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UNDP Resident Representative Edward Kallon (centre) with his Deputy Country Director-Operations Betty Wabunoha (right) and UNICEF Resident Representative, Mohamed Fall, during the breakfast meeting in Abuja

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Gettu visit Country Office, urges staff to remain responsive.



OSLO HUMANITARIAN  
CONFERENCE ON  
**NIGERIA AND  
THE LAKE CHAD  
REGION**

International Conference in Oslo  
shades lights on crisis in Nigeria



UNDP explores opportunities for  
expanding Cassava value chain  
in Nigeria

# Prolonged development deficit in North East, root-cause of insurgency - Edward

UNDP Nigeria Resident Representative Edward Kallon called on the international community, State and Federal Authorities to scale up efforts aimed at addressing the root-causes of the seven yearlong crisis that has ravaged the country's North East region.

Speaking during a media breakfast meeting in Abuja, Edward emphasized that prolonged development deficit coupled with lack of knowledge, low literacy levels, among others, were among the root-causes of the insurgency in the North East. "Long term solutions to the crisis this insurgency has brought requires that both the State and Federal Governments implement programmes that will address these

root-causes," he added.

Several studies and reports have pointed to the fact that even before crisis in North-East begun, communities in this region were already vulnerable and struggling to survive - nearly seven out of ten people were living on less a \$1 per day, with severely limited livelihood opportunities.

Coupled with high unemployment rates among youths, these factors acted as ingredients for creating a fertile ground for recruiting them into *Boko Haram*, a radical group that has led the military insurgency in the region. *[continued on page 3]*

## Nigeria becomes the 7th pilot country after joining ECOWAS-EU Small Arms project

Nigeria was formally included in the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms and Light Weapons Project, which initially comprised six other countries, (Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mali and Niger).

The project, financed by the European Union under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to the tune of € 2.279 million (N638 million) is aimed at harmonizing approaches

aimed at combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region over the next 2 years.

The launch of the Nigerian component took place in Abuja, at the headquarters of the ECOWAS Commission. The project has four (4) output areas and seeks to address the cross-border dimensions of the *[continued on page 2]*

# Nigeria becomes the 7th pilot country after joining ECOWAS-EU Small Arms project

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Participants at the launch of the Nigerian component of the SALW Projects pose for a photo outside ECOWAS HQ in Abuja

[from front page]

SALW proliferation especially with the Republic of Niger - Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara in the North West, with an additional output aimed at addressing the SALW Amnesty challenges in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States in the South-South regions of Nigeria.

Initiated by ECOWAS, funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP, the project will raise citizens' awareness in the border areas about the dangers of illicit arms trafficking and will strengthen capacities of the security forces through training and promotion of alternative livelihoods in targeted communities.

The ceremony was chaired by Madam Hadja

Khadija Abba Bukar Ibrahim, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, and The Vice-President of ECOWAS Commission, M. Edward SINGHATEY, UNDP was represented by Mandisa Mashologu Acting Country Director.

Several other personalities took part in the launching ceremony, including representatives of the President of the Senate, representatives of the EU, the executive governors of the states Nigerians from Kebbi, Zamfara, Akwa Ibom, Kaduna, Katsina and Sokoto, ECOWAS Ambassadors, the President of the Republic's Adviser on the Niger Delta, heads of the armed forces, security and police services, Representatives of ministerial departments and members of civil society organizations.

## The month in pictures



Launch of boreholes in Kuje village supported by GEF Small Grants Programme



Edward speaks to representatives of donor countries during their visit to Maiduguri



Journalist share breakfast with Edward Kallon in Abuja.

## Gettu visits UNDP Nigeria



Tegegnetwork Gettu together with Edward Kallon (centre in grey suits) joined by staff at the office in Abuja.

Mr. Gettu, who previously served as the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management from 2013 to 2015 used the opportunity to engage with Staff at the Country Office. He provided useful insights into prevailing global development dynamics and the opportunities that lay ahead for UNDP to remain government's partner of choice.

Mr. Gettu, who served as UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria from 2003 to 2006, shared his experiences during his time in Nigeria and encouraged staff to remain responsive to the needs of the government, especially during the period the country was passing through.

**UNDP helps to build back resilient communities in North East Nigeria**



UNDP launched its integrated recovery programme in Ngworum, a small farming settlement in Borno state. This pilot project combines livelihoods, basic services delivery, local governance, and social cohesion as a unified package to address the community's needs stemming from the ongoing crisis.

As displaced people begin to return to their homes and communities, UNDP is working to ensure their transition is smooth, and their ability to remain at home is strengthened with this integrated approach.

UNDP supports livelihood stabilization with immediate short-term employment; assists the local government to provide services; restart basic essential services through reconstruction of key public spaces; and ensures stability and peace building through social cohesion activities and community security.

As the programme rolls out in Ngworum, UNDP will continue to upscale its work partnering with 27 local governments across the state.

UNDP's livelihood support comes just prior to the rainy season optimize the farming window, and with the reconstruction of critical infrastructure, restarting of basic services, and commitment to public safety, internally displaced people voluntarily returning home have a greater chance of success in the longer-term recovery.

**Prologed development deficit in North East, root-cause of insurgency - Edward**

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The return of relative peace in some parts of region, especially in Adamawa and Yobe States, as resulted in more than a million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) returning to their Local Government Areas (LGAs) of origin.

However, Edward stated, many of them are stranded in secondary displacement sites because of ongoing insecurity, lack of infrastructure and absence of basic services to support their livelihoods. "As more areas become liberated the number of people in need of assistance continues to increase rapidly." He added.

Being his first media engagement since assuming office in Nigeria, the Resident Representative used the opportunity to call

on a stronger and closer working relationship with the media.

"I have emphasized that I will be leading a very transparent and accountable UN System that proactively shares information with its partners and the public – we owe it to them. I know I will not be able to do this without a strong partnership with you the media." He emphasized.

UNDP Nigeria is the lead agency on the Early Recovery and Livelihood Sector Working Group and is expanding its early recovery work in the region aimed at addressing the underlying causes of the conflict, protecting development gains and helping vulnerable people avoid prolonged dependence on humanitarian aid.

# International spotlight shines on North East crisis at Oslo Humanitarian Conference



humanitarian response to the crisis in Nigeria's north-east and other affected countries in the Lake Chad Region. Noting that solving the problem will require solution beyond humanitarian handouts, the participants at the conference agreed to address medium- and long-term development needs and identify durable solutions for the millions of people affected. This they noted will help avoid escalating the crisis further.

**Pledges for financial support surpassed USD 672 million.**

Nigeria, Germany, Norway and the United Nations hosted the "Oslo Humanitarian Conference on Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region" in Norway.

The event was used as an opportunity to raise awareness on the complexity of the crisis and make an urgent call for international humanitarian help as well as medium to long-term development solutions, including prevention and stabilisation efforts.

Participants at the conference committed to urgently strengthen the principled

Participants also agreed to consult on a wider range of preventive and stabilisation measures that would facilitate development in the region.

Participants also demonstrated political and financial commitment to the crisis, contributing over USD 458 million for the humanitarian response in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Region for this year's activities.

The conference was attended by 24 countries, 20 international and regional organisations, and representatives of local and international civil society. UNDP Resident Representative, Edward Kallon attended the conference together with senior government officials from the Nigeria.



# 'Catch-them-young' and 'Family plus school approach' - all against corruption

*Tackling corruption through teaching and imparting in young people, a value system that is grounded on morals that promote hardwork, honesty, dignity, integrity, patience, patriotism, love for others, and accountability among others.*



The New Generation Girls and Women Development Initiative (NIGAWD) has taken the anti-corruption campaign to the next generation of leaders through its 'catch-them-young' and 'family plus school approach' initiatives

NIGAWD a grant recipient of the European Union (EU) funded anti-corruption programme managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and implemented by the UNDP is taking the fight against corruption into classrooms.

Through its initiatives the organisation conducts monthly and quarterly educational dialogues on anti-corruption targetted at more than 3600 youths drawn from sixteen primary and secondary schools in two Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Ekiti State.

NIGAWD uses simple but creative teaching methods, including board games and role playing, to convey messages that stimulate students into critical thinking about life issues and decision making processes.

The organisation believes that one of the

most effective approaches to tackling corruption in Nigeria was teaching and imparting, in young people, a value system that is grounded on morals that promote hardwork, honesty, dignity, integrity, patience, patriotism, love for others, and accountability among others.

Under the "family plus school approach" parents and teachers participate in the dialogues to reinforce in-school lessons given to the students. During these sessions, young people engage in conversations among themselves and with their parents - feedback from parents in the presence of students and teachers is useful in informing teachers on broader issues that most times influence youth behaviour and conduct.

Parents, teachers, principals and students have all signed up to the NIGAWD Integrity pledge board produced for the 16 participating schools. The board commits them to "**pledge to uphold integrity in all my dealings**" - all sixteen schools have the billboard with this pledge erected on their premises.

The organisation continues to appreciate support from its funding partners stating that its interventions at grassroot level targetted at future leaders will benefit the country in the long run.

## UNDP enhancing participation in the cassava value-chain

UNDP organised a business meeting (*Inclusive Business Acceleration for Cassava Value Chain in Nigeria*) aimed at accelerating increased participation of actors in the Cassava Value Chain.

With intensified industrial use of cassava, more opportunities are opening up within the cassava value chain for new entrants and actors. These include increased demand for raw cassava tubers as well as processing of cassava into intermediate by-products like chips, starch, flour, ethanol, and as a substitute in livestock feed production.

In addition to the growing industrial utilization of cassava, there is an increased demand for cassava roots in the processing of various foods products consumed within Nigeria and also to feed the growing international market for gari and fufu, particularly in neighbouring countries.

The meeting explored avenues for fast-tracking participation more players, especially youth and women, in the growing cassava value chain business and also help to ensure structural development and growth of the sub-sector.

With the country's focus at diversifying the



economy, there is a unique opportunity for UNDP to lead the process of making agriculture truly a business. UNDP will therefore be organizing business meetings, mentoring sessions that are focused mainly on youth and women.

# Kaga youths get another opportunity to go to school, thanks to UNDP

*In finding durable solutions to the crisis in the North East, "Education is the game change" - these words have been repeated on several occasions by Kashim Shettima, the Executive Governor of Borno State.*



Makinta Kururi Primary School opened its doors again and children in Kaga Local Government Area (LGA) in Borno State sat in front of a teacher, years after the school was destroyed by Boko Haram. Kaga LGA lies between Maiduguri and Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State – another one affected by the insurgency.

Kaga has a population of over 90,000 people and is one of the worst hit in the State. Some villages in Kaga have experienced repeated attacks, gruesome killings and widespread destruction of houses and property by the insurgents resulting in mass displacement of people, most of whom ended up in Maiduguri, the capital.

Military operations by the Nigerian Army led to the recapturing of Kaga and nearby towns from Boko Haram in early 2015. This triggered return to the area by previously displaced



Newly reconstructed Makinta Kururi Primary School in Kaga Local Government Area, Borno State. The school will provide a conducive environment for learning and employment opportunities for community members including teachers.

residents. However, lack of basic social services and infrastructure remain among the factors that have hindered successful return of people to the area.

UNDP has supported rehabilitation of the school under the Early Recovery, Livelihood Support and Social Cohesion Project, which is funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by Borno State State Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR).

Following the completion of the school buildings, students have another opportunity to go to school and learn. UNDP's intervention is in line with the State Government's vision of using education as a "game changer" in finding lasting solutions to the crisis.

Headmistress of the school, Ms. Esther Mustafa says she is happy to see students and teachers

back to the school. Rehabilitation work of the school provided emergency employment opportunities to communities/returnees.

The rehabilitation of the school also played as a catalyst for the State to begin its own rehabilitation works in the area which has seen reconstruction of houses around the primary school - close to 200 families will soon take ownership of the newly reconstructed houses in the area. Kaga is set as a pilot of the rebuilding project in affected communities within Borno.

The Primary School is one of the 11 infrastructure rehabilitated with UNDP support. UNDP is scaling up its support to the people in the North East of Nigeria, in partnership with stakeholders and development partners.

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