



# THE VOLUNTEER



The Newsletter of the UNV Programme in Uganda

Vol. 3, March - August 2007

## Celebrating International Volunteer Day 2006

By Moses Tumusiime, UNV Human Rights Project; Stella Suffer, UNHCR & Josephine Nakato, Cisco/UNV Programme

From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2006, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in Uganda gathered in Entebbe to celebrate the International Volunteers Day (IVD) 2006. The IVD celebrations attracted participation from 148 volunteers from different agencies, including UN Volunteers, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), Raleigh Uganda, VSO, Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC), and community volunteers.

This unprecedented participation by the various agencies was a result of inspiration from the UNV Country Office which invited JOCV, VSO and Raleigh Uganda to take part in the communal IVD commemorative activities.

The objectives of the three-day event were to increase and

promote the spirit of volunteerism amongst the local population, facilitate community access to health services through supporting Entebbe Grade B hospital, develop a network between community volunteers, national and international volunteer agencies as well as strengthen the bonds among the UNVs. Setting off from UNDP office in Kampala on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, an aura of excitement was clearly discernible among the UNVs as they

mingled and exchanged greetings, catching up on what had happened since they last met. It was also a prime opportunity for several to finally meet colleagues whom they had previously only encountered via email.

Arriving at Entebbe, the first meeting was held, with the UNV Program Officer Mr. Mwangi Mathenge kick-starting events with a brief presentation on UN Volunteers. The entire group then



*Mr. Mwangi Mathenge UNV Programme Officer (front row, standing) and the JOCV, VSO and UN volunteers smile in exhilaration, having done a fantastic paint job at Entebbe Grade B Hospital*

relocated to Entebbe Grade B Hospital where JOCV and VSO members were gathered. Following remarks by the heads of the three Volunteer contingents as well as the Hospital Administration, the real work, and fun, began. For those who had never dabbled with a paintbrush before, this was the perfect opportunity to unearth their innate painting skills, as they set out to work with a will.

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## A Word from the Resident Representative

It gives me pleasure to introduce this third issue of the UN Volunteers Newsletter. I congratulate the UNV family for both this initiative and the good work they are doing in Uganda.

The UNVs in Uganda deserve special thanks and commendation for their work. I have seen them participate actively in numerous and diverse development activities from human rights protection, to environmental conservation, poverty eradication and conflict resolution issues in conflict-affected areas of this country.

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## Foreword by the UNV Programme Officer



Welcome to the third issue of *The Volunteer*, our bi-annual Newsletter that serves as a medium to highlight the activities, deeds and impact of the UNV Programme in Uganda. Since my arrival in June 2006, it has been a tremendous experience to be charged with the responsibility of managing and developing a programme, supported by the UNDP Country Office, that sees professional and dedicated citizens spare time to volunteer their expertise for peace and development.

Currently the programme has about sixty serving UNV volunteers placed with UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR and various government departments as well as other partner programmes here in Uganda. The last eight months have seen twenty-eight (28) UNV volunteers joining the family while we bade farewell to thirty (30), including Mama Zeridah Sempira the former UNV Country Office Assistant. In addition, UNV Country Office (UNV CO) facilitated recruitment of twelve (12) Ugandans and four (04) other nationalities to serve as UNV volunteers in other countries.

We cannot fail to recognize Mama Zeridah's long and endearing service of 20-plus years at the helm of the UNV Programme in Uganda which she joined when it was only 3 years old. It hasn't been easy to find a suitable candidate to fill her big shoes.

The year 2006 also marked five years since the International Year of Volunteerism (IYV 2001) and UNV volunteers in Uganda joined hands with volunteers from Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO) amongst others to celebrate

International Volunteer Day 2006 in a memorable fashion. The success of the event was facilitated by the financial contributions from UNDP, UNHCR as well as UNV Programme.

In a first-ever occurrence and as a means of revitalizing volunteerism and improving delivery of UNV Programme services, a UNV Support Team is currently being established which will constitute of a voluntary grouping of UNV volunteers to complement the work of UNV CO especially in creating cohesiveness amongst UNV volunteers, networking and advocacy.

The UNV Programme embarked upon a strategy to reassert itself and improve delivery on its mandate, Volunteerism for Development (V4D). Thus in June 2006, the programme received backing from the Executive Board to develop a Results Framework that would be incorporated in UNDP's Strategic Plan of 2008 – 2011. This is made up of a UNV Business Model providing three areas of intervention that are backed with three Areas of Distinctive Contribution to development effectiveness.

We also participated in UN Day's celebration in Lira last October that marked 60 years since the formation of the United Nations System. Our UNV volunteers Janet Ojera and Geertrui Lanneau represented us, as told in their story herein. The UNV-Cisco partnership programme too is still going strong in support of Cisco academies in the country as UNV volunteers Josephine Nakato and Richard Okou recount in this issue.

UNV Programme in Uganda had also been working with UWEC and its partners in implementation of an MDG Facility project worth USD 39,000. UNDP facilitated the acquisition of an

MDG Mobile Education Kit that the UNDP Resident Representative handed over in August 2006.

UNV Support to the Promotion of Human Rights in Uganda project, financed by UNV programme's Special Voluntary Funds (SVF) has been spectacular in the promotion of human rights aspects at community level for the past four years. Project Manager, UNV Obert Chinhamo, provides an overview of the project's achievements now that SVF sponsorship is to draw to close by the end of March 2007.

The updated UNV Conditions of Service for international UNV volunteers was introduced this year and is now operational for both new and contract extensions as from 01 February 2007. However, some provisions of the previous one (IUNV CoS, May 1999) are still applicable to those who had running contracts with the knowledge that all will conform as from 01 August 2007.

The ATLAS Wave II, Human Capital Management module was also introduced as planned where UNVs will be part of the UNDP Global Workforce and use a Global Payroll for payment of VLAs and other entitlements so as to streamline administration of UNV volunteers in general, improve timeliness, accuracy, recording and reporting of payments.

In the next issue (September 2007), we intend to focus on the UNV volunteers' involvement and contribution in Northern Uganda.

Have a happy, educative, informative and entertaining reading!

**Mwangi Mathenge, Patrick**  
UNV Programme Officer,  
Editor-in-Chief

## Celebrating International Volunteer Day 2006

From Page 1

The hospital grounds were dotted with the UNV T-shirts that had been distributed earlier and were being donned by the volunteers from the different agencies. At least 20 hospital staff were also involved in painting two buildings. The interaction and cooperation between the volunteers from the various agencies was truly a sight to behold. Tired but happy, at the close of this activity, the volunteers witnessed the tools and paint being handed over by Mr. Mathenge to the hospital, which expressed gratitude for the donation. The hospital administration also commended the work done and pledged to complete the facelift that the volunteers had started.

Returning to their hotel, the UNVs shed all signs of fatigue as they engaged in fun and sports, playing football, beach volleyball and with some opting for a swim. Some displayed skills worthy of national aces!

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December dawned, and after another UNV meeting, the JOCV, UNV and Raleigh Uganda teams assembled at UWEC, before heading to Entebbe Comprehensive Secondary School to participate in the establishment of a demonstration tree project. In the introductory remarks that launched the activities, UWEC administration lauded the support that UNDP and the UN Volunteers office had been

providing to the institution, and cited the tree-planting activities as an example of continued cooperation between



*UNVs Akello Carolyn and James Ojok (1st and 2nd right) were part of the team that put up the barbed wire fence to protect the planted seedlings at Entebbe Comprehensive School*

UWEC and UN Volunteers, also hailing the new relationships with other volunteer agencies.

A heavy downpour started, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the volunteers and community who worked energetically once the rain had lessened. Two groups were formed, one planting over 300 trees, and the other setting up a fence to enclose and protect the newly-planted seedlings. The claps and cheers that filled the air when the tasks were completed bore testament to the pride of all the participants in having done such a great job. The soccer match after a break for lunch between a joint volunteers' team and the local soccer team plus several community youth thrilled spectators and players alike.

Later that evening, the UNV Program Officer accompanied by two UNVs attended a ceremony at UWEC at which he presented certificates to the young Raleigh Uganda volunteers.

As the workshop drew to a close on the 16<sup>th</sup>, the UNV team discussed UNV modalities, the MDGs, shared experiences, reviewed the event and brainstormed on volunteering for development.

The UNV commemoration of IVD 2006 turned out to be a fantastic, effective demonstration of the unity, selflessness and spirit of

collaboration that are at the heart of true volunteerism!

## Word from the Resident Representative

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I am aware of several UNV projects that have been very successful and that really make us proud. A case in point is the UNV Human Rights Project that is highlighted in this issue. This project has been able to spearhead human rights education especially at the village and parish levels and also galvanized the communities to create voluntary action groups to address human rights issues in communities that had been affected by conflict.

Educating people about their rights is a very good step toward people

claiming and protecting their rights. Not only has this project been able to create awareness, they have also created structures (committees, groups, offices) to keep the spirit of human rights consciousness alive.

As the project concludes, it is gratifying to note that one of the partner institutions, the Ministry of Local Government has now made it mandatory for all districts to have human rights desks, which will serve as focal points for human rights at the district and at lower levels. This is an initiative that must be lauded.

There are many UNV projects that have had successes, impacts and policy influence like this.

I commend the UN Volunteers working in Uganda and encourage them to spread the spirit of volunteerism so that we have a bigger force that is capable of delivering even bigger results.

Thank you.

**Theophane Nikyema**  
**UNDP Resident Representative**  
**& UN Resident Coordinator**

*Volunteering for Peace and Development*

## UWEC receives MDG Kit

By Mwangi Mathenge, UNV Programme Officer

The UN Volunteers MDG Facility project has undertaken to support initiatives that are geared towards leveraging volunteerism to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this vein, on 12 January 2006, UNDP on behalf of UNV Programme signed a Letter of Agreement with Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) to promote a project titled "Youth and Community Volunteerism towards achievement of Environmental Sustainability". With a multi-partner approach, this project was designed to involve youth groups, NGOs, national and local institutions to achieve its objectives.

The project implementation is spearheaded by UWEC in partnership with Entebbe Municipal Council, Entebbe District



(L-R) UWEC Board Chairman Mr. Paul Mafabi, Executive Director Dr Andrew Seguya, UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Theopane Nikyema, Entebbe Mayor Mr. Steven Kabuye and UNV Programme Officer Mr. Mwangi Mathenge at the MDG Kit handover ceremony

Wildlife Association and Entebbe Outstanding Youth Association. Under this initiative, volunteerism is seen as the primary engine in bringing about the necessary change in environmental and resource management practices hence contributing to achievement of Millennium Development Goal number 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability).

UNV Programme with the help of UNDP acquired a Mobile Education Kit for the benefit of this initiative. The kit was handed over to UWEC at a function presided over by Mr. Theopane Nikyema, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator. Also present were UNV Program Officer Mr. Mwangi Mathenge, UWEC Board Chairman, Mr. Paul Mafabi, Executive Director, Dr Andrew G. Seguya and the Mayor of Entebbe, Mr. Steven Kabuye. The ceremony took place on Wednesday, 16 August 2006 at Entebbe, where a Public Announcement (PA) System, TV LCD Screen, DVD and a Video Camera worth USD 8,900 were handed over.

In his keynote speech, Mr. Nikyema quoted the UNDP National Human Development Report 2005 which indicated that while Uganda was making some good strides in human development indices, the country was still lagging with regard to environmental management indices. He expressed the hope that through the project's activities such as encouraging community volunteering, environmental conservation education and re-greening, benefits would be reaped and lessons learnt that could be replicated in other areas. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Nikyema also thanked the United Nations Volunteers Program in Uganda for its involvement in this project.

## Farewell Mama Zeridah

A sense of loss engulfed the UNV family as the outgoing UNV Country Operations Assistant Ms. Zeridah Sempira, affectionately referred to as Mama, bade her farewells after twenty years of dedicated service at UNDP. A host of events were organised to see her off. First was the party organized by the UN Staff Union at the UNDP Country Office to pay Mama deserved tributes. With the UNDP Resident Representative and other UN staff in attendance, the fete was a clear testament to not only her outstanding professional performance, but also the warm rapport Mama had created with her colleagues over her years of service. A few UNVs were also present to join in this celebration.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2006, the UNVs also organised a farewell do in Mama's honour at Fang Fang Hotel in Kampala.

This was punctuated by merriment and brief speeches as all present wined and dined together, sharing a few last moments with their beloved Mama who had taken all under her wing and touched their lives in a personal way.

The following day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2006 Mama Zeridah was to fly out of the country, so the UNVs organized a final sendoff for her. Leaving UNDP offices together in the late afternoon, they all headed to Entebbe Airport, starting off at one of the beaches where they ate, talking and laughing by the lake shore as they watched the sun set on Mama's last day in the country, for a while. After nightfall, the final journey was made to the airport, and as Mama checked in, this was when it finally dawned that beloved mama was leaving.

Summing up the sentiments of all, UNV Teresita Cedeño said, "Goodbye Mama! All I can say is may you have all the best days, months and years ahead, and I wish you happiness in your chosen endeavour. God bless you always! Thanks for everything, and all the support you've given me. I'll cherish them, and remember you always."

# UNV Human Rights Project lauded

By Obert Chinhamo, UNV Human Rights Project

The UNV Support to the Promotion of Human Rights in Uganda Project (UGA/02/V01) was rated by independent consultants as having achieved its development objectives. In light of the achievements the experts recommended a Successor Project to consolidate the project achievements in the six pilot districts of Bundibugyo, Gulu, Kabarole, Kasese, Mbale and Soroti whilst at the same time upscaling its interventions to other districts of Uganda.

The revelations of the achievements of the project were made by two independent consultants, Ms Pamela Ashanut Okille and Cliffs Bernard Nuwakora who were hired to carry out a terminal evaluation of the project. The evaluation was commissioned to identify the achievements of the project and the lessons learnt and in order to determine optimal strategies for project continuation or expansion to other parts of Uganda or elsewhere in the world. The evaluation assessed the extent to which the project objectives have been achieved. The consultancy further sought to establish the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and utility of the project, examining the different options for sustainability and documenting best practices and lessons learnt.

Data for the review was collected from a wide range of respondents who included community members who benefited from project interventions, key informants who included local leaders (sub county level and district level, Desk Officers, Volunteers, and project staff.

There were also Civil Society Organizations, the government of Uganda, implementing partners (Uganda Human Rights Commission,

the Amnesty Commission and officials of the Ministry of Local Government) and UN agencies and other multilateral and bilateral agencies.

The terminal evaluation recommendation to develop a Successor Project was endorsed by the Project Stakeholders at a validation meeting that took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2007. The decision was further cemented at a Terminal Tripartite Review meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 and 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2007 respectively.



*Janet Ojera, Gertruui Lanneau and Obert Chinhamo (2nd, 3rd and 4th from right) of the UNV Human Rights Project meeting with camp leaders in Bobi IDP camp, Gulu*

The project stakeholders who endorsed the recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation include the Government of Uganda represented by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Local Government, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Amnesty Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Volunteers, the Office of the Prime Minister among others. The Project Management Unit is now working with the Successor Project stakeholders to develop a Project Document.

Achievements were made after at least three years of project implementation. The Project was executed by the United Nations Volunteers with support from the Special Voluntary Fund (SVF). Its interventions were all plugged into the framework of the UNDP / Government of Uganda National Programme for Good Governance in the context of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). On the ground it was implemented by the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda Amnesty Commission and Ministry of Local

Government. The overall development objective of the project was to protect and promote human rights through increased voluntary activities and improve interaction of human rights institutions with CBOs/NGOs and the local population. The specific objectives were threefold:

- To increase human rights awareness and voluntary action among the local population in conflict areas of northern and western Uganda through training activities
- To improve the outreach capacities of national human rights institutions, namely the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Amnesty Commission, and the Ministry of Local Government (Local Council 1 and 2 Courts)
- To provide a linkage between UNDP policy dialogue and concrete human rights initiatives at the community level

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# International Volunteer Day 2006



UNVs Mabel Turyagenda and Moses Opio (R, 2nd right) await their turn as Stella Suffer (on ladder) applies a coat of paint on the hospital building



Time for some fun: UNV Edith Kadu (centre) issues instructions as she organises the UNV, JOCV and VSO volunteers into two teams for an exciting game



IVD 5 Years On: Their t-shirts proclaiming the message, the volunteers hold their brooms, brushes and rollers in readiness just before giving Entebbe Hospital a facelift



Programme Officer Mr. Mwangi Mathenge (right) stresses the roles of a UNV volunteer at Imperial Resort Hotel Entebbe on the first day of the IVD celebrations



The very first seedling: UWEC director Dr Seguya (2nd right, with spectacles) guides the assembled volunteers through the planting process at Entebbe



JOCV Assistant Resident Representative Mr. Kohei Yoshida and the Entebbe Grade B Hospital Director shake hands as they launch the painting session

## Making a difference with UNHCR



(L-R) UNVs Perez Abeka, Joyce and UNV External Relations officer Roberta Russo in Kitgum during a field monitoring visit of UNHCR-ECHO sponsored activities



UNV Perez Abeka tries out the bicycle donated to an Internally Displaced Persons representative at UNHCR/Kitgum Field office

## UNV Human Rights Project activities



A human rights meeting taking place at Soroti IDP camp as part of the UNV Human Rights Project's sensitization activities

## Bidding Mama Zeridah farewell

## 2006 UN Day celebrations



UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Theopane Nikyema hands over a token of appreciation to Mama Zeridah at the UN Staff association-organised farewell party at UNDP Country Offices



UNVs Geertrui Lanneau, Obert Chinhamo and Moses Tumusiime see Mama Zeridah off at Entebbe Airport



Some of the young children who were a part of the 2006 UN Day celebrations in Lira joyfully holding one of the UNV Support Human Rights Project balloons

## Volunteer Saturday Social Events (VSSE)



(L-R) UNVs Teresita Cedeno and Teresa Sesay (seated), UN Clinic Physician Dr. Rostyslav Marushko, Programme Officer Mwangi Mathenge, Mama Zeridah and Richard Okou (back) during Mama's dinner at Fang Fang Hotel



UNV Team building: (L-R) Programme Officer Mwangi Mathenge, UNVs Obert Chinhamo, Teresita Cedeno, Teresa Sesay and Edith Kaddu at Steak Out during the first social evening



February 2007: Bidding UNV Judith Bamaturaki (centre) farewell in at Faze 2, as she was leaving the UNV programme to pursue further studies

## UNV Human Rights Project activities



UNVs Henry Kiiza (bottom, right), Geertrui Lanneau and Catherine Kemigisha (top, right) after a meeting with members of a Voluntary Action Group in Kiguma Parish, Kabarole



Using music and songs to educate community members on human rights in Angai, Soroti



Ready to hit the road: UNV Emmanuel Thembo heads for the field after refuelling his bike in Kasese

## UNV Human Rights Project lauded

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Major successes of the project include the establishment and empowering of 6 district Human Rights desks in all the 6 pilot districts, creation and training of 26 Community Human Rights Voluntary Action Groups and 17 Schools human rights and peace clubs. The human rights trainings also benefited 612 district and local leaders, 324 Internally Displaced Persons camp leaders, 739 members of the Community Human Rights Voluntary Action Groups, 6478 school children, 364 members of NGOs and CBOs, 13 Human Rights Desk Officers, 3408 community members and 1294 Local Council Courts 1 and 2.

The trainings covered topics such as human rights promotion and protection (including the Rights Based Approach to Development), community mobilisation for social change, National IDP Policy, the law, peace and reconciliation among others. Trainings for the Local Council Courts were on local administration of justice in line with the principles of human rights, ethical conduct, natural justice and gender sensitivity (HENGs). The knowledge, skills and attitudes gained helped to irrigate a culture of human rights respect among the people in the 'post' conflict areas of Uganda.

Further, to the trainings the project produced a website ([www.unvhumanrights.or.ug](http://www.unvhumanrights.or.ug)) and printed various educational materials which included 1000 Project brochures, 6500 Flyers on Amnesty law, 6500 Flyers on Rights in the Constitution of Uganda and 6000 Flyers on the IDP National Policy. Most of the publications were uploaded to the project's website.



*Drama is used in Orungo IDP camp to educate the people on human rights and the Amnesty Act*

stakeholders and the general populace. It was easy for the project to carry out its activities since it was implemented in partnership with well established and legitimate institutions such as the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Amnesty Commission and Ministry of Local Government.

During the project implementation many lessons were recorded. It was learnt that partnership with national institutions is important for acceptance of development projects by other



*UNVs Jane Asiimwe and Geertrui Lanneau on their way to a village in Bundibugyo*

It use of volunteerism in human rights promotion and protection was also tested and found to be effective. The work of community based Human Rights Voluntary Action Groups, Human Rights Desk Officers and Schools Human Rights Clubs is motivated by volunteerism. The groups organize trainings on their own and contribute food at community level if their meetings take the whole day. To do this they do not need any support from outsiders.

The Project also tested the effectiveness of participatory methodologies which proved to be effective in facilitating behavioral change at community level. In carrying out trainings, the project staff used group works, role plays, drama, songs among others. They were able to easily impart information on complicated areas such as the administration of justice, the rules of natural justice, human rights, the Rights Based Approach to Development among others. The use of participatory processes and approaches help to build confidence, stimulate involvement and promote positive values and attitudes critical in owning the community processes of development.

The project has also managed to carry out many activities on a very small budget. Most of the human rights training was carried out in communities where people live instead of holding them in hotels. Also the project stakeholders were not paying seating allowances to project stakeholders at levels. Senior officials from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Local Government, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Uganda Amnesty Commission attended several meetings in which they were not paid any allowance. The model should be viewed as a best practice and extended to other development funds.

## Lira hosts UN Day celebrations

By Janet Ojera and Geertrui Lanneau, UNV Human Rights Project

The 2006 UN day celebrations were held in Lira district on October 25, 2006. The highly eventful day, themed "Stop Violence against Children", was punctuated by various activities that involved all UN Agencies, different NGOs, various drama groups and very fittingly, students and pupils from Lira district. The Guest of Honor and Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Sam Kutesa presided over the event that attracted Local Council officials, religious leaders, clan heads, teachers and the local population.

About 20 schools and some UN officials begun the day with the march from the District Council Hall to Lango College where the event took place. Rights' NGOs like War Child Holland, Save the Children in Uganda, and War affected Children. All organisations exhibited various materials and literature about their institutions, with some even exhibiting the materials which they use to promote human rights in the district.

The participation of children, around whom the day was themed, was

brought to the fore in the exhibition of some drawings done by children. The subjects portrayed were mainly child abuse and the effect of war on children. Exhibited at the UNV stand were UNV materials like pens, 2006 and 2007 calendars, balloons and badges plus UNV "Support to the Promotion of Human Rights in Uganda Project" brochures.



(L-R) UNVs Janet Ojera and Geertrui Lanneau (seated) awaiting visitors at the UNV Programme tent

To the visitors at her table Ms. Ojera explained that UNV carries out human rights training in 6 districts. She pointed out that the Project carries out training on child rights and that this has helped reduce violations of the rights of children in these districts. She also

presented the Guest of Honor with the UNV badge and I.D strap, which he proudly wore throughout the occasion. Ojera also dished out calendars and pens to invited guests and UN officials. The balloons were given to NGOs to be distributed to children when they go out to the field.

From all corners of the venue, the sound of singing could be heard ringing through the air as people sang about human rights, peace and the effect of war. One of the most compelling songs touched upon child abduction, misuse of children to fight and kill people, the horrors of living in the IDP camps and then called upon UN Agencies to help stop this painful and massive violation of human rights. The horrors of war were also brought to life in a drama on child abduction and child soldiers that was acted by pupils.

The painful message was brought out so graphically that some female guests shed tears and the men who normally do not show their emotions were seen

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## Uganda holds Cisco PLAN-IT Workshop

By Richard Okou and Nakato Josephine, UNV/Cisco Programme

On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2006, a PLAN-IT workshop was held to educate the Ugandan Cisco academies on the Cisco PLAN-IT toolkits. The PLAN-IT toolkits that focus on the three themes of Gender, Workforce Development and Financial

Sustainability were created by Cisco Systems in collaboration with its partners, to empower academies to build their sustainability and ensure long-term success. UN Volunteers Richard Okou and Josephine Nakato of the Cisco/UNV program played a key role in organizing the event, along with instructors and coordinators from regional and local Cisco academies within Kampala. The regional academy at the Faculty of Computing and IT (CIT), Makerere University, hosted the two-day event that was funded by Cisco Learning Institute.

Mr. Richard Okou in an overview presentation provided insight into the content matter of the toolkits. Next, Ms. Josephine Nakato tackled the Financial Sustainability Toolkit in which it was emphasised that the academies needed to be in position to continuously generate sufficient resources to attain its goals.



UNV Josephine Nakato (3rd from left, front row) and Area Academy Manager East Africa Ms. Hital Muraj (4th on front row) pose with academy representatives at the PLAN-IT Workshop

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## Uganda holds Cisco PLAN-IT Workshop

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There followed a practical session in the computer lab in which, the participants were grouped into academies, and guided on using the financial sustainability toolkit. In the afternoon, Mr. Fred Kakooza from CIT in his presentation on Gender highlighted several of the challenges that Ugandan academies had cited, also discussing successful gender initiatives that had been instituted by several Ugandan academies, including significant fees discounts, bursaries and all-female classes. Mr. Aramanzan Madanda, ICT Coordinator Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS) Makerere University then led the highly interactive brainstorming session.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Mr. Charles Halonda Funa, Workforce Development Program (WDP) Coordinator Faculty of Computing and IT, gave a presentation on the WDP. Then Mr. Tonny Lule, Legal Main Contact UICT, tackled Student quality and such was the consensus on the importance of academy quality that a joint academy Quality Assurance steering committee was set up to oversee and set guidelines on how quality was to be upheld in the academies. The last session was a technically-oriented one, conducted by Ms. Peace Mutuwa, CCNA Coordinator and Ms. Patience Asiime from the Department of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University.

In the afternoon CIT held a ceremony to launch the website for the academy's Workforce Development Program, attended by the workshop participants, workforce program partners, CIT staff and students plus representatives from Makerere University administration. After welcoming remarks by Dr. Ezra Mugisa, there was a brief speech by a



*Executive Director Uganda Investment Authority Dr. Maggie Kigozi officiates at the CIT Workforce website launch*

representative from one of the partner companies, Mr. Rob Van Hoek, Regional Operations Director of Seven seas Technologies. The Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Professor Livingstone S. Luboobi affirmed when he spoke that the website, being an online facility, would greatly facilitate interaction between the students of the faculty and the IT industry.

The Guest of Honor and Executive Director Uganda Investment Authority, Dr. Maggie Kigozi, hailed the Workforce Development program, lauding the established partnerships that had not only benefited the faculty, but also the Cisco graduates who had interned at companies and organisations like UIA, working on projects like website development, setting up networking labs, system administration and more. She then launched the website, after which the event concluded with a cocktail.

## Lira hosts UN Day celebrations

From Page 9

shaking their heads in disbelief at the horrors the children of northern Uganda are subjected to.

In their speeches, the LCs of the area and the Speaker of the district who spoke on behalf of the LC 5 Chairman called upon UN Agencies to help curb violation of children rights, collaborate with the Government to bring peace, support the peace process and enable people to return to their homes. They thanked UN Agencies for the support they had provided in human rights protection, food distribution, return and resettlement and

humanitarian activity coordination in the district.

Mr. Theophane Nikyema the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator affirmed on behalf of UN Agencies that UN would continue to provide assistance to war-ravaged Northern Uganda. As the celebrations drew to a close, awards were given to the best artists from the eastern, central and northern parts of the country. This truly remarkable day came to an end with showers of rain, which in the African tradition signify blessings.



*UNV Janet Ojera pins a UNV badge on the Guest of Honour and Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sam Kutesa*

## Young wisdom

A grade one teacher collected well known proverbs. She gave each child in her class the first half of a proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

[It's hard to believe these were actually done by grade one kids ("6" year-olds), because the last one is classic!]

Strike while the.....insect is close.

Never underestimate the power of.....ants.

Don't bite the hand that.....looks dirty.

Better to be safe than.....punch a grade 7 boy.

If you lie down with dogs, you'll.....stink in the morning.

It's always darkest before.....Daylight Saving Time.

You can lead a horse to water but.....how?

No news is.....impossible.

A miss is as good as a.....Mister.

You can't teach an old dog new.....maths.

Love all, trust.....me.

The pen is mightier than the.....pigs.

An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.

Where there's smoke there's.....pollution.

Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.

A penny saved is.....not much.

Two's company, three's.....the Musketeers.

Don't put off till tomorrow what.....you put on to go to bed.

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and.....you have to blow your nose.

There are none so blind as.....Stevie Wonder.

Children should be seen and not.....smacked or grounded.

If at first you don't succeed.....get new batteries.

You get out of something only what you.....see in the picture on the box.

When the blind leadeth the blind .....get out of the way!

## Sharing

He ordered one hamburger, one order of French fries and one drink. The old man unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half. He placed one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them.

As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them kept looking over and whispering. You could tell they were thinking, "That poor old couple—all they can afford is one meal for the two of them." As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table. He politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said they were just fine—They were used to sharing everything.

The surrounding people noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink. Again the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything".

As the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked "What is it you are waiting for?"

She answered ...

"THE TEETH."

# Promoting Human Rights in Kasese schools

By Moses Tumusiime, UNV Human Rights Project

In an innovative move, the UNVs of the Human Rights Project in Kasese identified schools and school teachers with whom to partner and train on human rights issues.

- Increase the spirit of volunteerism among students by reporting HR abuses
- Establish/empower school Human Rights clubs to implement a plan of action to

personnel, right from the Education department at district level down to the teachers and students. As a result of these close associations, students and pupils were able to air their concerns and work towards attaining the training

The initiative followed a District Education Officers' meeting held in Mukono in January 2005 where the Ministry of Education encouraged the teaching of life skills such as Human Rights to children in schools. Each school received four 3-hour training sessions per term.



UNV Moses Tumusiime (centre) explains the concepts of Human Rights to students of Kasese High Human Rights Club

The major objectives of the Children Rights training

sessions were:

- To sensitize students on the concept of Human/children rights and responsibilities
- Empower students to defend themselves and other children against abuses
- Make students aware of the Amnesty Act/ peace process (conflict management)

promote Human Rights and peace in the schools and at home

As a result five of the selected nine schools have vibrant Peace/Human Rights Clubs in which human right concepts (children rights & responsibilities) are discussed so as to promote and defend human rights. Over 600 students have benefited. The UNVs interacted closely with all the

rights and about HR protection agencies in the area.

In these events, students had an opportunity to freely share their challenges at school and home, in leadership, obtain clarification on their rights and obligations, justice administration procedures, peace and partnership building as well as volunteerism for development.

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