



## UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator leads celebrations in Kenya to mark the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Organization

Joined by Kenya's Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, members of the diplomatic corps and a host of other senior government officials, Mr. Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya welcomed a mammoth crowd to the occasion of the 65th commemoration of the UN Day in Nairobi Kenya. The theme for the Day was "Kwa Ustawi na Maendeleo ya Nchi ya Kenya-Working together for a better Kenya".



The Winner Mr. Martin King'asia being congratulated by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Aeneas Chuma (right) and the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Richard Onyonka - (Photo credit-Tom Maruko)

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This year, for the very first time, the UN System in Kenya marked the occasion away from the UN complex and right in the middle of Nairobi's bustling city centre. The public was treated to an eclectic ensemble of musical performances and visited information booths that each of the UN agencies and partners had set up. The main objective of the exhibition was for the public to gain easier access to information about the work of the UN in Kenya and its global missions in other countries.

The highlight of the celebrations was the UN Award of the Year that was presented to Mr. Martin King'asia, a radio presenter who has spent the last ten years at the forefront of activism for the MDGs, through his daily radio

show, 'Timiza Ahadi', Kiswahili for 'Keep the Promise' which reaches approximately ten million listeners each week. The runners' up award went to the Interim Independent Electoral Commission for "facilitation of a free, inclusive, transparent, plausible and accountable electoral process that had moved Kenya closer to the achievement of overall human development, whilst entrenching appreciation of the rule of law".

In his video message screened at the event, UN Secretary General. Ban Ki-moon expressed appreciation, "to the millions of people throughout the world who believe deeply in the UN's work for peace, environment and human rights and who uphold the organization's ideals and help it to achieve its goals".

He took the occasion to re-assert the UN's commitment to the universal values of tolerance, mutual respect and human dignity. He spoke of the successes that the UN had realized, but called for more concerted global efforts to ensure attainment of the MDGs by 2015.

In a speech on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Assistant Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to ensure the attainment of the MDGs, highlighting the directive to all ministries and departments to align their policies, plans, budgets and operations with the MDGs targets. The Minister added: "...I am glad to note that the MDGs have been mainstreamed in our long term development blueprint, the Kenya Vision 2030, which seeks to transform Kenya into a globally competitive and prosperous country,

offering a high quality of life for its citizens in the next 20 years".

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Chuma, commended the government for having adopted development policies such as Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Plan of 2008-2012 which were geared towards fast-tracking the realization of the MDGs. He noted and acknowledged the vital role played by everyone, including the development partners, representatives of the private sector and media institutions in creating an environment that fostered wealth creation and empowerment of the people.

Mr. Chuma drew attention to two important events for the United Nations system on the global level: the establishment of UN Women, the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in July; and the MDG Review

Summit in September. He spoke at length about the significance of both events and the impact they would have on the life of the people the world over and in particular on Kenyan citizens.

Prior to this ceremony, UN agencies embarked on an educational outreach programme to schools in Mathare, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Nairobi, where 350 students from five schools in the area were briefed on the work of the Organization.

The United Nations Day is marked throughout the world on 24 October, the day that the Organization was formally established after a majority of its founding members ratified a treaty setting up the world body in 1945. The Republic of Kenya became a member of the UN on 16 December 1963 and also hosts the UN Headquarters in Africa.

## UNICEF Executive Director launches an innovative approach to the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission in Kenya



*Pamela Otieno receives a Mother-Baby-Pack from the Director of medical Services, Dr. Francis Kimani and the UNICEF Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Lake, prior to the launch of the Mother-to-Child-Transmission-Free Maisha Zone initiative at Kisumu East District Hospital. (Photo Credit - Christine Nesbitt, UNICEF)*

UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake joined the Kenya Government and other partners on October 29, 2010, to roll out an innovative approach to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies (PMTCT).

The Maisha Mother-To-Child-Transmission-free Zone Initiative is an innovative programme designed to help virtually eliminate mother-to-child-transmission of HIV and pediatric AIDS by 2013 in Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces, where about half of all Kenyan children with HIV live, and by 2015 in the entire country. Without treatment, around half of all children born with HIV will die before their second birthday.

The initiative includes a combination of interventions and supplies such as a "Mother-Baby-Pack" of antiretroviral

drugs and antibiotics, which women can easily administer at home.

Mr. Lake commended the Kenya Government for its commitment to take innovative steps to expand and strengthen the quality of PMTCT services. "Maisha means life in Kiswahili, and I can think of no better way to describe a programme with the potential to save so many lives. The Maisha Initiative is a significant step forward towards our common goal of virtually eliminating mother-to-child transmission in Kenya," he said.

The Director of Medical Services, Dr. Francis Kimani, said elimination of mother-to-child transmission was feasible through strengthened partnerships.

"All players in the fight against HIV and AIDS should come together and go to the community with one message: That we want a healthy mother, a healthy baby and a healthy father."

Dr Kimani elaborated how it was difficult to separate reproductive health and HIV/AIDS underlining how all efforts must be aimed at ensuring safe motherhood.

The Maisha Initiative further aims at increasing the number of deliveries with assistance from skilled birth attendants through intensified follow-up of pregnant women by community health workers, and by supporting the roll-out of a Health Services Support Fund. The Fund provides incentives to health facilities that improve their performance and reach more pregnant women, especially in remote communities.

The initiative also incorporates a number of elements intended to bridge the gaps in Kenya's PMTCT programme, including engaging Mentor Mothers to support pregnant women living with HIV; introducing a more streamlined Early Infant Diagnosis strategy including SMS technology to increase rates of children who are tested soon after birth and have early access to treatment if needed; and encouraging stronger involvement of pregnant women's male partners through Behaviour Change Communication.

The initiative is being supported financially by a number of partners including the US Government, UNICEF National Committees, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the Mothers-to-Mothers (M2M) programme.

The roll-out in Kenya of the "Mother-Baby-Pack" marks the beginning of a phased implementation in four countries, including also Cameroon, Lesotho and Zambia. It is scheduled to run through mid-2011. During this initial phase, UNICEF and its partners will closely monitor the acceptance of the pack by women, as well as the quality of supply and distribution.

The "Mother-Baby-Pack" was developed by UNICEF in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners including UNITAID. Health workers in antenatal clinics will distribute the packs to pregnant women living with HIV, but do not yet need antiretroviral treatment for their own health. The initiative is designed to reach pregnant women who

have tested positive for HIV, but who might not otherwise return to a clinic following their diagnosis.

While the adult HIV prevalence rate in Kenya is on a steady decline, there are still some 22,000 new infections annually among infants through mother-to-child transmission. Overall, some 1.4 million people are living with HIV and AIDS in Kenya, including some 81,000 pregnant women.

Kenya has made important progress in scaling up its PMTCT programmes over the past years -- with services being offered in 4,000 out of almost 4,500 antenatal care centres in the country (according to the latest data). Despite this progress, the number of pregnant women actually receiving ARVs for PMTCT stagnated at around 58,600 in 2009, which indicates that these services are still out of reach for many women.

A further scale up of PMTCT services has been hampered by low utilization of antenatal care services, with less than a half of all pregnant women actually completing four antenatal care visits before giving birth and more than a half of pregnant women giving birth at home. Other factors hindering scale-up of prevention of mother-to-child transmission services is that a third of all pregnant women living with HIV and AIDS still receive less efficacious drug regimens; and that babies born to mothers with HIV/AIDS are often not tested earlier. The survival chances of a child born with HIV are much higher if antiretroviral treatment is initiated soon after birth.

## Launch of three-in-one waste separation bins for Nairobi

A solid waste clean-up and tree-planting exercise for Westlands Division, took place on Saturday 23 October, 2010 at Waruku in Kangemi. Ms. Annemarie Kinyanjui from UNEP Kenya Country Programme represented the United Nations to witness the launch

of a pilot 'separation of waste-at-source' event.

The exercise, organized by the City Council of Nairobi in partnership with the Westlands District Business and Residents Association was the second in a series of the monthly city-wide clean-up

exercises that the Council plans to roll-out within the eight divisions of Nairobi, namely Westlands, Embakasi, Dagoretti, Kamukunji, Starehe, Kasarani, Makadara and Langata. The first series of these monthly city-wide clean-up exercises



*Three-in-one waste separation bins for Nairobi*

took place on 18 September 2010 in Eastleigh, Starehe Division.

Separation of waste is among key actions that promote the 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover), and is recommended by the Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy (ISWMS) for Nairobi. The ISWMS took two years to develop through close collaboration between the City Council of Nairobi, Universities of Cape Town, Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta and Kenyatta, through a National Task Team (NTT). The United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP) facilitated the entire process.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Assistant Minister in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Local Government, Hon. Lewis Nguyai, explained that the Ministry, in collaboration with the City Council of Nairobi was keen to enhance the separation of waste-at-source by introducing colour-coded bins and waste collection bags in business districts and residential areas within Nairobi.

Yellow-coded bins/bags have been isolated for collection of plastics, cans

and glass, while green-coded bins are for organic waste. Blue-coded bins are for paper.

In a bid to promote the campaign, information fliers will be distributed to Nairobi residents to educate them on the importance of separation-at-source, and to assist them in determining how best to dispose off domestic waste. Elsewhere, where waste separation-at-source is being practiced, new recycling and waste conversion enterprises have generated thousands of jobs, cleaned the environment, and conserved natural resources. If well-managed, it has been proven that waste separation can be sustainable and is commercially viable.

This clean-up exercise involves community stakeholders, and through communication, consistent clean-up of waste generated across the city of Nairobi will become a viable commercial venture for discerning entrepreneurs.

The Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy incorporates all aspects of waste management chain from minimization-segregation-collection-transportation- reuse/recycle-resource recovery- treatment to final disposal. Therefore, with the introduction of the three-in-one waste separation bins, it is envisaged that this technology will deliver an environmentally optimized waste management culture in Nairobi, and eventually in Kenya.

## Clean hands save lives!

Every year on 15 October, the world marks the Global Handwashing Day aiming at raising awareness on the importance and benefits of hand washing with soap in all the communities worldwide.

With diarrhea and acute respiratory infections being some of the main causes for child deaths in developing countries, proper hand washing is a very inexpensive and efficient means to prevent those diseases and to strive towards meeting the UN Millennium

Development Goal of reducing child mortality. Handwashing with soap can save more lives than any single vaccine or medical intervention and could cut deaths by almost half.

In Dadaab refugee camp, the biggest refugee complex in the world, many children suffer from diarrhea. On the occasion of Global Handwashing Day, CARE International and other implementing partners of UNHCR in Dadaab turned the schools and public spaces in all three camps into

a vast celebration, including cultural and sporting activities, musical performances, as well as lively demonstrations on how to properly wet, soap, wash and rinse the hands. Mr. Richard Acland, UNHCR Head of Dadaab Sub-Office, participated in the celebrations at the "Friends" primary school in Ifo, one of the refugee camps in Dadaab, where 2,500 students and teachers from neighboring primary schools and parents joined the activities.

In his address to the audience, Mr.

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Acland stressed the importance of hand washing for every one in the community. He stated that “Global Handwashing Day is about more than just hand washing. It is part of a wider process of teaching our children to take responsibilities for all aspects of their own welfare – and the welfare of others.”

At the same time, in the city of Dadaab, Kenyan children from three primary schools gathered early in the morning to jointly march to Dadaab Primary school, where students of all schools performed cultural activities including poem recitals, theatre performances and songs in Somali, Swahili and English. Oxfam prepared plastic pots filled with soap and water for hand washing demonstrations and distributed to the students and teachers t-shirts and headscarves with the slogan “Clean hands save lives”.

Mr. Abdi Salan Muhamed, Principal of Dadaab Primary School noted that “the importance of clean hands needs to be understood by everybody in the family- children, mothers, fathers and the elderly. We all have to be role models for others”. He concluded that “it does



*Students during the commemoration of Global Handwashing Day at Dadaab refugee camp*

not matter which language we speak, whether it is Swahili, Somali or English hand washing is a universal language that is understood by everybody!”

Initiated in 2008 by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Hand washing with Soap, Global Handwashing Day

is the centerpiece of a week of activities that mobilizes millions of people in more than 80 countries across all five continents to wash their hands with soap. For more information please visit: <http://www.globalhandwashingday.org>

## IOM welcomes passage of 2010 Counter Trafficking in Persons Act

The Government of Kenya has signed into law new legislation to crack down on human traffickers and offer protection to trafficking victims in Kenya. The law which was signed by President Mwai Kibaki on 1 October 2010 and which is expected to come into force in December 2010, slaps a 30 year jail term or a hefty fine of 30 million Kenyan Shillings (USD 370,000) on convicted traffickers, sending a stern warning to individuals who engage in this illegal trade.

IOM provided technical and financial assistance in drafting the new law as part of the “Counter-trafficking Through Capacity Building, Awareness-Raising and Assistance to Victims Programme”

funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kenya.

Other partners who contributed to the bill include the Children’s Foundation-the CRADLE, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Attorney General’s Office, Children’s Department in the Ministry of Gender, the Law Reform Commission, the Federation of Women Lawyers of Kenya (FIDA-K) and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR).

“This legislation represents a significant new tool for Kenya in counter-trafficking law enforcement” says IOM’s counter trafficking expert Tal Raviv.

Although previous legislation under the 2001 Children’s Act and

2006 Sexual Offences Act addressed the issue of trafficking, neither law comprehensively defines the criminal nature of human trafficking as stipulated in the UN Palermo Protocol, signed by Kenya in 2005.

Under the new law, trafficking in persons is legally defined and recognized for the first time, as a distinct crime in Kenya. National counter trafficking efforts have until now been focused on prevention and protection of victims with limited prosecution of traffickers within the existing legal framework.

“We hope that the new Counter Trafficking in Persons Act will create momentum to expand counter-

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*IOM Kenya has implemented a series of information campaigns to help create awareness on human trafficking.*

trafficking initiatives in accordance with the 2008-2013 National Plan of Action (NPA)” notes Tal Raviv. The Action Plan includes

activities such as supporting school retention rates as a preventive measure, conducting information outreach to targeted populations, and

reducing vulnerability by supporting socio-economic development and empowerment of vulnerable communities.

Other efforts include putting in place systems and procedures for a national referral mechanism and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary to protect victims and prosecute offenders. In addition to supporting drafting of the new law, IOM has also provided technical support to the Ministry of Labour to strengthen labour migration practices and to the Kenya Association of Private Employment Agencies (KAPEA) to promote ethical recruitment practices that do not contribute to human trafficking. IOM also provided media training to enhance investigative and reporting capacities and encourage coverage of human trafficking and related issues.

## FAO celebrates World Food Day with fruit-tree-planting in Nachu village, Karai Division in Kiambu County

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Kenya, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders, planted fruit-tree-seedlings at Nachu Village in Karai Division, Kiambu County on 12 October 2010. FAO-Kenya sponsored the activity that witnessed the distribution to the community of 4,500 fruit-tree-seedlings which included mangoes, avocado pears and paw-paws.

The collaboration of FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and other

stakeholders in this activity was a clear demonstration of the theme for this year’s World Food Day (WFD), “UNITED AGAINST HUNGER”. This event was one of the FAO run-up activities aimed at enhancing public awareness on the WFD celebrations and more significantly as a response to the plight of the world’s hungry and malnourished population that is currently estimated at 1 billion. The event was also used to advocate for the government and the stakeholders to prioritize the fight against hunger in their development plans.

The planting of the fruit trees in the area which is semi-arid and regularly experiences crops-failure, will make a significant contribution to both household food security and environmental management. The exercise also encouraged the farmers to plant drought-resistant crops which will cope with the harsh climatic condition in the area. The planting of the fruit trees was a strategy to increase food access and improve nutrition. The seedlings were distributed to 20 farmers’ groups with a total membership of 600 farmers.

The impact of this exercise will

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enhance food security and income generation, as well as increase the area under tree-cover thereby contributing to soil and water conservation. In addition to improving food access and nutrition, the area will benefit from better micro-climate and advance environmental management.

This event marked a significant contribution to the ongoing farm forestry programme which mandates that 10 % of land must be under trees, to reduce poverty and empower farmers at the household level.



*Assistant FAO Representative in Kenya, Dr. Augusta Abate, plants and waters a fruit tree seedling.*

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