



Sixteenth anniversary of genocide in Rwanda commemorated at UNON

The High Commission of Rwanda and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) jointly organised the 16th commemoration of the genocide in Rwanda under the theme: “Rebuilding after the Genocide: Reconciliation and Reintegration”. Prayers from a number of faiths led the ceremony held at the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) on 7 April 2010. More than 800,000 people are estimated to have been killed during the genocide in Rwanda within a period of 100 days. An estimated 150,000 to 250,000 women were also raped.

The UN was represented by the Under-Secretary-General and



UN-HABITAT Executive Director Anna Tibaijuka addressing the audience.

What's Inside:

Sixteenth anniversary of Genocide in Rwanda commemorated at UNON

UNIFEM takes a leading role in entrenching women's rights in harmonised draft Constitution

WFP receives dates for refugees from Saudi Arabia

UNEP supports plans for rehabilitation and restoration of Dadaab Refugee Camps

IOM provides psychosocial support to Kakuma residents

Kick Out Poverty Campaign in Kenya launched

Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Anna Tibaijuka, who delivered the Secretary-General's message to mark the Day. In the message, the Secretary-General underlined the importance of securing justice for the victims of the genocide in order to prevent future atrocities. “The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) delivered the first ever verdicts in relation to genocide by an international court...The court continues to deliver justice and encourage accountability. I salute Member States for their continued support and urge cooperation with ICTR to arrest and hand over the remaining 11 fugitives”, said the

Secretary-General.

In his message, High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda George William Kayonga reiterated his government's focus on rebuilding Rwanda and addressing challenges faced by survivors of the genocide. He called on the audience not to allow genocide or other acts against humanity to happen elsewhere as the images from these atrocities were a reminder of the horrors of 1994.

The programme of the Day included poems and songs to remind the audience of what happened in Rwanda then to acknowledge and encourage the reconciliation and reconstruction process currently

going on. There was a minute of silence and candle-lighting in memory of all the victims of the genocide.

UNIC mounted an exhibition of posters with accounts of what happened before, during and after the genocide in order to raise awareness on the lessons learnt from those

events, the work of the ICTR and other judicial mechanisms in ending impunity and the lasting impact of genocide on survivors.

Excerpts of the film “As We Forgive” were screened for the invited guests who included representatives from the government, members of the diplomatic corps, UN staff members

and students from universities.

In its remarks, UNIC noted with sadness how the events of 1994 in Rwanda reminded the world of one of the traumatic events of the 20th century when humanity failed.

UNIFEM a leading role in entrenching women’s rights in Proposed Constitution of Kenya



Director of Amnesty International Kenya Justus Nyang’aya speaking at a consultative meeting on the draft constitution in Nairobi supported by UNIFEM and the Regional Centre for Stability, Security and Peace in Africa.

Kenya’s 20-year search for a new constitution seems headed for a decisive moment after the Attorney General was given the go-ahead to publish the draft constitution following a scrutiny by a parliamentary committee.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) through its Gender and Governance Programme (GGP) has taken a lead

role in integrating women’s rights in the Proposed Constitution of Kenya which is to be voted on.

UNIFEM undertook a gender audit of the draft constitution in consultation with the technical team to check on whether or not the draft constitution met the internationally accepted thresholds on women’s rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against

Women (CEDAW).

Audit recommendations were submitted to the Committee of Experts (COE) on safeguarding the gains of women and provision of mechanisms to address the gaps in the draft constitution. The audit report was further used as a sensitisation and advocacy tool and presented at the National Women’s Conference in Nairobi on 30 April 2010.

Over 400 women from various parts of the country participated in the conference whose objective was to raise awareness and safeguard women’s rights in the draft constitution. The conference developed a memorandum that was presented to the COE. Overall, the draft constitution very much encompasses issues surrounding gender equity, rule of law, inclusionary with the draft.

The programme has actively engaged with various sectors including Members of Parliament, parliamentary committees, Committee of Experts, Interim Independent Electoral

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Commission of Kenya (IIEC), civil society and the media to support women's agenda.

Prior to this, UNIFEM along with the Regional Centre on Stability, Security and Peace in Africa (RECESSPA) held a consultative

meeting in Nairobi on 30 March with human rights lawyers, gender experts and key women leaders to deliberate on and enrich the draft constitution.

Representatives from the Federation of Women Lawyers

(FIDA), Maendeleo Ya Wanawake, two former Commissioners of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission (CKRC) and Kenya Women's Political Association (KEWOPA) attended the meeting.

WFP receives dates for refugees from Saudi Arabia



WFP Deputy Country Director, Pippa Bradford (left), receives dates from Faisal Amodi, Deputy Head of Mission-Saudi Arabia Embassy.

On 27 April 2010, the World Food Programme (WFP) in Kenya received from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dates worth US\$ 891,000 (about Ksh. 70 million) for the refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab camps. The 324 metric tonnes (mt) are part of a 4,000 mt dates donation to WFP programmes in various countries.

Receiving the dates from the Deputy Head of Mission in the Saudi Arabia Embassy in Kenya, Mr Faisal Amodi, WFP's Deputy Country Director Ms

Pippa Bradford said that this was the second time that the refugee programme in Kenya was receiving dates from Saudi Arabia.

"The dates will provide a dietary diversity for the refugees who are fully dependent on WFP's food basket which consists of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt," she said.

Mr Amodi said that Saudi Arabia had been a consistent contributor to WFP projects in various countries. "Saudi Arabia is happy to offer support to WFP in the fight against

hunger and will continue to make contributions in order to alleviate human suffering," he added.

The Head of Refugee Operations of WFP-Kenya, Ms Josephine Mahiga-Janabi, was present during the presentation.

WFP has been providing food assistance to refugees in Kenya since 1991 when the first camp was set up in Kakuma. Kenya has continued to receive an influx of refugees mainly from Somalia. Currently, about 330,000 refugees in both Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps are receiving food assistance from WFP.

About 18,000 new refugees have been registered in both camps since the beginning of this year. Due to the growing numbers, WFP continuously faces the challenge of ensuring that there are enough resources to provide food assistance to the growing population.

UNEP supports plans for rehabilitation and restoration of Dadaab refugee camps

The National Environment Trust Fund (NETFUND) with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) hosted a workshop at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies on 7-8 April 2010. It was aimed at developing a plan for Environmental Rehabilitation and Restoration of Dadaab Refugee camps and surrounding areas.

This workshop brought together different organisations and stakeholders working in Dadaab and surrounding areas. The two-day session led to a consensus on programme elements for interventions, organisation and action plan to address the environmental challenges.

Organisations and individuals represented at the workshop included the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Program (GEF-SGP), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), CARE International, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), World Conservation Union (IUCN), Lutheran World Relief, Provincial Administration, Members of Parliament and the civil society.

The workshop focused on environmental management, health and sanitation, environmental enforcement, implementation arrangements, host-community



Children at the Dadaab refugee camp.

concerns, strengthening local civil society organisations (CSOs), as well as socio-economic and environmental study of the impact of the refugee camps in Dadaab.

At the end of the workshop, agreements were reached on: a framework for an integrated rehabilitation and restoration process; a structure for the implementation framework and coordination; identification of gaps and opportunities; recognition of levels of priority for funding; resource mobilisation strategies; and monitoring and evaluation. The workshop also came up with a framework for implementation of the

strategic integrated plan. The main expected outcome of the workshop was a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan with an Implementation Framework.

This workshop was a follow up to the Dadaab Refugee Complex “Stakeholders” Forum on Host Community Concerns” held in Garissa in April 2009, which had recommended the formulation and implementation of an Environmental Management Plan for the Dadaab region.

IOM provides psychosocial support to Kakuma residents

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) facilitated the provision of psychosocial support to some of the Kakuma residents in the month of April, beginning on 6 April 2010. Its purpose was to encourage the residents to adopt a positive approach in order to deal with the harsh realities that plague North Western Kenya such as insecurity, conflict, loss of life, displacement and drought which affect mostly women and children.

Clear change of behaviour of the residents was observed as a result of capacity-building in life-coping skills that saw the beneficiaries adopt an attitude to nurture a positive frame of mind towards life. The psychosocial support targeted both individuals and groups in the host community and it included counseling, training on various livelihood activities as well as supporting income generating activities.

The Kiteyarai Youngsters Association, which is based in



The IOM staff in Kakuma hand out materials to the Kiteyarai Youngsters Association. The materials would go towards boosting their bakery project.

Kakuma town, received materials to start up incoming generating activities. The group, comprising of men and women, is also registered with the Ministry of Social Services, and is maintained through the small businesses the members engage in such as bicycle repair, beadwork and

baking. In addition, the group has set up a car wash facility, a venture that generates for them small income on a regular basis.

Kick Out Poverty Campaign in Kenya launched

The year 2010 is a special year for Africa. It marks the 10th anniversary of the Millennium Declaration and the beginning of the final leg to the 2015 deadline by which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are expected to be achieved.

This year is especially opportune for Africa because for the first time the continent will host the FIFA

World Cup in South Africa. It is around this rare opportunity that the UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC) organised the pre-World Cup launch of its “Kick Out Poverty Campaign” across its priority countries.

The Campaign is working with education institutions, UN agencies, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) to mobilise people around the MDGs

and advocate for their accelerated achievement.

Between 2 and 5 April 2010, the UN Millennium Campaign shared a platform with the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) which was holding its 7th edition International Girls’ Football Tournament under the theme of “Towards Safe Motherhood”. The competition hosted over 90 teams from across Kenya, and was presided

CONTINUE ON PAGE 6

by the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Professor Hellen Sambili, and MYSA Executive Director, Mr Bob Munro.

The Minister lauded MYSA's long standing commitment to community development and hailed the harnessing potential of sports for peace and development.

The UNMC Deputy Director for Africa, Mr Charles Abugre, launched the Kenyan campaign reiterating the urgent need for governments to scale up their commitments to the MDGs and the importance of encouraging citizens' initiatives to engage leaders and hold their governments accountable to the goals. He was accompanied by UNMC's Policy Advisor, Mr Thomas Deve, and its Kick Out Poverty Campaign Coordinator, Ms Katra Sambili.



UN Millennium Campaign Policy Advisor Thomas Deve (left), UNMC Deputy Director for Africa Charles Abugre (centre), and UNMC Campaign Coordinator Katra Sambili (behind) with Mathare Youth Sports Association Team members at the Kick Out Poverty Campaign Kenya launch.
