FOREWORD

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to welcome you to our latest quarterly newsletter. As we release this issue, the Covid-19 pandemic stretches well into its second year and so do its impact and manifold consequences.

Despite the steady growing number of new cases, we managed to achieve important milestones. The two Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks inaugurated in Bure and Yirgalem are among our main features. Our response to the pandemic also continued, as highlighted by our country office in Madagascar. Our collaboration with governments and partners has been strengthened through mutual cooperation. Other key activities within our selected projects are also portrayed in this release.

I therefore invite you to browse through the following pages to discover more about our major activities, events and our response to the pandemic.

Enjoy the reading!

Ms. Aurelia Patrizia Calabrò
UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub
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Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development
connectivity, roads and other infrastructure installations, including offices, factory sheds and staff accommodation. It has the capability of creating 100,000 direct and 300,000 indirect jobs. The IAIP will focus on the processing of edible oil, maize, soya bean, honey, milk, meat, horticultural products, as well as poultry and eggs.

UNIDO has been supporting Ethiopia in the development of the IAIP programme since its inception, in close coordination with other development partners, including the FAO, the AfDB, the EU, the AICS and BMZ, within the framework of the PCP Ethiopia. In addition to the Bure IAIP, the country has three more parks: Bulbula IAIP in Oromia, Yirgalem IAIP in Sidama and Baeker IAIP in Tigray, which will be inaugurated in the coming months. The IAIP initiative is expected to help drive the structural transformation of the economy and support the country in reaching its Vision 2025 goal of becoming a light manufacturing hub in Africa.

Bure, Ethiopia, 8 February 2021 – The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Abiy Ahmed, inaugurated the Bure Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (IAIP) in the Amhara State. Attending the ceremony were also government senior officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, the President of the Amhara Regional State, Mr. Agegnehu Teshager, and other high-ranking federal officials. The over 2,500 attendees included representatives from UNIDO, the UN country team and other development partners, industries, financial institutions and farmers’ unions with an interest in the IAIP.

In his speech, the Prime Minister stated that the government sees the Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks as a national priority. He termed the Bure IAIP “the Cana of Ethiopia”, referring to the Christian Bible and the first public miracle performed by Jesus when he turned water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana. The Prime Minister went on to emphasize how the Bure IAIP is expected to lead the country to prosperity through a focus on processing agricultural produce to export products with high added value to the global market, and thanked UNIDO for supporting the government throughout its development.

The CEO of Amhara IPDC (Industry Parks Development Cooperation) thanked development partners for their help in speeding up the implementation of the project. After his statement, certificates of recognition were awarded to UNIDO and the AfDB for their significant role in the successful completion of the infrastructure of the IAIP.

Backed by a total investment of over 169 million USD (4.6 billion birr), the Bure IAIP covers 260.5 hectares of land in the first phase and is complete with water, electricity, telecom connectivity, roads and other infrastructure installations, including offices, factory sheds and staff accommodation.
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Yirgalem, Ethiopia, 13 March 2021 – The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Abiy Ahmed, together with Former PM Hailemariam Desalegn, inaugurated the second Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (IAIP) in Yirgalem, in the Sidama Regional State.

Other government senior officials were in attendance, such as the President of the Sidama Regional State, Desta Ledamo, and H.E. Mr. Melaku Alebel, Minister for Trade and Industry (MoTI), along with representative council members and other delegated senior federal and regional state officials. The event has brought together more than 3,000 participants, including the EU delegation, the UN country team, numerous development partners, farmers’ unions, representatives from the industrialization sector, and esteemed community leaders.

The Prime Minister stated that he was delighted to see so much potential for the national as well as the international markets during his visit to the first three sheds in the IAIP occupied by investors: Sunvado Avocado Oil Company, Doely Processing and Hebron Coffee.

The President of the Sidama Regional State and H.E. Melaku Alebel expressed their deepest gratitude to stakeholders who helped to make the park a reality, and specifically recognized UNIDO for their exceptional contribution to these efforts.

With a total investment of over 60 million USD and a surface area of 294 hectares, the Yirgalem Integrated Industrial Park is expected to create direct jobs for more than 100,000 people and indirect jobs for more than 400,000 people. Out of the 11 production sheds constructed so far, four are already occupied by avocado oil, honey and coffee processing factories.

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the academy is to provide youth (women and men) with skills that will enable them to secure a long-term sustainable income. It also helps to strengthen the professional profile of drivers and to meet the increasing demand of the transport, construction, agriculture and mining industries (private sector). This effort aligns with the government’s move to scale up the experience of practical and demand-driven training in the country, as mentioned by Aurelia Calabrò, UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub, during the visit.

Fruitful discussions took place about how to boost the best practices obtained from the academy and maintain quality of driver training. Challenges faced by the project were also discussed. H.E. Dr. Samuel Urkato expressed his commitment to support the initiative, particularly towards approving the national occupational standard prepared for commercial vehicle drivers and towards scaling up the project.
UNIDO Director General LI Yong at the conference

22 March 2021 – UNIDO Director General LI Yong participated in the High-level Ministerial Policy Dialogue organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in the framework of the 53rd Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under the theme: “Africa’s sustainable industrialization and diversification in the digital era in the context of COVID-19”. During his speech, UNIDO Director General elaborated on the key messages and recommendations of the “Industrial Development Report 2020 - Industrializing in the digital age” by UNIDO, stressing that, by engaging with an inclusive and sustainable industrialization, countries can build and strengthen the skills and capabilities needed to compete and succeed within the new technological paradigm. The ministerial policy dialogue brought together leaders, policymakers and captains of industry looking for solutions to address pressing challenges and opportunities for growth, job creation and sustainable development in the digital era.

UNIDO Plays Active Role in Post-Conflict Recovery of Tigray Regional State in Northern Ethiopia

Following the law enforcement operation launched by the Government in early November 2020, the economic infrastructure of the northern Ethiopian Region of Tigray has sustained massive damage, as economic activities have largely been suspended with a huge impact on businesses and livelihoods.

The UN, in collaboration with the World Bank, the European Union and other partners, and under the leadership of the Government, particularly the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Peace, has launched a new initiative to quickly assess the level of damage, and design and implement a holistic recovery programme for the region. UNIDO has joined this noble cause from the outset, serving as a member of the secretariat responsible for the launch and the proper, expedited implementation of the initiative. Furthermore, UNIDO has also led the manufacturing sub-component, which is part of the overall economic sector assessment and recovery planning within the initiative.

The Manufacturing Sub-Component Team led by UNIDO has conducted desk reviews and field assessments, then produced a comprehensive report on the status of the manufacturing sector in the region and proposed urgent interventions that need to be quickly implemented to make enterprises with less or no damage restart operations. This is essential in order to reignite the stalled economic activity, create jobs and help people, especially the youth, earn an income. Without this, it will be impossible to restore peace and stability for the highly traumatized and aggrieved population in the region.
With 147 B2B meetings among over 140 participants belonging to 130 stakeholders from Italy and target developing countries, UNIDO ITPO Italy’s “Investment and Matchmaking Forum on Energy and Environment” was successfully held from 17 to 19 March 2021. Jointly organized with the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Peru and promoted by the Italian Trade Agency, KenInvest, the Chamber of Commerce of Lima and Kazakh Invest, the initiative was part of the project “Fostering international partnerships between companies and/or institutions operating in the energy and environment sectors”, funded by the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and implemented by UNIDO ITPO Italy.

Delivered as a virtual event, the Forum revolved around renewable energies and environmental technologies, with a focus on solar/wind power, energy efficiency, electrification, water-energy-food nexus, hydropower, water treatment and supply, waste management, biogas, biomass, and more. Concerning the intended audience, it was specifically designed for Italian companies interested in discovering new investment opportunities, as well as companies from Botswana, Cuba, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Peru looking for potential investors in their business sector.

The opening ceremony on March 17 featured the welcome remarks of Ms. Diana Battaggia, Head of UNIDO ITPO Italy, and Mr. Angiolo Martinelli, Director of Division III-International environmental cooperation-CRESS at the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition. The ceremony continued with the insightful interventions of relevant experts in the following fields: environmental technologies (Mr. Roberto Lupo, Founder and General Director of Deltacque; Ms. Ketsile Orapeleng, Director at Cleanico Waste Management Solutions; and Ms. Marianna Mazzariello, Architect at Airmec), renewable energies (Mr. Asegid Adane, Programme Officer at UNIDO Ethiopia; Mr. Angelantonio Massaro, Technical Engineer at Idnamic; Ms. Aliya Salimzhuarova, Project Manager RES at Kazakh Invest; Mr. Taddese Ayele, CEO of RET Energy Engineering; Ms. Charity Wanjiku, COO at Strauss Energy; and Ms. Bárbara Hernández Martínez, Director of Power Generation at Azcuba) and investment incentives (Mr. Andrea Pavia, Commercial Manager at the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Peru, and Ms. Mónica Mireles Torres, Project Associate at UNIDO Cuba).

Thanks to a dedicated Marketplace, showcasing innovative technologies through the upload of photos, videos and further company material, as well as scheduled online B2B sessions, the digital platform provided an opportunity for attendees to engage and discuss business opportunities in one-to-one meetings. Building on the success at the Forum, UNIDO ITPO Italy is now extending the availability of the matchmaking platform for companies from Italy and target developing countries. Until 31 May 2021, they can register to and access the platform (which will be updated on a daily basis) in order to showcase their products and services at dedicated virtual booths in the Marketplace section, meet new international stakeholders and organize online B2B meetings to seize new business opportunities.

Interested companies are invited to visit the online platform of the event in order to register and upload their photos and videos, schedule new B2B meetings, discover more and watch the recordings from the Forum.

Source: https://www.unido.it/FIPEE/news
1st Session on Capacity-Building in Research and Policy Advocacy in the ICT Sector

On the 23rd of March 2021, UNIDO ITPO Korea, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) and the National Information Resource Service (NIRS) of Korea, facilitated the 1st Session on Capacity-Building in Research and Policy Advocacy in the ICT Sector.

Mr. Hyundong Cho, Head of ITPO Korea, officially launched the online event with his opening remarks, highlighting the importance of Human Resources as the most valuable asset of any organization. He then went on to emphasise how, in a period of rapid change driven by technology, the ICT sector is at the centre of this transformation and how our ability to absorb and use all the available information will depend on how fast and how often we learn. He noted that UNIDO leads the way in addressing opportunities, challenges and risks stemming from the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and, in consultation with public and private partners, designs and implements holistic actions that are tailored to specific country needs. His speech was followed by the welcoming remarks by Mr. Temesgen Tilahun, Deputy Investment Commissioner of the EIC, and Mr. Dong-seok Kang, President of NIRS. They both highlighted the importance of the event, especially against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, welcomed its relevant and useful topic, and expressed interest in collaborating to help step up existing efforts towards building the capacity and foundation of Ethiopia’s human resources, as well as an effective and efficient ICT infrastructure.

Ms. Aurelia Calabrò, UNIDO Ethiopia Representative and Director of the ROH, encouraged participants to become actively involved in raising awareness of the benefits offered by digital technologies and stressed that UNIDO will continue supporting Ethiopia on its digitalization journey in line with its strategy.

Dr. Abiot Sinamo Boltena, Director General of Information Communication Technology Development and Management at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, provided insights into the status of implementation in Ethiopia of a Digital Government System, detailing budget, expected outcomes, achievements and challenges that are currently being faced.

From the National Information Resource Service (NIRS) in Korea, Ms. Christiana Kwon, Communications Manager, and Mr. Juntak Kim, Director of the National Integrated Network Project, provided an overview of the integrated operation of a Digital Government system, a cloud computing system, an intelligent cyber security management system and K-net, the pan-governmental network infrastructure and the future road map of the Republic of Korea.

ITPO Korea provided a valuable opportunity to share NIRS’s experiences with participants from the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Industrial Parks Development Corporation. The audience totalled 24 attendees, with 33% strongly agreeing, and 67% agreeing to have gained new knowledge by participating in this 1st session.

As part of the partnership with the Ethiopian Investment Commission, UNIDO ITPO Korea will continue to organize virtual meetings in order to serve an experience-sharing platform to support capacity-building in research and policy advocacy in the ICT sector. The aim is to help develop a clear strategy in terms of policymaking, regulatory framework/administration, investment attraction and private sector participation in line with international best practices, case studies and applied exercises. As it is not feasible to cover all these areas in one session, subsequent discussions will be held in the future to ensure the initiatives undertaken are demand-driven.
The PSC (Project Steering Committee) of the Moringa project held its first meeting on Phase II of the initiative on 03 March 2021, in Hawassa and in virtual mode. The PSC was chaired by Mr Anteneh Fekadu, SNNPR Vice-President, Rural Development Sector Coordinator and Head of BoANRD. The meeting brought together Representatives of all implementation partners: UNIDO, FAO and BoANRD. Ms. Aurelia Calabrò, UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Office Hub, gave a keynote address elaborating on the success of Phase I, which propelled the project to the current Phase II, funded by the AICS. Mr. Andrea Limiroli gave his opening remarks on behalf Ms. Isabella Lucaferri, Head of the AICS Addis Ababa Office. The PSC deliberated on the activities and findings of the Inception phase. The meeting was closed by Mr. Jacopo Damelio on behalf of Ms. Fatouma Seid, the FAO Representative in Ethiopia.

Improved Rural Livelihoods through Supporting the Moringa Value Chain in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Region of Ethiopia

To address the industrial skills gap in Uganda, the Government of Japan, the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT), and UNIDO, with technical support from Japanese partner Komatsu Ltd., are building the first dedicated training centre for operators of road construction equipment in Uganda: METRAC (Mechanical Engineering Training and Advisory Centre), in Luwero. In recent years, the Government has procured road construction and maintenance equipment, such as motor graders, wheel loaders, excavators, bulldozers and backhoes, and distributed them to District Local Governments (DLGs) across the country. METRAC will allow matching this investment in road machinery with an equivalent investment in human resources: within the next two years, the training centre will train over 500 Ugandan trainers and operators of road equipment, as well as youth seeking employment.

To support the training of road machinery operators working for the MoWT and the DLGs in all districts across Uganda, UNIDO commissioned eLearning modules for the Komatsu GD663A-2 motor grader. The motor grader is the most complicated and crucial road construction machine used by the operators trained under this project. The aim of the eLearning
programme is to provide an opportunity for operators to deepen their knowledge despite current restrictions on in-person training due to COVID-19. They will be able to complete 5 modules (machine familiarization; machine inspection and reporting procedures; operating procedures and equipment maintenance; machine safety and emergencies; and operating techniques) at their own pace, complementing simulator and in-person training. After intensive testing of all modules with all project partners, UNIDO and MoWT arranged the first GD663A-2 motor grader eLearning instructional session for all MoWT motor grader trainers on March 2 at Victoria Equipment, the local Komatsu Ltd. distributor, in Kampala. The purpose was to familiarize the trainers with the eLearning course and collect feedback for its roll-out to the operators in the districts. The training was very well received, with 100% of the trainers rating the eLearning content as either good or excellent. The overall verdict of the participants was equally encouraging, with 57% rating the training as good, and 43% as excellent.

Advanced equipment to support women-led SMEs and Associations in facing COVID-19 challenges and build back better

Antananarivo, 25 February 2021. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, H.E. Mrs. Lantosoa Rakotomalala, the UNIDO Representative in Madagascar, Mrs. Volatiana Rakotondrazafy, and the President of the Group of Women Entrepreneurs of Madagascar (GFEM), Mrs. Fanja Razakaboana, paid an official visit to KABALOO, a women-led company, before handing over a set of equipment to improve productivity, diversify incomes and ultimately maintain jobs in the sector.

This activity, financed by the UN MPTF, is a contribution to the national plan to fight COVID-19, with the aim to safeguard jobs, support entrepreneurship and improve the level of business in the different regions of the country. In Analamaniga, two SMEs (Mahefarimanana & Kabaloo) have been equipped with industrial multipurpose laser cutting machines that allow them to process and print different materials such as fabric, leather, wood, Plexiglas/Perspex, etc. The new equipment has not only helped companies diversify their activities to prepare for post-Covid recovery and build back better with higher productivity and quality, but it has...
also enabled the personnel, mainly made up of women and young people, to discover new skills and benefit from an improved access to advanced technology. In three other regions, Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro and Analanjirofo, eight local associations were also kitted out with industrial equipment. The beneficiaries received training, mainly in Quality and Production, so to increase workplace resilience in these challenging times. Through this activity, masks were locally produced to contribute to the protection of the population in affected regions and 2,565 jobs were impacted, including over 1,500 women employees. At the official handover by the Ministry, GFEM and UNIDO, all parties emphasized the need to support businesses and industries by providing innovative and sustainable solutions through better access to technologies and advanced production processes, in order to ensure compliance with international standards while diversifying products and increasing income opportunities for the community, particularly for women.

International Women Day 2021: reforestation of bamboo and mangrove as a means to increase the resilience of women in the craft sector

07-08 March 2021, Antsiranana. UNIDO, as an active member of the UNCT in Madagascar, participated in the celebrations for the International Women’s Day held in the capital city of the Diana region (the northern tip of the island) in line with the theme chosen by the Government for this year: “Autonomous and resilient women in a healthy environment for sustainable development”. Home to 800,000 people, the Diana Region is endowed with several sites of biological and ecological interest (19 protected areas), offering enormous economic potential. It is also a renowned tourist destination. However, the region is disadvantaged by its geography, due to remote and isolated areas, and suffers severely from the effects of climate change, further exacerbated by the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, such as the use of fuel wood for households, the destruction of mangroves linked to charcoal production and the depletion of raffia, satrana and palm trees by women for basketry, which represents an additional source of income. For this year’s celebration, the State called on Malagasy women to consider not only the effects of the environmental destruction in their daily life, particularly in their income-generation activities, but also the role they play in promoting more sustainable practices. The general objective is
to guarantee the active leadership of women in the response to Covid-19 by strengthening their empowerment and their resilience for sustainable development. In full alignment with such objective, and through a conference organized in partnership with the UN RC Office and the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, UNIDO shared its proven experience in using creative industries as an effective agent of change to promote resilience and as an instrument to empower rural women. The conference saw the participation of local authorities, civil society and women’s associations.

To end the celebration in Antsiranana, activities aimed at empowering women were carried out, among others, bamboo and mangrove reforestation, as well as the handing over of nursery plants to women from the 5 districts of Antsiranana.

Participants during the workshop on Women’s Empowerment and Entrepreneurship

Mr. Issa Sanogo, UN Resident Coordinator in Madagascar, and the UNIDO Country Representative participating in bamboo reforestation during the IWD 2021 celebration in Antsiranana.

The UNIDO Country Representative during the workshop on Women’s Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Antsiranana, 6 March 2021
On Monday 19 April 2021, the Minister of Public Health of Madagascar, Professor Jean Louis H. RAKOTOVAO, the Chargé d’affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan in Madagascar, Mr. ITO Yorio, and the Representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Madagascar, Ms. Volatiana RA-KOTONDRAZAFY, launched the project “Introduction of Best Environmental Practices and Technologies for the Environmentally Sound Management of Healthcare Waste, including COVID-19 Waste, in Madagascar”. The project will be implemented by UNIDO in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health. This new initiative, which is funded by the Government of Japan, aims at strengthening Madagascar’s efforts in the fight against COVID-19 through the introduction of sustainable practices and technologies for the environmentally sound management of medical waste.

The impact of COVID-19 is once again putting a strain on the country’s healthcare system. As part of its efforts to combat the pandemic and accelerate the detection and management of coronavirus cases, the government has set up a new laboratory, called Laboratoire d’Analyse Médicale Malagasy (LA2M). Inaugurated in June 2020, this epidemiological laboratory is the first in the country to screen for all epidemic diseases such as plague, cholera, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV-AIDS, etc. The project will support the management of medical waste at both this new facility and the one located on the premises of the Androva University Hospital in Mahajanga.

In recent years, good medical waste management practices have been introduced in some facilities, including the use of a colour-coded waste separation
Some of the participants during the virtual launch at country level
EU High-Level Delegation Pays a Visit to UNIDO-LISEC Project Sites in Modjo, Ethiopia

The EU LISEC Project Manager, Mr. Dominique Davoux, and the Team Leader of the Green Deal Programme at the European Union Delegation (EUD) to Ethiopia, Ms. Mercedes Marin NorTes, have paid a visit to UNIDO-LISEC project sites in Modjo on 3 March 2021. The visit has been organized by the UNIDO-LISEC team in order to provide a better understanding of the progress made in the construction works of the MSME building and the LIDI Regional Centre to the new project management team.

Specific sites visited include Houdao Chen Tannery (formerly known as Mesaco Tannery), the common manufacturing facility for MSMEs and the LIDI Regional Training Centre. While touring Houdao Chen Tannery, Mr. Davoux and Ms. Marin NorTes were able to witness the challenges faced by tanners, who struggle with growing proportions of downgraded semi-processed skins due to quality deterioration caused by poor raw material handling and ectoparasite infestation (ekek). Currently owned by Chinese investors, Houdao Chen Tannery specializes in producing and exporting wet-blue and finished leather from both sheep and goat skins. Visitors were able to observe the whole leather processing cycle, including pre- and post-tanning activities, and to examine raw skins in the selection and grading section, where a briefing was given by the tannery management.

During the visit at the unfinished G+2 building for SMEs, Wondu Legesse, UNIDO-LISEC National Project Coordinator, pointed out that the facility is expected to host common manufacturing equipment for shoes and leather goods. The building will accommodate 12 cluster units that include: 5 operation service providers, 5 shoe manufacturing units and 2 leather goods manufacturing units. The building is set to be completed within three months.

The EUD Representatives also visited Modjo Technology, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) College, which will be equipped with modern training technologies, including leather and textile tools, to provide skill development with the support of the UNIDO-LISEC project.

The visit was then brought to a close by a debrief session with the mayor of Modjo City, Mrs. Meseret Assefa, who reaffirmed her administration’s commitment to expedite pending activities on their side. Both Representatives of the EUD to Ethiopia expressed their appreciation to the MCA and UNIDO for their efforts in implementing the project. They also pointed out that time lost due to security problems and the COVID-19 pandemic requires extension of the project.

The EU Delegation was accompanied by the UNIDO-LISEC team, by Mr. Mohammed Hussen, Deputy Director General of LIDI, and by Mr. Tesfaye Birhanu, Planning and Information Director at LIDI.

The implementation of the UNIDO-LISEC Project, aimed at “Advancing economic competitiveness by strengthening the leather value chain”, which is one of the components of the wider “Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation (LISEC)” funded by the European Union, is progressing at a good pace.
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Contact us

UNECA Compound, Menelik II Avenue, Congo Building, 3rd floor, North wing
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - P.O. Box 5580 or 14771
Telephone: +251 115 514 245 - Fax: +251 11 5512733 - Email: A.CALABRO@unido.org
www.unido.org
Twitter: @UNIDO_Ethiopia