UNDP reopens Ngwom, four years after being overrun by Boko Haram

Hundreds of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Ngwom Community rolled out the drums on 13 March 2018 as UNDP handed over the rebuilt community to the State Government – they have been living in IDP Camps and communities, most of them up to four years, after fleeing their community.

Ngwom was attacked by Boko Haram twice between 2014 and 2016; around 100 people were killed and the entire community was destroyed – many public buildings, including the only primary school that served the community, the only healthcare centre, trading areas and other essential public infrastructure were significantly destroyed, stated Edward Kallon, UNDP Resident Representative in his speech during the reopening ceremony.

An estimated 2,300 residents, accounting for over 370 households, who survived the attack fled to neighbouring communities. More than 1,600 are registered as IDPs within the State while many more are currently living within host communities. >>Read more

UNDP commences implementation of 9th Country Programme in Nigeria

2018 signalled the beginning of a new framework for UNDP’s interventions in Nigeria. The 9th Country Programme (CP), which will inform UNDP’s national development priority support areas from 2018 to 2022, was prepared in consultation with the national government and partners.

The CP is aligned with the government’s Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017-2020, the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) 2018-2022, the African Union Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030 and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

The CP is a comprehensive set of interventions intended to benefit all the geo-political zones of the country, and will support government’s efforts and development priorities from addressing governance deficits to promoting sustainable and inclusive growth.

UNDP’s interventions during the period will also pay attention to issues affecting women, youths and people with disabilities. The 8th Country Programme was implemented between 2014 and 2017 and delivered tremendous development results including supporting the 2015 elections.
Edward meets Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing Development, laid down the conditions precedent to the successful implementation of the SDGs. It emphasized the deployment of a robust financing framework as an indispensable ingredient for success, including leveraging multi-stakeholder engagement to mobilize non-government resources for SDGs implementation.

Inaugurated in 2016 by the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, the PSAG-SDGs is guided by the National Strategy for Private Sector Engagement on the SDGs in engaging with and coordinating the Private Sector in Nigeria to partner with the Government of Nigeria, through the Office of the Senior Special Advisor to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) in the execution of the national SDGs implementation roadmap.

During the meeting, Edward reminded the Group of the need to ensure public-private alliances are established across the country in order to provide large-scale solutions towards achieving the SDGs. He emphasized the need for focusing on and driving specific targets that will yield high impact and relevance within SDGs priority areas.

The PSAG-SDGs will also contribute to and help mobilize resources for the successful implementation of the SDGs in line with the guidelines contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).

Borno State: Emergency employment for IDPs helps improve livelihoods

Following the eight yearlong conflict in North-East Nigeria, Maiduguri, in Borno State experienced an influx of displaced persons from across the State. Of the close to 1.7 million IDPs in the State who fled the conflict, over 1.1 million are in Maiduguri - the population of the city has almost tripled since the attacks by Boko Haram began in 2009.

Daily waste generation in Maiduguri rose from an estimated 390 to 570 tons per day, a 45% increase from pre-conflict levels. The resulting environmental degradation is estimated at a US$2.9-million loss. Borno State Environmental Protection Agency (BOSEPA) rearranged its available resources to respond to the population movements, but its capacity was insufficient to provide timely collection and clean-up of accumulated waste.

With over 80% of IDPs and host communities practicing open dumping and burning, combined with insufficient financial and human resources to collect it, waste across the... Read more

UNDP and NIRSAL commit to addressing bottlenecks in the rice and cassava supply chains.

UNDP Nigeria is implementing the Agribusiness Supplier Development Programme (ASDP), a regional initiative which focuses on developing the supply chains of major agricultural commodities across Sub-Saharan Africa. In Nigeria, the ASDP is being implemented in partnership with the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and is focusing on two crops; rice and cassava.

The aim of ASDP is to improve the quantity and quality supply of agricultural products by farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to markets. It also provides smallholder farmers and SMEs with support in accessing the growing agricultural supply chains of lead firms.

UNDP and NIRSAL signed a project document that signalled both institutions’ commitment to removing bottlenecks in the supply chain of two crops. The interventions under the project will aim at; Improving the rice and cassava supply chains, improving the policy environment for the cassava and rice supply chains, revitalizing and establishing more storage facilities for cassava and rice supply chains, developing efficient logistics models for cassava and rice supply chains, increasing the participation of women in the rice and cassava commodities supply chain, and improving access to Finance and Credit for rice and cassava value chains.
Since signing up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda in September 2015, the Government of Nigeria has taken several steps aimed at ensuring that the country not only commences implementation on time, but also has a good foundation for planning, partnerships, and reporting. Like most countries, Nigeria faced the challenge of turning the aspirations embedded in Agenda 2030 into actual development plans. Meeting the targets under the 17 goals requires, among other things, employing strategies that ensures that resource allocation to priority areas is smart and efficient.

To achieve this, Nigeria is in the process of customizing >> Read more

UNDP to support forty entrepreneurs under Tony Elumelu Foundation 2018 cohort

The Tony Elumelu Foundation announced March 22 names of selected entrepreneurs from across the continent who will part of its 2018 cohort. The Foundation published names of 1250 who will benefit from the 4th cycle of its 10-year, $100 million TEF Entrepreneurship Programme.

Unlike in the last three years when the Foundation has provided support to 1000 entrepreneurs - this year, due to contributions from other organisations including UNDP, an additional 250 will be supported.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and the Foundation during the TEF Forum in 2017, UNDP, through the Regional Office in Addis Ababa, committed to providing $200,000, an amount that will benefit forty entrepreneurs from Africa.

Under the agreement signed in the presence of Vice President Pro. Yemi Osinbajo, UNDP and the Foundation committed to working together to equip start-ups and existing small enterprises (SMEs) with necessarily entrepreneurship skills to enable them grow their businesses. With special focus on young and women entrepreneurs, TEF and UNDP will also undertake initiatives that will enable start-ups and small businesses to access affordable credit and other financial services they require to growth and diversify their businesses.

Eleven of the forty entrepreneurs selected are Nigerians who will undergo training and mentoring before they access the funding support.

UNDP Nigeria will soon launch a comprehensive programme aimed at supporting Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Nigeria.

Samuel Bwalya visits Afrinolly Creative Space in Lagos

UNDP Country Director Samuel Bwalya visited Afrinolly Creative Space, a facility selected by the State Government, through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) to provide skills training programmes as part of the implementation of the UNDP-supported Employability Support Project for the State.

Afrinolly is a creative hub that provides a platform and opportunities for emerging as well as established entrepreneurs in the film industry, mobile technology industry, multimedia production and contemporary art, among others, in an effort to provide world class skilled labour for local industries and contribute to the growth of the economy.

Under employability Support Project, youths are being engaged in four-week intensive skills training programmes in the entertainment industry; skills needed in production, sound management, and social media. The training opportunities, which began in January this year, are being offered at no cost to the youths in the State.

Mr Bwalya visited the facility to familiarise himself with the operations of the centre. He expressed his satisfaction at the choice of the facility as a learning centre for skills intended to support the entertainment industry in Nigeria. Nigeria’s Nollywood is the world’s second largest movie industry by volume, right behind India’s Bollywood.

Nigeria to use iSDGs policy simulation model in implementing SDGs

Since signing up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda in September 2015, the Government of Nigeria has taken several steps aimed at ensuring that the country not only commences implementation on time, but also has a good foundation for planning, partnerships, and reporting. Like most countries, Nigeria faced the challenge of turning the
Hundreds trained in entrepreneurship skills in North-East, Benue and Edo

Following a series of workshops conducted in the three most affected States by the Boko Haram crisis, over 150 youths, women and men have been trained in various entrepreneurship skills, competences and behaviours that will help them start or run their small businesses successfully. Mostly drawn from communities ravaged by the nine-yearlong crisis, the trainees either had their businesses destroyed by Boko Haram or have found themselves residing in new locations with no means of sustaining themselves and their families.

“After this training, my life as a business woman will never be the same again, I will not run my business the way I did it before UNDP trained me on how to become a successful entrepreneur,” stated Nahyani at the end of the 6-day Entrepreneurship Training Workshop in Yola, Adamawa State.

Similar workshops have been conducted in Maiduguri, Borno State and Damaturu, Yobe State. Others are planned for other parts of the country.

UNDP, with support from the Government of Norway, has provided vocational skills training in metal fabrication, tailoring, catering and decoration, mobile phone and computer repair, mechatronics and spray painting, among others to victims of the insurgents as part of efforts aimed at providing catalytic ingredients for communities to thrive again and lay a foundation for long term development to take place in a region.

The beneficiaries have also been supported with start-up equipment so that they could secure alternative means of livelihoods beyond humanitarian handouts.

900 solar lanterns to light up conflict-affected communities in North-East

UNDP Nigeria is partnering with Panasonic, a Japanese company in providing alternative source light energy for conflict-affected communities in North-East Nigeria. The Japanese company has donated 900 solar lanterns which will be distributed to communities that suffered the most damage to power infrastructure in the region – the donation is being done through a UNDP project funded by the Government of Japan.

The donation will be done as a part of “100 Thousand Solar Lanterns Project” which the company has been conducting since 2018; the year in which it celebrated its 100th anniversary. Under this project, the company donates a total of 100 thousand lanterns to improve and enhance the quality of life in emerging economies and developing countries, where access to electricity remains a major hindrance to development.

Access to power in North-East Nigeria remains low - in 2013, the year before the worst period of Boko Haram insurgency, the share of population with access to electricity in the three most affected States stood at 37.6%, 33%, and 18.1% in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe respectively.

In Borno State alone, around 700 power distribution substations have been destroyed during the insurgency.
Over 500 graduate from vocation skills training in Lagos State

Following weeks of intensive training at different vocation training centres across Lagos State, 504 (237 males and 267 females) youths (aged 18 to 35 years), who are also citizens of Lagos State, graduated from the first batch of trainees benefitting from the State’s intervention aimed at meeting the demand side of the industry with skilled labour in construction, entertainment, manufacturing, hospitality, healthcare and garment making.

Implemented with support from UNDP, the Lagos State Employability Support Project, under the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, seeks to increase the pool of skilled manpower to alleviate acute shortages of employable within the State. Through the project, training content of vocational training programmes in the identified sectors have been improved in order to enhance the quality of the whole programme.

UNDP has committed to invest $4million over a period of three years to support interventions that will address youth unemployment in Lagos State.

The graduation ceremony and job fair, graced by Dr Idiat Oluranti Adebule, Deputy Governor of the State, saw companies in attendance conduct interviews with graduates some offering employment to up to seventy of the graduates.

In an effort to address the intermediate barriers between the demand for skilled manpower and supply of the trained manpower, a Labour Management Information System (LMIS) was also launched during the event. This platform will act as a digital clearinghouse, where employers will register, identify their employee needs, and be matched with skilled job seekers.

It is expected that through the project about 10,000 skilled manpower will be produced in a three-year period to cater for demand in the sectors identified.

Conference recommends inter-basin water transfer to save Lake Chad

Over 1100 participants representing Heads of States and Governments, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Academia, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Private sector, among others attended the International Conference on Lake Chad in Abuja.

The Conference, under the theme “Saving the Lake Chad to revitalize the Basin’s ecosystem for sustainable livelihood, security and development” provided a platform for different stakeholders to exchange views and share information on water resources development and management in a crisis environment for sustainable development in the Lake Chad Basin. In addition, building consensus on the different options for restoring the Lake Chad, it was also used as an opportunity for soliciting political and financial support for the its restoration. >> Read more