

# [SDGs 'take off' in Nepal's skies with UN development programme-airline partnership](#)

3 October 2017 – Through a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme ([UNDP](#)) and a private aircraft company, airplanes flying in Nepal's skies will bear UN Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) branding icons, disseminating the globally-agreed targets far and wide.

"This is a [powerful example](#) to show the world that in partnership with the private sector, the [[2030 Agenda](#) for] Sustainable Development can really take off," Renaud Meyer, the UNDP Country Director for Nepal, said in a news release announcing the new aircraft livery.

"We are very pleased to see these airplanes flying in Nepali skies, spreading messages on how we can tackle some of the world's biggest challenges," he added.

In addition to the SDG-branded aircrafts, the partnership between UNDP and Yeti Airlines also includes the Goals features on airport shuttle buses and boarding passes, information leaflets on sustainable development, social media campaigns as well as a link on the airline's website for donating to UNDP programmes in country.

Thousands across the landlocked mountainous country, including those residing in remote areas – where aircrafts provide a vital transport and connectivity link – are expected to be informed about the [SDGs](#) through concrete and action-oriented messages, noted the news release.



A Yeti Airlines plane in the UN SDG branding at Kathmandu airport, Nepal. Photo: Laxmi Prasad Ngakhusi, UNDP Nepal



A Yeti Airlines plane and passenger shuttle buses bearing the SDG branding at Kathmandu airport, Nepal. Photo: Laxmi Prasad Ngakhusi, UNDP Nepal

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Also under the partnership, UNDP and the airline will undertake joint initiatives to raise awareness on sustainable development, and mobilize stakeholders and advocates for its implementation.

The partnership will also explore, adopt and promote innovative and sustainable business models in the aviation and tourism industry that would

help Nepal meet some specific SDG indicators in the areas of climate change adaptation, poverty reduction and gender equality, it added.

The SDGs, adopted by UN Member States in 2015, have a specific goal on partnerships, including with the private sector given their potential to mobilize resources, technology and innovation to aid and accelerate the implementation of the overall sustainable development agenda.

“In Nepal, we have been exploring ways in which the UN could help the local businesses grow more responsible and SDG friendly,” said Mr. Meyer, expressing hope that more such “inspiring” joint initiatives will be unveiled to help the country meet the global development goals by 2030.

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## [Top UN relief official urges support for scaling up response to Rohingya refugee crisis](#)

3 October 2017 – With over half a million Rohingya refugees having fled their homes in Myanmar since violence erupted in late August, the top United Nations humanitarian official has underscored that the solution to the crisis needs to be found within Myanmar.

“The root causes of this crisis, as you know, are in Myanmar and the solutions need to be found in Myanmar,” Mark Lowcock, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, told journalists at a news conference in Cox’s Bazar, where many of those fled are taking refuge.

Noting that relief operations are gathering momentum, he informed the media that over the past six weeks, aid agencies have delivered more than nine million food rations, provided more than 300,000 with water and sanitation support, inoculated more than 100,000 children and provided some 50,000 with counselling and psycho-social support.

However, the sheer numbers of those in need mean that much more has to be done.

“The conditions in the camps are terrible. We need to do a lot more to scale up beyond what we have done so far,” added Mr. Lowcock, urging the international community to scale up their support.



ERC arrives at Balukhali Makeshift Settlement, Cox’s Bazar District, Bangladesh. OCHA/Anthony Burke

He also announced that, as the manager of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund ([CERF](#)), he today allocated an additional \$12 million to relief efforts and enable humanitarian partners kick-start life-saving critical health care, access to clean water and sanitation and camp management in the new sites.

These funds follow a previous CERF allocation of \$7 million, bringing the total CERF support to \$19 million.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([OCHA](#)), the number of Rohingya refugees who have fled into Bangladesh from Myanmar has now reached 509,000.

UN agencies, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)), the UN Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)), the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) and the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)), humanitarian partners, together with the Bangladeshi Government have been working alleviate the plight of those uprooted from their homes as well as supporting the host community cope with the scale of the influx.

Yesterday, a diarrhoea treatment centre was opened at the Kutupalong Refugee Camp, where refugees who have been living since 1992 have taken in thousands of newcomers. By the end of this week, there will be a total of 80 beds at the centres in three locations, with two more centres planned to open next week.

UN agencies together with the authorities have conducted an immunization campaign for children to protect them against measles and have launched another one against cholera. Similarly, UN humanitarian staff along with refugee volunteers, are visiting refugee camps and informal settlements to identify people who may be sick but have not sought treatment.

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## [Pioneer of work in women's reproductive health appointed head of UN Population Fund](#)

3 October 2017 – United Nations [Secretary-General](#) António Guterres today appointed Natalia Kanem of Panama to head the UN's women's health agency.

In making the announcement, UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric [highlighted](#) that Dr. Kanem “brings to the position more than three decades of strategic leadership and management in the fields of medicine, public health, international peace and development, human rights and social justice.”

Currently serving as the agency's Acting Executive Director, the new Under-Secretary-General is the fifth Executive Director of the UN Population Fund

([UNFPA](#)). Prior to that, she was the UNFPA's Deputy Executive Director for Programmes and earlier, its Representative in Tanzania.

She started her career in academia with the Johns Hopkins and Columbia University schools of medicine and public health.

While serving as a Ford Foundation Officer from 1992 to 2005, Dr. Kanem helped pioneer work in women's reproductive health and sexuality, in particular through her position as the representative for West Africa. She then served at the Foundation headquarters, becoming Deputy Vice-President for its worldwide peace and social justice programmes in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and North America.

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## [UN agriculture agency and World Bank launch new initiative to avert famine in Yemen](#)

3 October 2017 – More than half a million vulnerable and food-insecure people in war-torn Yemen will receive immediate relief and long-term sustainable agricultural support, thanks to a \$36 million project launched by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Bank.

“The project will have a [strong humanitarian impact in Yemen](#), as it will provide emergency support and help in building the resilience of the vulnerable Yemeni population,” said Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa.

Yemen's ongoing conflict has left 17 million people facing crisis levels of [acute food insecurity](#). The fighting has also devastated agriculture sector and livelihoods, making the country the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

The grant, supported by the World Bank's Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP), will prioritize FAO's projects to boost productivity, income and nutrition, especially in those most famine-hit regions in the country.

The initiative will also contribute to sustainable agriculture solutions in the long term, according to Salah El-Hajj Hassan, FAO Country Representative in Yemen.

These solutions include “furthering rural development, providing food security, rehabilitating community water infrastructures and improving capacity development,” he said.

“The implementation of the project will also allow FAO to build on previous projects, such as those empowering women to become more involved in conflict resolution issues,” he added. “Given the ongoing hostilities in Yemen, this project could also contribute to bringing stability to the country.”

To date, FAO has vaccinated over one million livestock and it plans to assist over three million people who are on the brink of starvation.

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## [HIV-related stigma, discrimination prevent people from accessing health services – UN](#)

3 October 2017 – People living with HIV who experience high levels of stigma are more than twice as likely to delay enrolment into care than people who do not perceive such stigma, a United Nations report released today reveals.

“When people living with, or at risk of, HIV are discriminated against in health-care settings, [they go underground](#),” said Michel Sidibé, the Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS ([UNAIDS](#)), in a press release.

“This seriously undermines our ability to reach people with HIV testing, treatment and prevention services,” he added.

When people living with, or at risk of, HIV are discriminated against in health-care settings, they go underground

The report, [Confronting discrimination](#): overcoming HIV-related stigma and discrimination in health-care settings and beyond, gives evidence on how stigma and discrimination is creating barriers to accessing HIV prevention, testing and treatment services and putting lives at risk. It then highlights best practices on confronting stigma and discrimination.

“Stigma and discrimination is an affront to human rights and puts the lives of people living with HIV and key populations in danger,” Mr. Sidibé said.

Often, people living with HIV avoid going to clinics for fear of having their status disclosed or of suffering further stigma and discrimination based on their HIV status.

Related story: [UN hails landmark pricing deal for faster rollout of ‘game-changing’ HIV treatment](#)

In 19 countries with available data, one in five people living with HIV avoided going to a clinic or hospital because they feared stigma or

discrimination related to their HIV status, and one in four people living with HIV have experienced discrimination in health-care settings.

Where programmes have been put in place to respond to stigma and discrimination, access to services for HIV prevention, testing and treatment has improved. In one clinic in Namibia, a shift towards integrated health service delivery led to a 20 per cent reduction in deaths among people with HIV.

The report was launched at the Human Rights Council Social Forum taking place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 4 October under the theme of 'Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the HIV epidemic and other communicable diseases and epidemics.'