



## WFP's energy-saving stoves to save environment and money

In an effort to address the challenges faced by schools to get firewood to cook school meals, as well as to conserve the environment, the World Food Programme (WFP) embarked on a Ksh 80 million (USD one million) venture to install energy saving stoves in schools on 23 July 2010.

The WFP school meals programme is funded by Japan's African Adaptation Programme. This will build on a pilot project started in 2009 through which 50 energy-saving stoves were installed in schools over the year. By installing and using energy-saving stoves, schools will save up to 70 percent of firewood. In addition to saving schools money, the project provides a sustainable method to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation in Kenya. The stoves, which last for decades,



*An energy-saving stove in one of the schools.*

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require minimum maintenance, are locally produced in Kenya, and can easily be serviced.

WFP aims to install over 300 energy-saving stoves in schools under the WFP school meals programme in 2010. This investment will reach approximately 250 schools. According to WFP's Programme Officer, Kristoffer Welsien, with increased donor support this number could rise to over 3,000 stoves by 2013.

WFP will establish a cost-sharing

agreement with the targeted schools in which the stoves will be installed at no upfront cost to the schools. But after one term the schools will start paying back 50 percent of the cost of the stove from the savings they make. The repayment will be divided into six installments spread over a two-year period paid per term at no interest. The cost-sharing component is aimed at building community ownership.

The 50 percent that the schools will pay back will be held in a

revolving fund that will be used to buy new stoves for other schools using the same setup. Through this system, an investment in two stoves will eventually pay for four stoves because over the years the funds will be repaid many times from different schools. The payment scheme will be implemented through the Kenyan NGO, Rural Energy Technology Assistance Programme (RETAP).

Previously, schools incurred heavy costs to buy firewood to cook school meals, costs that ended

up being shifted to parents who in many cases could not afford to pay. In some instances, in spite of getting food from WFP, some schools were unable to cook the food due to lack of firewood. "The firewood that we previously used for two weeks is now able to take us for about two months," said Mrs Margaret Wanjau, head teacher of the Kangemi Primary School which was among the schools in the pilot project. "The stoves have saved the school and the parents a lot of money and are also healthier

to use since they do not emit a lot of smoke," she added.

Due to the reduced carbon dioxide emission that will be realised through the energy saving stoves, WFP is in the process of applying for a carbon credit project through the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. If approved, the generated credits will be available one year after the implementation, and WFP will utilise the credits to purchase more energy-saving stoves.

## IOM-FAO partnership to boost livelihoods in Northern Kenya



*IOM-FAO partnership in Northern Kenya has seen nomadic pastoralists embrace farming as an alternative means of livelihood.*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) carried out an evaluation mission to Turkana on 8 July 2010 for a joint livelihoods venture. The joint venture is geared towards the restoration of livelihoods and income-generating activities among the vulnerable pastoralist communities that were critically affected by the food crisis in Northern Kenya.

The partnership that was initiated in early 2009 saw IOM and FAO working together towards uplifting

the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya. The IOM-FAO collaboration led to a series of projects that sought to respond and boost food production. This included seeds/farm input fairs, the extension of support to linkages between the beneficiaries and the markets as well as the enhancement of the capacity of the implementing partners to ensure effective delivery.

The key outcomes of this partnership in Northern Kenya have been the rehabilitation of water pans, supervised by the Ministry of Water and the Department of

Agriculture. Three water pans were rehabilitated in the Turkana region and two constructed in North Eastern province. This initiative has boosted agricultural productions in the arid and semi arid areas, where farmers now practice drip irrigation in the cultivation of drought resistant crops. This has further helped to reduce the distance that pastoralists travel in search of water for their animals.

One hundred and twenty farmers and pastoralists have received drip irrigation kits and training on the drip irrigation technology. FAO provided a solar-powered water pump to a pastoralist settlement group where 40 drip kits were installed. A hundred farmers received pasture seeds, while 20 youth from the Turkana community were identified for training on Community Animal Health Workers. The trained personnel were provided with drug kits for treatment of animals within their communities. The second phase of this training is scheduled for later this year.

The implementation of these projects has been made possible with the participation of local implementing partners. They include Riam Riam (Kakuma), FAIDA and Relief Reconstruction and Development Organization (Dadaab) and GOAL (North Rift).

## NBA star Luol Deng visits Sudanese refugees in Kakuma



*Luol Deng joins refugee youth in a basketball match in the Kakuma refugee camp.*

**T**op NBA star Luol Deng visited Kakuma refugee camp for two days from 6 through 8 July 2010. He was on his way to Juba, Sudan, and was accompanied by his brother, a team of UNHCR staff and a number of journalists. Luol left the Sudan with his family when he was only five years old. This was the first time he was to return to his mother country.

In Kakuma, he was received by hundreds of Sudanese refugees who performed cultural dances welcoming him to the camp.

Speaking to them in the Dinka language, Luol Deng appealed for unity in the Sudan saying that the only way refugees could return home would be when peace was restored in the country. "I always tell every body that we are all Sudanese, and we have to work together despite ethnic differences," he said addressing hundreds of refugees who braved the dust storms and suffocating heat. "There are so many children in Sudan who are more talented than me. I am just lucky that I got an opportunity to develop my skills. We have to help each other."

While addressing the gathering, the head of UNHCR Sub-Office Kakuma, Mohamed Qassim who was himself a refugee, appealed to refugees never to give up. "This is a very good example of what we can do when given an opportunity. Let us try and give our children an opportunity," he stressed.

While addressing the crowd, the chairman of the Sudanese community, Majok Malier, welcomed Deng thanking him for making time to come and see them. "We are one, we are Sudanese, and you are not only our child but a child of Africa" he said. "I never knew you would make it here."

Majok Malier appealed for support to the refugees especially in education. The education sector in the camp has been severely constrained by the sudden influx of refugees from Somalia. Last year, UNHCR had to relocate some 13,000 refugees from the overcrowded Dadaab refugee camp in North Eastern Kenya to Kakuma. In schools, class rooms have therefore become overcrowded. "Please tell the Sudanese out there who don't know what is happening to help us educate our children," Maker

said. "We need classrooms, teachers and books," he stated.

After the ceremony, Luol Deng walked with hundreds of refugees from the venue to a basket ball pitch where he challenged the refugee youth in a match.

Kakuma refugee camp has been in existence for the past 19 years. It was opened to accommodate Sudanese refugee fleeing conflicts. Since the conclusion of the comprehensive peace agreement in Sudan between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM), more than 38,000 Sudanese have returned home, some with the help of UNHCR while some have gone on their own. In the past one year, however, the number of Somali refugees in the camp has been on the rise. There are currently more than forty thousand Somali refugees in the camp followed by Sudanese who are some 17,000.

## Shimo La Tewa courtroom refurbished by UNODC Counter Piracy Programme used for trials



*The Newly refurbished Shimo La Tewa Courtroom.*

**T**he crime of maritime piracy poses a major economic and security threat on East Africa, and the world. Political instability in Somalia and the absence of an operative rule of law framework have contributed to the increasing piracy incidences. Left uncontrolled, piracy would gain significant influence and continue to cause an escalation of shipping costs and insecurity on the high seas.

While there has been a lot of

attention on capturing pirates, there is less awareness about what happens to them once they are caught. The Counter-Piracy Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched in May 2009 was aimed at ensuring that captured pirates receive a fair trial and are thereafter imprisoned under humane conditions. Under this programme, active piracy prosecution centres have been established in Kenya and the Seychelles where 123

and 31 piracy suspects and convicted pirates are held, respectively.

A major programme milestone was celebrated on 2 July 2010 when the newly refurbished Shimo La Tewa Courtroom was used for the first time. Chief Magistrate Rosemelle Mutoka was the first judicial officer to conduct proceedings at the facility. The courtroom was refurbished by the UNODC Counter Piracy Programme, and is the first high security courtroom in Kenya which has been equipped to try piracy cases as well as other serious offences. Prison and courtroom refurbishments are part of the delivery strategy, adopted by the Counter Piracy Programme, to ensure realisation of benefits by the entire criminal justice system in prosecution centres.

At the courtroom opening ceremony, held on 24 June 2010, John Sandage, Officer-in-Charge of UNODC's Division of Treaty Affairs, stated "Kenya has taken on a heavy burden in dealing with a crime that affects the entire international community. Today's event is a recognition of their commitment and a demonstration of solidarity from the international community."

## UNEP unveils Mji wa Huruma Village Bio-Latrine Project

**T**he United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the local community at the Mji wa Huruma Village – a settlement contiguous to the Karura Forest in Nairobi –

completed the construction work for the community Bio-Latrine which became operational on 1 July 2010.

The project will benefit the community immensely since the village lacks adequate sanitation, especially affecting the health

of women and children. The community will also use the biogas generated for cooking purposes to mitigate the collection of firewood from the Karura Forest.

This project was inaugurated by the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya, Mr

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Zhang Ming, in February 2008, following a partnership agreement between UNEP and the People's Republic of China. The Kenya Government was represented at the event by the provincial administration and the Kenya Forest Service. The project was envisaged as a way of delivering renewable energy (biogas) to supplement institutional energy requirements.

The project had been under construction since then, and the delay in its completion was attributed to community dynamics, which saw significant changes in terms of ownership and its sustainable management.

The bio-latrine consists of three principal components: a conventional pit latrine, the bio-digester, and the expansion chambers. The pit latrine is a dry ventilated improved type (VIP) with ventilation pipes to remove odours and trap flies. The only difference from a standard pit latrine is that a bio-latrine unit is relatively shallow and feeds directly into the digester.

The bio-latrine's ground floor consists of a battery of toilets and shower rooms, segregated for men, women and children. The first floor has rooms for offices and community



*Children playing around the Mji Wa Huruma toilets (left); the new Mji Wa Huruma bio Latrine (right).*

clinic; the second floor is an open public area with a roof for shelter suitable for community meetings.

Mji Wa Huruma, a resident community of 1,500 people, is situated 2 kilometers from the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. It is an unplanned urban settlement whose population provides unskilled labour to the affluent parts of the city. This village has been central in working with the private sector to plant trees in the encroached Karura Forest.

The Umade Trust, a national trust that supports communities, oversaw the design and construction of the project. The Huruma community provided in-kind contribution in terms of space for construction and subsidised labour. The total cost of the project was estimated to be Kshs 2.5 million.

## UNCTAD Technology and Innovation Report 2010 launched in Nairobi

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) launched the Technology and Innovation Report 2010 at a press conference organised by the UN Information Centre on 1 July 2010. Mr Banji

Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Director of Monitoring and Research Division of UN-HABITAT, presented the report to journalists.

The UNCTAD report focused on the challenges of improving agricultural performance in Africa, and the role of technology and innovation with a view

to increasing agricultural production and raising the income for farmers.

In the report, UNCTAD highlighted the critical role of smallholder farmers in Africa's agricultural renaissance, the advantages of strengthening agricultural innovation strategies and

the importance of linking national, regional and international research to innovation. The report also mentioned the new threats and opportunities that Africa's agriculture faces, and the policies that the African lawmakers should work on for the improvement of agricultural production.

Mr Oyelaran-Oyeyinka ended his presentation by calling on Kenya to localise agricultural production within its borders in order to maximise the profits that can be gained from the raw materials.



*Mr Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka presenting the UNCTAD report to media representatives.*

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