



UNDP to invest US\$3.7m in entrepreneurship programme

UNDP announced in Abuja, it will be supporting over 750 entrepreneurs across the continent. This was done during the official announcement of successful applicants for the fifth cohort of entrepreneurs to be admitted into the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) programme for entrepreneurship development.

The investment by UNDP towards the 2019 cohort, in excess of US\$3.7 million, is made up of contributions from UNDP regional office and selected country offices across the continent, including Nigeria.

In 2017 UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Foundation with the intention to undertake initiatives that would meet both UNDP and the Foundation's mission of addressing development challenges through entrepreneurship.

The Foundation, established in 2010, a leading philanthropy in Africa championing entrepreneurship, has developed a ten-year programme aimed supporting entrepreneurs across the continent. >>[Read more](#)

UNDP/GEF and FMARD hold communication training for project staff

UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in partnership with Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) held a three-day training, mid March, for project staff members drawn from seven northern states in which the project "Integrated Approach Programme For Fostering Sustainability And Resilience For Food Security In The Savannah Zones Of Northern Nigeria" is being implemented.

The objective of the training was to introduce the UNDP-GEF FS project to the participants, equip them with information and skills needed

to enable them effectively communicate the project, its results and impact on the lives of families and communities in their respective States.

The training also focused on providing insights into the challenges of food and nutrition security and ways to enhance it in Nigeria. Participants for the training were drawn from Adamawa, Benue, Gombe, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa and Nassarawa States.

The project to be implemented over a period of five years is aimed at >> [Read more](#)

In this issue



UN DSG, Amina Mohammed, meets UNDP Staff in Abuja (pg 3)



Over 3,400 certified from UNDP and Lagos State employability project (pg 4)



UNDP supports 2019 election activities across the Federation (Pg 5)

UNDP takes “Peace Project” to communities in Benue State

The visits conducted in Logo, Guma, Kwande, Buruku and Agatu Local Government Areas were useful in gaining insights in the local conflict dynamics which are unique to communities based on several factors among them such as the location, the response of security operatives to the conflicts, etc.

Japan releases \$1.5m for Stabilization activities in North-East Nigeria

The Government of Japan has released USD 1.5 million to fund community stabilization activities in Nigeria's North-East region. The funds will be utilized through an ongoing programme launched in 2016, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria. The interventions being implemented in the region are aimed at supporting victims of Boko Haram insurgency in the three most affected States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

This builds on ongoing activities that the Government of Japan has been supporting which have facilitated the rehabilitation of 20 public infrastructures and provided emergency employment to more than 2,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees. In addition, more than 4,000 farmers and over 1,000 small businesses were supported with inputs and capital that helped improve and expand their sources of livelihood. The Government of Japan has already invested USD6.5 million in North-East Nigeria stabilization activities. >> [Read more](#)



UNDP is in its first year of implementing a project that is aimed at ending the Herdsmen-Farmers Conflict in Benue and Nasarawa States in Nigeria, a region that has experienced years of conflicts. The conflict area lies largely in the middle belt States and traces its source in the clashes over farmland and/or pasture, which have increasingly taken varying undertones among different groups, religious and community leaders, a development which has further polarized communities and complicated efforts at curbing the spread of violence and subsequent destruction to property and sources of livelihoods.

The conflict in the region continues to undermine food security, encourages

the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and infringes on a number of fundamental human rights.

The conflict has resulted into reduced crop productivity from a region that has traditionally been referred to as the country's food basket. Thousands of lives have been lost, property destroyed, and communities left in disarray, with tens of thousands internally displaced all over many parts of the Middle Belt and other parts of Nigeria. Some estimates indicate that the communal violence between farmers and herders claimed more lives in 2016 alone than the Boko Haram insurgency, hinting at its magnitude nationwide. >> [Read more](#)

Use your skills to support your families, Khardiata urges graduands

Actig Resident Representative Ms. Khardiata Lo Ndiaye urged beneficiaries of an ongoing skills training programme for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Borno State to take full advantage of the opportunity UNDP was providing as part of its interventions aimed at supporting early recovery efforts for victims of the decade-long insurgency in North-East Nigeria.

Ms. Ndiaye said this at the Matriculation Ceremony of 50 IDPs from Borno State who will be undergoing training in Leather Works at the Nigeria Institute for Leather and Science Technology (NILEST), Abuja Training Centre. At the same event, graduating IDPs were urged to use their skills to help their families and communities. The event was graced by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu. >> [Read more](#)



Over 700 Boko Haram crisis victims engaged in emergency employment in Borno State



With the aim of providing alternative livelihood opportunities for the growing number of unemployed youths, women and other vulnerable groups in North-East Nigeria, UNDP has engaged over 700 conflict-affected people from across Borno state in emergency employment.

This initiative is part of ongoing intensive community clean-up and waste removal activities and delivery of sanitation-related services in the area. Implemented under the European Union-funded "Sustainable Waste Management and Environmental Protection" project, the intervention is part of UNDP's early recovery efforts, aimed at resuscitating household's sources of livelihoods and reducing their reliance on humanitarian aid for survival.

The beneficiaries of this intervention include Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their hosts in communities who are paid using the cash-for-work approach. Income realized from emergency employment helps families meet household needs, including feeding, accessing healthcare services and buying medication and paying for children's school fees. Previous beneficiaries from similar opportunities have used income earned to start small businesses and support even more community members.

The decade-long conflict in North-East Nigeria has not caused an estimated \$8 billion worth of infrastructure damage, mass displacement of families and disruption of economic activities in the region. It has also led to negative environmental consequences like pollution, accumulation of debris and unattended solid waste.

This continues to expose already vulnerable populations to environmental and health risks, especially in Maiduguri, Bama and Biu which have witnessed >> [Read more](#)

UNDP, EU to train 600 conflict-affected persons in vocational skills



UNDP and European Union have kicked off the first batch of EU fully-funded vocational training for 600 conflict-affected persons from Borno State enrolled in the Integrated Community Recovery and Resilience in Borno State (IC2RB) programme.

Under the programme implemented by the UNDP, beneficiaries are being trained in 24 different skills such as aluminium fabrication, catering & decoration, hair dressing, tailoring, welding & fabrication, auto mechanic, auto mobile technology, mechatronics, cattle fattening, crop production, fish production, shoe making/leather works, etcetera.

The crisis in North-East Nigeria, now in its tenth year has spilled into the Lake Chad region, with 7.1 million people in Nigeria in need of humanitarian assistance. Prolonged development deficit in the region exposed millions to different kinds of vulnerabilities even before the crisis started.

With 1.8 million people still internally displaced in the three most affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, finding sources of livelihood remains a huge challenge for hundreds of households as they continue to rely on humanitarian support for survival. >> [Read more](#)

UN Deputy Secretary General meets with UNDP Staff in Abuja



United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Amina Mohammed, while on mission in Nigeria, February, met with staff of UNDP in Abuja. Ms Mohammed, commended the staff for their dedication to supporting national efforts towards delivering development solutions for the millions of Nigerians.

The DSG stated that the reform going on in the UN development system provided a good opportunity for UNDP to focus on its core area and deliver meaningful results for people.

She emphasized that Nigeria continued to face

a lot of development challenges that required efficiently delivered support.

"There is urgent need to address the persistent gender gaps in society in order to harness the full potential of both men and women in realizing real national development results. We have to remove the concrete ceiling that continue to deprive young people of the opportunity to participate in national development processes," She added.

Ms. Mohammed visited the UN building in Abuja and met with Heads of Agencies. /END

Over 3,400 certified from UNDP and Lagos State Employability Support Project.



Over 3,400 youths in Lagos have been trained and certified in different vocational skills under the employability support project being implemented by UNDP and the Lagos State Government through Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF). Almost half of those certified are females.

The project, now its third year of implementation, has undertaken training activities targeted at youths in Lagos State in market-demanded skills in sectors like construction, manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, entertainment, finance and tailoring.

The Project seeks to address the State's current challenge of 'non-availability' of employable (skilled) workers to meet public and private sector demand. To achieve this, the project has engaged several vocational skills training centres and

developed industry-tailored courses for the youths in the State. Over 300 companies have registered with the project as potential employers.

Unemployment in Nigeria remains a huge burden for the government standing at 23% by the end of 2018 – majority of the unemployed are youths. Lagos is Nigeria's richest State by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with a labour force of over 7 million and underemployment at 12.4% by the third quarter of 2018.

Since inception, over 1,100 trainees have been recruited by different companies are now in gainful employment. Close to 500 have opted to start their own businesses and are now employing others. >> [Read more](#)

Nigeria participates in EU-UNDP Conference on Lake Chad Basin Stabilization

The crisis in Lake Chad Basin remains complex, and after a decade of conflict, it is critical that interventions designed and implemented to restore peace in the region and facilitate development activities to take place again. The urgent need for strengthening human security, delivering essential services and facilitating the revitalization of economic activities cannot be emphasized.

UNDP and the European Union (EU) organised a workshop dubbed "Rapid and Agile Responses in support to Stabilisation" in Brussels where experts from EU Member States, the EU institutions and UNDP exchanged ideas drawn from lessons learned from EU >> [Read more](#)





UNDP supports 2019 election activities across the Federation

In line with our wider efforts to support sustainable and inclusive democratic societies, UNDP has over the years, implemented several initiatives aimed at enhancing the capacity of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and other actors responsible for credibility and inclusiveness of electoral processes.

In Nigeria, UNDP remains the lead United Nations agency that supports national efforts that continue to strengthen democratic governance in the country.

During the 2019 electoral cycle, as in the past, UNDP took a partnership approach, working closely with several Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on a number of initiatives that were key to ensuring that the elections were peaceful, inclusive and overall credible.

UNDP worked with the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) in promoting peace during the elections.

This was done through engaging political players in consultations that culminated in the signing of Peace Accords in four states (Kaduna, Benue, Kano, Rivers). Signing of Peace Accords was critical in demonstrating commitment by political party leaders to conducting themselves in a manner would promote issue-based campaigns and address contentious issues with potential to conflict points before they occur.

UNDP continued to engage with the communities through its partners on the ground to ensure that the provisions of the Accord were respected by all parties. >> [Read more](#)

EU funded project ends activities in Borno State, records successes.

After 20 months of implementing activities aimed at addressing information and coordination gaps for recovery in Borno State, the project, mostly funded by the European Union Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), implemented by UNDP concluded its activities on 30 March.

The initiative contributed to improving

the effectiveness of the international crisis response by establishing and availing systematic and critical information on key areas necessary for coordinated early recovery interventions for North-East Nigeria to Humanitarian and Early Recovery actors in the State.

The database uses Global Information System

(GIS) technology to identify locations where recovery interventions have been undertaken. In addition, UNDP supported the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement critical information technology equipment to facilitate effective recovery coordination, data analysis and management of information. The >> [Read more](#)

United Nation Development Programme - Nigeria
Plot 617/618 Diplomatic Drive
Central Business District
Abuja

www.ng.undp.org
[Facebook.com/UNDPNigeria](https://www.facebook.com/UNDPNigeria)
[Youtube.com/UNDPNigeria](https://www.youtube.com/UNDPNigeria)
Twitter - @UNDPNigeria

Contact: lucky.musonda@undp.org

Editor/Designer - Lucky Musonda

Photography - Eno Jonathan, Lucky Musonda, LSETF, Mikael Lindvall

Contributors - Eno Jonathan, Kehinde Osotimehin, Lucky Musonda, Rhoda Dia (FMARD), Oluwaseyi Ladejobi (LSETF)

Editorial Team - Anthony Omata, Kehinde Osotimehin