THE ACCELERATED EDUCATION FOR LEARNERS WILL CONDENSE EIGHT YEARS OF BASIC EDUCATION INTO FOUR

By Nelson Kiva

The Oxfam and the European Union (EU) in partnership have launched a euros 5.5m (about sh24.7bn) education project to secure the education of over 32,000 children in refugee communities in South Sudan and Uganda.

The Resilient Learners, Teachers and Education Systems in South Sudan and Uganda, a four-year-old programme, was flagged off at Mestil Hotel in Kampala, on Thursday.

In South Sudan, it will benefit Torit and Ikwo (Imotonge), Greater Kapoeta (South, North and East Equatoria) and Juba (Central Equatoria).

In Uganda, it will benefit Lamwo district, especially the Palabek Refugee Settlement.

“The accelerated education for learners aged 12 to 25 years, will condense the traditional eight years of basic education in the country into four years. It will include a nine-months bridge course for six to 12-year-olds and a three-years condensed primary education course for learners aged 12 to 18 years. The head of the programme at Oxfam Uganda, Rose Atim Obita, said it would focus its coaching in life skills and market-oriented vocational skills on teenagers aged 14 to 18 years. She added that a training module on inclusion and retention of pregnant girls and young mothers into basic education was also considered.

According to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, by mid-August last year, about one third of the people from South Sudan had been displaced from their homes, with 61% of them being children. The number of those entering had surpassed a million.

Due to the displacements and disruption in the education system, humanitarian agencies estimated that 610,000 children and youth would miss out on education, unless special support was provided.

“Therefore, we at Oxfam, cannot deal with these challenges alone. We need to support these children and youth in a consortium,” Atim said.

The other project partners are AVSI Foundation, Education International, Columbia Global Center, Community Development Initiatives, Uganda National Teachers’ Union, Forum for Africa Women Education Uganda and the Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education.

The programme, on top of targeting 32,600 learners, is expected to enhance the capabilities of 815 teachers in handling children traumatised by the crisis.

Ranjjan Poudyal, the South Sudan Oxfam country director, said: “The project is important for South Sudan with a fragile education, which has deteriorated at both the system level and service delivery level.”

Cedric Merel, the head of co-operation at the EU Uganda Mission, said: “Our wish is that during the planning and implementation of the project, all stakeholders will pay special and inclusive attention to girls, mothers, children with disabilities, children living with HIV, children from child-headed households, children separated from their families and those that have experienced abuse.

“Four years from today, I would wish to see positive changes, like improved school outcomes, safer and better quality teaching and learning, and alternative education systems,” he added.

The state minister for primary education, Rosemary Seninde lauded the project, citing that it was in line with the new co-ordinated approach to refugee response that was embraced by the Government last year. She explained that the ministry had adopted the approach of a co-ordinated education service delivery that included the special needs of refugees and the host communities.

“The project builds on our already existing objectives that have been incorporated into this project of ensuring equitable access to quality education and building the capacity of education managers to acquire and improve on their knowledge, skills and attitude to be able to plan, monitor, account and perform their functions,” Seninde said.

NMS wishes to inform all her esteemed customers, suppliers and the general public that we will close for the end of Financial Year stock take as follows:

1. Receipt of stock from suppliers ceases on Wednesday, 27th June 2018.

2. Receipt of orders from health facilities ceases on Wednesday, 27th June 2018.


Delivery of medicines and medical supplies to all health facilities for cycle 6 will continue as indicated on our published delivery schedule for FY 2017/18.

MANAGEMENT