to address the growing numbers of restive youth by sustainably enhancing incomes and food security, and creating jobs for young rural people and women in the Niger Delta.

The project will build on the successes of earlier IFAD-supported projects to develop the supply of skilled youth labour, and it will strengthen the capacity of institutions at the state and community levels to work with private sector actors” She stated.

She disclosed that LIFE-ND will be implemented in the nine Niger Delta states: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. It will engage 25,500 youth and women, as well as 600 established and potential enterprise incubators. The beneficiaries will be youth aged 18 to 35 years and women-headed households with children under the age of 15. Overall, the project will target 50 per cent male and 50 per cent female participation.

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Sabo Nanono, who was represented by Mohammed Umar, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, said “This project will reduce rural-urban migration and criminal activities in the region. It will make the people to realise how much government cares in improving their living standard.

UN, Nigerian Government Mark World AIDS Day, Launch U=U campaign



Left: UNAIDS Country Director in Nigeria , Mr Erasmus U. Morah, addresses the audience. Right: UNAIDS Country Director in Nigeria , Mr Erasmus U. Morah and other dignitaries launch the U=U (Undetectable is equal to Untransmissible) campaign and unveiled the U=U campaign symbol .

World AIDS Day has been celebrated annually on 1st December since 1987 and the UN has always played an active part in the celebration. The Government of Nigeria adopted the global theme of this year's World AIDS Day "Communities make the difference".

The commemoration of World AIDS Day is an important opportunity for stakeholders to recognize the essential role that communities have played and continue to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels.

Communities contribute to the AIDS response in many ways. Their leadership and advocacy ensure that the response remains relevant and grounded, keeping people at the centre and leaving no one behind. Communities include peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV, such as gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers, women and young people, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations and grass-roots activists.

In Nigeria, NACA in collaboration with the partners have organized several activities in the country for this year's World AIDS Day. The main highlight of the WAD were the following events:

The Federal Ministry of Health and the National Agency for the control of AIDS (NACA) in collaboration with the U.S President's Emergency Plan AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), supported by the SGF formally launched the U=U (Undetectable is equal to Untransmissible) campaign and unveiled the U=U campaign symbol (Styrofoam) on Friday, 29 November.

The Governor of Lagos launched the Lagos state data during the World AIDS Day celebration.

National AIDS Control Agency (NACA) Red ribbon award ceremony held at Sheraton Hotel was hosted by Director General of NACA, Dr Gambo Aliyu. The event aimed at celebrating past and present heroes in the Nigerian fight against HIV took place with several dignitaries. The award ceremony was inaugurated by Honorable Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire. The award ceremony featured a red-carpet event. A total of 25 awards were presented honoring the past and present heroes in the HIV response in the country. UNAIDS was honored to receive the HIV Community Champion award presented by the National Coordinator of Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN), Mr Abdulkadir Ibrahim.

NACA in collaboration with ILO and other partners supported the HTS activities across different locations during the roadshow

and awareness campaign in FCT with a multi disease outreach in hard to serve communities organized by NACA and the partners.

H.E. the First Lady of Nigeria inaugurated the Adolescent and Young people (AYP) program and symposium at the Aso villa which aimed towards awareness and sensitization for AYP and featured among many other activities, demonstration of self- testing, a panel discussion titled: 'NAIIS report and implications for HIV programming among AYP', as well as a literary debate competition by secondary school students on the appropriate age of consent for AYP for HIV testing services. The event was organized by NACA and Office of the First Lady supported by the UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA and UNAIDS).



UNICEF Rep Nigeria, Mr Peter Hawkins (Right), with First Lady, H.E. Dr Mrs Aisha Buhari (2nd right) and DG NACA, Dr Gambo Aliyu



L-R: U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Kathleen FitzGibbon, NEPWHAN Coordinator, Abdulkadir Ibrahim, Dr Erasmus Morah, UCD Nigeria and Mr Mohamed Yahya, UNDP country Rep Nigeria.

PHOTO NEWS



Captions, from left to right in a clockwise direction:

1. Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline Tallen and President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Prof Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, lighting #Orangetheworld candle in Abuja
2. 16 Days of Activism, Coordinator, Women Arise Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin, wife of the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Mrs Martha Udom Emmanuel, The Director, United Nations Information Center, UNIC, Mr Ronald Kayanja On 24th November.
3. Group picture at the National Migration Dialogue.
4. The Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline Tallen, addressing stakeholders at the Women's Walk to End Rape, in Abuja



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