Women and youths - among the worst affected by the crisis in North East - Edward Kallon

Following his visit to Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, UNDP Resident Representative, Edward Kallon, called for urgent support to the victims of the six yearlong conflict in the North East of Nigeria.

Edward who is also the Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator for the United Nations System in Nigeria was on a tour of the region in order to fully appreciate the extent of the crisis from both a development and humanitarian perspective. He was in the region to also engage with both state and non-state actors on the ground who are involved in responding to the crisis.

“I am now convinced that following the crisis that has affected the North East region, women (especially widows), children (especially orphans), and youths are the worst affected and in urgent need of help,” Edward stated at the end of his mission.

The military insurgency in the North East has caused widespread destruction in the region resulting in mass displacement of people with others fleeing to neighbouring countries like Cameroun and Niger. At the height of the insurgency, over 2 million people were displaced in Borno State alone, making the State the epicentre of the crisis. (cont'd on page 2)
Over 250 IDPs enrolled in vocational skills training in Yola and Kaduna

Early recovery is a vital element of any effective humanitarian response as it enables people affected by the emergency to use the benefits of humanitarian action to seize development opportunities, build resilience, and establish a sustainable process of recovery from crisis.

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The crisis in the North East has severely impacted on the already underdeveloped States in the region pushing (already) vulnerable and poor civilians to extreme copying mechanisms. With livelihoods destroyed, property damaged, community and family structures broken, the crisis has exposed survivors to more vulnerabilities including food insecurity, malnutrition, and lack of shelter, among others.

During his meetings with State authorities, UN agencies, local and international Non-Governmental Organisations in the three territories, Edward reaffirmed the UN’s commitment to providing all necessary support to ensure that victims of the crisis received timely assistance.

Edward reiterated that as more areas become liberated from Boko Haram, it was important to begin addressing early recovery and durable solutions to the response interventions. He noted with worry, that a lot of youth were not engaged in any activities to keep them active and motivated as schools and other public places were destroyed. He also noted that as a result of the insurgency, a lot of women had lost their spouses, who in most cases were also breadwinners.

“The crisis was partly fueled by pro-longed development deficit in the region, if we do not begin addressing the medium to long-term development issues, including providing urgent livelihood support to the victims, the crisis will not be fully resolved,” Edward emphasized.

The Resident Representative used the opportunity to visit communities and training centres being supported by UNDP in the region. /END

Some of the students enrolled at Adamawa Vocational Training Centre in Yola and PAN Learning Centre in Kaduna opened their doors to a new and different set of students - victims of the insurgency who are seeking a way back to a normal life.

Through our support, 179 youths have been enrolled in different vocational skills training programmes in Yola, Adamawa State, while another 80 are based in Kakuri, Kaduna State.

As a result of the conflict, mostly in northern Nigeria, thousands of households have lost their sources of livelihood and continue to depend on humanitarian support for their survival.

Implemented under the inclusive growth and livelihoods support component of the Norwegian funded National Infrastructure for Peace project, the intervention is aimed at equipping the victims of the insurgency with skills that would enable them establish their own means of livelihood.

UNDP has procured and supplied various equipment to be used in training the students in the areas of aluminum fabrication, welding and mobile device repairs. It is expected that once the students graduate, they will either seek gainful employment in industries that need their skills or start their own businesses in these trades - they will be supported with take-off equipment.

During the training, the students are given a monthly stipend amounting to N26,100 for their sustenance.

‘Keke napep’ by UNDP!

Small businesses contribute significantly to both household and sub-national economic state. In Yobe State, UNDP with support from the Government of Japan has already supported 80 IDPs and returnees with tri-cycles locally known as ‘Keke napep’. The beneficiaries of this support will use them to start small businesses in local transportation of goods and passengers.

Entrepreneurs in keke napep business make between N1500-N4500 depending on the size of the town they operate in and the age of the equipment in use.
The second Steering Committee for the two projects funded by the Government of Japan, “The De-radicalization, Counter-Terrorism and Migration in Northern Nigeria” and “The Support to Early Recovery and Social Cohesion in the North East” met in Abuja to discuss a wide range of issues pertaining to implementation of project activities.

Key outcomes of the meeting include a decision to extend the “De-radicalisation, Counter-terrorism & Migration Project” for two months; the extension will allow for more implementation time and successful completion of planned activities in-line with project objectives and available resources.

The Committee also endorsed the results of the project quality assurance rating; a confirmation that the projects are of satisfactory quality which also provided catalytic programmatic evidence to further scale-up support in the North East.

The meeting, held on 31 January 2017, was chaired by Ms. Nana Mede, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and National Planning and attended by representatives from the Country Office, the Embassy of Japan in Nigeria, Borno State Government, Adamawa State Government, Nigeria Army Peace Keeping Center (NAPKC), Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), and the Centre for Democracy & Development (CDD).

“Endorsed quality of projects as satisfactory”

The De-radicalisation, Counter-terrorism and Migration project is aimed at achieving the following:

1. Enhanced capacity of security agencies in investigation and prosecution of acts of terrorism, as well as in preventing and tackling irregular migration;
2. Strengthened capacity of local religious communities in proffering counter-narratives to extremist views and perspectives towards the prevention and countering of radical views capable of breeding terrorism.
3. Enhanced Community Engagement in De-Radicalization.
Akin Fadeyi Foundation (AFF), a grant recipient of the European Union (EU) funded Anti-Corruption programme managed by the UNDP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), took its anti-corruption campaign to students in Abuja’s secondary schools in Dutse and Gwagwalada Education Districts.

The Foundation is involving students in the battle against corruption and other social vices - young people have great potential in being change agents. Social vices like corruption has consequences which affect them the most.


“Although corruption and corrupt practices remain a global challenge, addressing them requires efforts starting from the grassroot,” Akin noted. “This is why we have designed a grass-root oriented Anti-Corruption Capacity Building Campaign targeting students of Secondary Schools.”

Akin further expressed his appreciation to UNDP and UNODC for the support in the Foundation’s nationwide campaign against retail and petty corruption dubbed “NOT IN MY COUNTRY”.

“Our vision is a Catch-Them-Young approach to tackling corruption” stated Ganiyu Olowu, Project Officer at the Foundation. “They are the future and hope of Nigeria. We must involve them in the conversation for a new and better Nigeria. They have power and boundless energy to change many things from their thinking, attitude to life, national issues, nation building, mutual interaction, enterprise and national integrity.” He added.

In Lagos, the Foundation has featured popular presenters of Your View from the Television Continental (TVC) - led by Morayo Afolabi-Brown and renowned Nollywood Actors; Hafiz Oyetoro a.k.a. Saka and Jude Othorha in motivating students - the leaders of tomorrow.

The Foundation is implementing its activities following grant support of up to $100,000 it received from UNDP/UNODC managed anti-corruption programme.
Attempts at economic diversification in Nigeria have not yielded significant results. Prevalent challenges of agricultural value chains in Nigeria that have retarded investments in agriculture require urgent attention if these attempts are to succeed.

UNDP is already engaging selected off takers in the sector with the aim of exploring the potential of rice value chain development in the country.

During the month, a mission to Kano and Jigawa States was conducted with the sole objective of conducting a firsthand assessment of the appropriateness of the selected off takers and identify any risks that are associated with their ventures.

The mission also explored the full extent of value chain activities of the off taker including volume of production, number of out growers smallholder farmers engaged, market reach among others.

UNDP’s intervention, through our Agricultural Development Support Programme (ADSP), working with a wide range of stakeholders, is seeking to harness endogenous resources and opportunities for value addition that result in employment creation and expansion of domestic and foreign trade. The project also seeks to engage relevant players in strengthening market linkages and local capacities for managing and extending harvest seasons with a long term view of achieving sustained growth of commodity markets and price stabilisation.

Following the assessment mission to the two States, it was observed that a number of large scale rice processing mills continue to emerge. For example, in the last one year, two major processing mills have started processing in Hadejia, east of Jigawa State. The same was observed in Kano State where some mills are ready to commence full operation while others which have been non-operational for years are being revamped and expected to commence operations before the end of the year.

Until recently, large scale rice processing was seen as unprofitable as the locally produced and processed rice were unable to compete with the imported rice, despite the low price of paddy.

All indications are now pointing to the fact that industrialization through agriculture is taking place, especially in the rice subsector. The establishment and commissioning of more processing mills will be a major stimulant for rice production across the country.

However, the rice value chain is constrained by current production methods, scarcity and high costs of inputs, poor post-harvest and processing methods, inefficient milling techniques and poor marketing, among others.

Poor road infrastructure is also hampering expansion. For example, most mills source for raw materials (paddy rice) from as far as Kebbi, Sokoto, Adamawa and fringes of Borno State.

Our project is expected to deliver strengthened public-private partnerships for addressing selected value chain constraints; creating opportunities for new and/or expanded enterprises that will also result in more jobs for women and youth; facilitating technology and knowledge transfer; and provide opportunity for strategic South-South partnerships.