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UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon swearing in new UNON Director General, Sahle-Work Zewde in Nairobi ©UNEP/K. Kariuki 2011

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Sahle-Work Zewde of Ethiopia as the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

Ms. Zewde is the first person to be appointed to the newly created position as head of the Organization's Nairobi Office, at the Under-Secretary-General level. She assumes her duties in May 2011.

In his remarks during the swearing-in ceremony, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon commended the General Assembly for upgrading the UN office

in Nairobi.

"It is now appropriate to have a person solely dedicated to UNON. Ms. Zewde, as a colleague, brings to UNON rich experience not only as a long-serving diplomat for her country, but as a world ambassador and distinguished African who knows the continent and is a renowned public servant of the United Nations," he acknowledged.

Ms. Zewde noted: "it is a great honour for me and for the women, in particular African women. As you have seen the Secretary-General has committed

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Upcoming Events

Meeting for UN Commission on information and accountability for women's and children's health - May 1-2, 2011 Dares Salaam, Tanzania

Visit of UN youth champion, Monique Coleman - May 1 - 8, 2011

World Press Freedom Day - May 3, 2011

International Day of UN Peacekeepers - May 29, 2011

himself to appointing more women to senior positions. This is a proof of this commitment not only to me but through other women colleagues who have been appointed to such positions. I know the expectations from all of you including the Secretary-General and I have no reason to fail. This is a very important and the only headquarters in the developing world and we have to make it function to be the best organization”.

She assured the Secretary-General and all invited guests that she would do whatever is possible to make the UN Headquarters in Nairobi more efficient and more cohesive.

Prior to her new appointment, Ms Zewde was Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peace building Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). She has been Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). She has also served as Director General for African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, posts that she held since 2006.

Ms. Zewde was Ambassador to France, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and accredited to Tunisia and Morocco (2002-2006). From 1993 to 2002, she served as Ambassador to Djibouti and Permanent Representative to the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and to Senegal, with accreditation to Mali, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Guinea (1989-1993).

Ms. Zewde is a natural sciences graduate of the University of Montpellier, France. She is fluent in Amharic, French and English.

Born on 21 February 1950, she has two sons.

New UNIDO Representative takes office



Mr. Ola Altera, Photo Credit: Henrik Hansson

on changes as newly appointed Representative for Kenya and Eritrea assumed his new role as from March 1, 2011.

The new Representative, Mr. Ola Altera, recently held the post of State Secretary of the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communication in the Swedish Government. His responsibilities included energy policy and the governing of the Swedish state owned companies.

Altera has held various positions in both public and private sectors, among them the Managing Director of the Swedish Association of District Heating, Political Adviser in the Prime Minister’s Office and Secretary

General of the Swedish Centre Party. He has a Masters of Science degree in Engineering Physics.

“It is a privilege to have this opportunity to contribute to sustainable, green industrialization of Kenya, in close collaboration with the Government and other partners. My first weeks in this beautiful country have just strengthened my impression that Kenya is a country of great potentials”, says Altera.

The UN Industrial and Development Organization (UNIDO) Kenya office takes

UN Secretary-General and UNAIDS Executive Director launch a Report on HIV/AIDS

Thirty years into the AIDS epidemic, investments in response are yielding results, according to a new report released on 31 March 2011 by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The report titled “Uniting for universal access: towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths,” highlights that the declining global rate of new HIV infections, expanding treatment access and significant strides in reducing HIV transmission from mother-to-child, as some of the key results in the 30 years of the waged war on AIDS. These findings were reiterated by Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Awiti who is a mother of triplets and a beneficiary of the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) who were guests at the launch.

The report, based on data submitted by 182 countries, provides five key recommendations that will be reviewed by global leaders at a UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS, from 8–10 June 2011. These recommendations are:

- Harness the energy of young people for an HIV prevention revolution;
- Revitalize the push towards achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2015;
- Work with countries to make HIV programmes more cost effective, efficient and sustainable;
- Promote the health, human rights and dignity of women and girls; and
- Ensure mutual accountability in the AIDS response to translate



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé together with Rebecca Awiti and her triplets ©UNAIDS/AFP/S.Maina 2011

commitments into action.

The UN Secretary-General called upon all stakeholders to support the recommendations in the report and use them to work towards realizing the six global targets for universal access:

- Reduce by 50% the sexual transmission of HIV- including among key populations, such as young people, men who have sex with men in the context of sex work; and prevent all new HIV infections as a result of injecting drugs;
- Eliminate HIV transmission from mother-to-child;
- Reduce by 50% tuberculosis deaths in people living with HIV;
- Ensure HIV treatment for 13

million people;

- Reduce by 50% the number of countries with HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence; and
- Ensure equal access to education for children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS.

Ms. Awiti, a woman living with HIV and mother of HIV-free triplets, thanks to efforts of the PMTCT, called on world leaders participating at the High Level Meeting on AIDS in June this year to pledge to accelerate universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for all. Her own life is a testimony that universal access indeed works and everyone should play their part to ensure that it becomes a reality.

New UNFPA Executive Director visits Kenya



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the new Executive Director of UNFPA, addressing a gathering in Nairobi ©UNFPA 2011

The new UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin recently visited Kenya immediately after his tour in Nigeria and Ethiopia. While in Kenya he attended the Chief Executive Board (CEB) meeting and a UNAIDS Co-sponsoring Organizations meeting.

In his last day of the Africa mission, Dr. Osotimehin met the UNFPA Kenya Country office staff and hosted a dinner for development partners, key Government officials, Heads of Implementing Partners of the Government/UNFPA Population Programme, the UN and the media. During the dinner he expounded on his vision and the challenges ensuing from a world of 7 billion including his strategy in charting the way forward.

While in Nairobi, the UNFPA Executive Director met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and

heads of other UNAIDS co-sponsoring organizations following the launch of the Secretary-General's Report on the 2011 General Assembly High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS.

The report, entitled 'Uniting for universal access: towards zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths' notes that investments in the AIDS response have been yielding results and that the global rate of new HIV infections has been declining while treatment access is expanding. It also says that the world is making significant strides in reducing transmission of the virus from HIV-positive mothers to their children.

UNFPA will continue to play a stronger role in HIV prevention within the new division of labour among cosponsors of UNAIDS, Dr. Osotimehin explained, emphasizing that the agency would focus on further reducing the

sexual transmission of HIV, especially among women and young people, by empowering youth to protect themselves, supporting comprehensive condom programming and increasing young people's use of HIV testing. He also advocated for greater integration of HIV interventions and sexual and reproductive health within primary care health systems.

Dr. Osotimehin had an opportunity to meet with staff from the Kenya and Somalia country offices where he shared his vision for the organization. In his message, he stressed how accountability and transparency were key in ensuring the effective delivery of service and clean audits. "It is not acceptable that we have a negative audit," he emphasized.

In his discussions about the Kenya and Somalia programmes, the Executive Director underlined the need for a strong family planning programme as the entry point to improved maternal health and reproductive health and services for youth and women. He added that UNFPA had competence in maternal health, youth and mitigation against Gender-Based Violence.

He congratulated the staff for going beyond expectations in the performance of their duties and thanked the Kenya office for supporting the 2009 census which has since won numerous accolades.

Dr Osotimehin pointed out that the time had come to position UNFPA as a 21st century organization by re-examining its mandate and acquiring the relevant skill sets to make this happen. He also emphasized the need for capacity-building.

Significantly, he called for improved communications of UNFPA's work and advocacy. "Our communication strategy with the world has to improve," he said, adding that UNFPA needed to further nurture its relationship with partners.

UN agencies and partners kick-start the process for tackling HIV in emergencies in Kenya

Often overlooked, and rarely anticipated, HIV remains a critical factor in emergency contexts. During the aftermath of the Kenyan post-election violence in 2008, a number of systems failed to pre-empt and prepare for the impact relating to HIV, with devastating consequences. In humanitarian emergencies, HIV prevention and treatment commodities are scarce, sexual and gender-based violence often increases, and basic health care services become inaccessible; all of which increases the vulnerability of people living with HIV and AIDS, and aggravates the likelihood of new infections.

Supported by the Joint United Nations Team on HIV and AIDS in Kenya – an initiative to reduce the spread of HIV and improve the quality of life for those infected – a workshop was held in Nakuru from 7 to 11 March 2011. Partner agencies included the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNAIDS, World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The meeting was hosted by the National AIDS Control Council, with relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies also in attendance.

The objective of the workshop was to initiate a national contingency plan and build capacities at all levels to deal with HIV in emergencies. A national steering committee is currently being formed to oversee its implementation.

The workshop also strengthened the capacity of key individuals in Non-Governmental Organizations



Alice Natecho, Head of Communications at the National AIDS Control Council addresses workshop attendees © IOM 2011

(NGOs) and Government ministries through a two day Training of Trainers course. Over 22 participants, including representatives from NGOs, the Ministry of State for Special Programmes and the Kenya National AIDS/STD Control Programme were trained on how to prepare for, and handle, HIV prevention in emergencies to ensure the continuity of health systems.

Speaking at the workshop, Professor Alloys Orago, the Director of the National AIDS Control Council said: “We need to deliver a framework to tackle HIV in emergencies so we are better off as a country. Now is the time.”

IOM’s Greg Irving added: “This workshop was fundamental for bringing together a variety of important actors to finally formulate a minimum package addressing HIV in emergencies. This is the first step towards developing a national contingency plan and to build capacities that will facilitate Kenya to effectively address HIV and AIDS in future crises. Ultimately, this can only be achieved through strengthening partnerships.”

With momentum high and an action plan in place, partners will continue to push the agenda for mainstreaming HIV in emergencies.

UN leaders raise alarm on plight of Somali refugees in Kenya



Guterres, Sheeran, and Bachelet answer questions from the media ©WFP/R. Ogola 2011

The heads of three United Nations agencies recently expressed deep concern about the living conditions of more than 314,000 Somali refugees during a visit to three camps in Dadaab in northeastern Kenya. More refugees are arriving daily, crowding more people into one of the largest refugee concentrations in the world.

Drought and two decades of violence have forced Somalis to flee their country and take refuge at the three Dadaab camps, which were originally designed to accommodate a total of 90,000 people.

“After more than 20 years of war, Somali refugees have become a true global population. The majority are here in Kenya and in Djibouti, Yemen

and Ethiopia but Somalis have sought refuge in countries on all five continents. As the war continues unabated, I appeal to all countries in the world to keep their borders open and to allow them to live in dignity,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres.

He appealed to the Government to allow the completion of an additional refugee residential area in Dadaab known as “Ifo II.”

“Today I met Somali women and children who have fled conflict and arrived traumatised and suffering from malnutrition,” said WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran. “It is vital that we as United Nations agencies are here to protect them and provide the food and shelter they need as refugees

in Dadaab.”

The high concentration of refugees in an already harsh environment has had a negative impact on the camp surroundings. The UN and other groups are working with villagers from surrounding areas to find sustainable local solutions such as water and soil conservation.

To avoid the surrounding land being stripped bare in the search for firewood, humanitarian agencies have given refugees energy-saving stoves that use less fuel.

Poor hygiene and sanitation as a result of congestion in the camps exposes refugees to health hazards and security threats. In some cases, one toilet is shared by about 300 people.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable even when they reach the Dadaab camps.

“In addition to having to flee from their homes, women are exposed to sexual violence. We must continue to do our utmost to protect girls and women, while also supporting their contribution as productive community members,” said Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director for UN Women.

On top of rising tension in the camps because of overcrowding, UN agencies are alert to the possibility of an influx of more refugees from neighbouring countries and the potential impact this has on regional security.

The three heads of UN agencies were part of the UN Chief Executive Board members attending an annual meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 1-2 April 2011.

Hopes raised as women receive cleaner improved cooking stoves to fight climate change

Twenty-five women from Dagoretti district received cleaner improved cooking stoves through an initiative known as

‘Project Surya’, on 31 March 2011. Project Surya is a collaborative effort between UNEP and The Energy Resource Institute of India (TERI). The

handing over ceremony was done by Mrs. Ban Soon-Taek, the spouse of the United Nations Secretary General.

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The event took place at the Planning House, on Lower Kabete Road.

Project Surya is an initiative that aims to mitigate the regional impacts of global warming by reducing atmospheric concentrations of black carbon and methane with clean-cooking technologies, through replacement of highly polluting cooking stoves traditionally used in rural areas.

Surprising as it may seem, most people in the world and especially in developing countries, prepare their food using energy from fossil fuels such as coal or traditional methods using biomass fuels such as animal dung, crop residues, wood and charcoal. In Kenya, more than 80% households do not have access to modern stoves that run on electricity or natural gas. If anything, fuels of choice are firewood, charcoal and animal dung.

In Kiawamagira, Dagoretti district, for instance, women and children spend disproportionate amounts of hours a day collecting fire wood for cooking or making charcoal, tasks that contribute to deforestation and soil erosion. The use of biomass products and fossil fuels also release green house gases (GHGs) – especially methane and carbon dioxide - which have deleterious effects on global warming.

But thanks to Project Surya, and in particular Professor Ramanathan of the University of California and his team, for having taken the initiative to translate critical scientific findings into practical solutions that will safeguard the health of millions of women and children who do not have access to clean energy.

It is envisioned that the cooking stove will improve the health and living conditions of women and children as



A woman uses the Improved Cooking Stove. RIGHT: Mrs. Ban Soon-Taek presents the stove to one of the women from Dagoretti. ©UNEP 2011

its use will reduce emission of black carbon which consists of particulate matter generated during burning of woody material and coal, that lodges into the human respiratory tract systems causing long-term bronchial and lung complications.

The improved cooking stove incorporates a fan underneath it that runs from a solar panel, and uses small chips of wood which burn efficiently and produce blue flame with less pollution. In addition, it comes with a lighting system that runs off solar power. It is, therefore used as a composite cooker and solar lighting system which in turn replaces the use of kerosene in households with double benefits.

In her remarks, Mrs. Ban said she was honored and privileged to be part of a process that was going to transform lives of many women who had limited choices or alternatives in terms of

providing basic energy needs for their households.

She thanked Ms. Anne Muringi, and her team members in the *Appropriate Wood and Solar Energy Network* for agreeing to be the first recipients of this unique 'Jiko' technology in Kenya, and hoped that this would have a rippling effect to improve more households.

She noted: "this project, which has evolved from cooperation between the Kenya Government, the private sector, research science, and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), is a clear demonstration that the UN family is constantly seeking simple solutions to major problems that afflict many of us, particularly women, in the society".

UNEP is working with the local research and development institution (KIRDI) to manufacture this cooker locally so that it can be used in other villages.

UNDP launches community power centers in Siaya and Bungoma

Access to power from renewable sources of energy has become the ideal in combating global warming. Additionally, access to affordable sources of energy in rural set ups is vital for spurring small and

micro enterprises, as well as addressing the domestic power needs of rural homesteads largely dependent on wood fuel.

From 3 to 4 March 2011, the UNDP Resident Representative, Aeneas

Chuma, together with Ola Altera, the UNIDO Representative, jointly commissioned two community power centers (CPCs) in Siaya and Changara. This project is a collaboration between

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Mr. Livingstone Otwane, Chairman of the CPC in Changara, explains to the UNDP Resident Representative, Aeneas Chuma the process of extracting sunflower oil for the bio-diesel generator at the centre ©UNDP 2011

UNDP's District Business Solution Centers (DBSCs) and UNIDO's renewable energy component, targeting the introduction of a local power grid to inspire growth of business in rural centers. This project also aims to decrease environmental degradation in

these areas.

Each CPC is equipped with one generator ran on bio-diesel (sunflower oil) and twelve solar panels which make up a power grid that serves fifty business stalls at *Uhuru* business centre in Siaya County and twenty business

stalls at *Changara* in Bungoma County. Additionally, a woodwork and welding shop alongside a soap-making machine and incubator provide new enterprise opportunities to the communities. A mobile phone battery charging centre ensures the community remains in constant communication and enables money transfers with a secure telephone network.

Women and the youth have been the largest benefactors of this project. The UNDP Resident Representative commended the linkage between the DBSCs and the CPCs in providing business advice on existing business ventures and available sources of credit, "I am impressed by the growth of business in these trade centers especially the emergence of small industries such as shoe-making, soap-making and poultry farming."

The up scaling of the MDGs necessitates rural based initiatives that expand the capacities of communities and special interest groups. With access to affordable energy, emerging industries within agricultural zones will drive key economic progress, with human development underscoring the drive to the achievement of the MDGs.

UNESCO urges Africa Member States to address water quality

Twenty eight water experts and stakeholders from 17 countries across Africa gathered at the United Nations Office in Gigiri, Nairobi from 14 to 16 March, 2011 for a workshop on 'Addressing Water Quality Challenges in Africa'. The workshop was jointly organized by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Africa based in Nairobi, and the UNESCO Water Division in Paris under the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

The forum was held against the backdrop of Africa's Water Vision 2025, which highlights the crucial role of good quality and sufficient water for

sustainable development, in a continent where 35% of the population does not have access to safe drinking water while 59% lack access to improved sanitation facilities.

The region is facing increasingly critical challenges in using and managing its water resources sustainably. In addition to environmental threats including climate change, water resources in Africa are threatened by the growing population, rapid urbanization and economic development. Pollution of both surface and groundwater resources in Africa has been on the increase due to insufficiently treated domestic and industrial waste, and agricultural runoff.

This degradation of the quality of water resources thus poses serious risks to human and environmental health.

In his opening remarks at the workshop, Prof. Joseph Massaquoi, Director of UNESCO Nairobi Office called upon African countries to pursue and adopt more sustainable approaches on the use and management of water resources through the Integrated Water Resources Management approach.

"In order to implement a sustainable water management approach, it is fundamental to improve our knowledge on the availability and use of water resources in terms of quantity and

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quality,” said Prof. Massaquoi, adding that many African countries would not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water access and sanitation. There is a high prevalence of water related diseases affecting children especially those under five years in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The workshop discussions and presentations focused on assessing the current situation of water quality and water pollution problems and their root causes; water quality trends in major surface water bodies and groundwater resources; and assessing the impact of global changes, including urbanization, population growth and climate change, among other key topics. The workshop was aimed at sharing experiences, success stories and lessons learned and also at identifying potential solutions and policy recommendations towards addressing the issue of water quality in Sub-Saharan Africa.

While making a presentation on the challenges facing water quality in Kenya, Mr. Daudi Kamau, the Principal Chemist in the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, noted the inadequacy of



Part of the participants at the workshop ©UNESCO 2011

material and human resources, lack of data handling and analysis skills, lack of environmental water quality standards; and poor reporting and dissemination of information, as the main challenges facing the country. He said the Kenya Government was carrying out water sector reforms including enhanced

funding for water quality management activities, rejuvenation of the National Water Quality Monitoring and Drinking Water Surveillance Programmes as well as rehabilitation and equipping of the Central Water Testing Laboratory in Nairobi and the six regional laboratories, among other strategies.

FAO intervenes to reduce the growing threat of pesticides to humans and the environment.

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Kenya, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, launched a Project titled: **“Strengthening Pesticide Lifecycle Management in Kenya”** in Nairobi on 10 March 2011.

The objective of the project is to assist Kenya to reduce the threat posed to public health, the environment and agricultural resources by pesticide waste and illegal plant protection products. Pressure is already being exerted on the land available for agricultural production by several factors. This is likely to increase in the future as population

pressure and climatic factors continue to impact negatively on land use. The risk of increased reliance on chemical inputs including pesticides is therefore of significant concern to the Government of Kenya. Poor management of inputs is also contributing to land degradation and contamination of other valuable resources including water. Inappropriate use and disposal of pesticides and associated waste is hazardous to human health and the environment, economically damaging and puts export markets at risk due to regulated limits on pesticide residues on export crops.

In response to these challenges, the project will support the Ministry

of Agriculture in Kenya, through the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB), to better manage the pesticide life-cycle for all crop protection, animal health and public health products in the country. The priorities set for the project following stakeholder consultation are:

- Development of a comprehensive communications and awareness strategy and programme aimed at risk reduction from pesticide use;
- Investigation of levels of contamination at a number of identified locations and the development of site specific remediation strategies aimed at

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Participants attending the Launch of the Strengthening Pesticide Life-cycle Management Project in Nairobi ©FAO 2011

- minimisation of impact on public health and the environment;
- Review of existing pesticide waste management practices in Kenya that will include the audit of facilities used for

the destruction of pesticide containers;

- Review of pesticide life cycle management with a focus on updating existing legislation and the preparation of guidelines on key aspects of pesticide management.

The overall impact of the project will be to reduce the pesticide exposure to farmers, consumers and the public thus improving their health and capacity to work. Improved regulation of pesticide products will help to protect export markets for agricultural produce through better compliance with international standards. The project will run for a period of two years.

Launch of a joint UNODC and DPP Report: Towards professionalized prosecution services in Kenya

Kenya suffers from a critical shortage of prosecutors. In 2010, 92,802 criminal cases were tried in the country. With 353 courts nationwide and a case load estimated at about 300 per prosecutors, it is improbable that a prosecutor can properly prepare for a vigorously defended case. If not addressed, this shortfall is likely to increase with creation of new courts to bring judicial services closer to the counties that have been created by Kenya's new constitution.

As part of its deep commitment to assisting the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), UNODC has been working closely with the Offices of the Attorney General and the DPP

in order to address the urgent issues confronting the DPP's office. Last year UNODC, in cooperation with Offices of the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions carried out a comprehensive survey across the Kenyan prosecution system which revealed the following:

- Police prosecutors undergo a short training course which does not equip them with the skills to handle the changing criminal environment
- Police do not enjoy prosecutorial independence
- Lack of professional ethics by the police prosecutors
- Lack of authority to incur expenditure by the Officer-in-

Charge of Prosecutions

- Lack of witness consultation rooms
- Lack of poor promotions and poor general career prospects for prosecutors

These issues were also emphasized by Attorney General Amos Wako who said, "the pressure on prosecutorial services will be further exacerbated as the move towards phasing out police prosecutors and recruiting professional lawyers to undertake prosecutions at all levels of the judiciary gains momentum. The increasing sophistication in the kinds of offences, their pervasiveness and the manner of execution call for more well trained and specialized personnel".

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The need to professionalize the prosecution services has been made even more urgent by Kenya's new constitution which establishes an Independent Directorate of Public Prosecutions. Ms. Loide Lungameni, UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa (ROEA) Representative pledged that her agency would continue to do its part in offering technical assistance to the Government in various areas.

"UNODC recognizes that the most urgent priority to be addressed lies in the establishment of an independent Directorate of Public Prosecutions.... In this respect, UNODC is leading the process for the development of an appropriate organizational structure of the new prosecution service, including: recommendations for suitable staffing, qualifications and terms and conditions of service; development of modalities for professionalizing the prosecution service; and development of a comprehensive training programme for newly recruited prosecutors," Ms. Lungameni said.

On 25 and 26 March 2011, the UNODC ROEA, in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General and Directorate of Public Prosecutions, held a validation workshop at the Kenyatta



UNODC Executive Director, Yury Fedotov and UNODC ROEA Representative, Loide Lungameni displaying the launched report to the press © UNODC/Gilbert Otieno 2011

International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, to launch the report. The purpose of the workshop was to examine the survey report and agree on the implementation in accordance with the report's findings.

UNODC Executive Director Yury

Fedotov also stressed the importance of this issue during a press conference in Nairobi on March 28 2011,

Recommendations from the workshop will be forwarded to the Directorate of Public Prosecutions for consideration and possible implementation.

African Working Group agrees to implement the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

The inaugural meeting of the reconstituted African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) concluded on 31 March 2011, with delegates agreeing to accelerate the launch of the extended programme of action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2006-2015), in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.

The HFA is a global blueprint that seeks to promote the efforts of nations to become more resilient to disaster

risks that halt their development goals. The revised programme thus aims to meet these efforts through a set of objectives and intervention areas within the African setting.

The meeting took place after the Executive Council of the African Union endorsed the Report of the Second African Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in April 2010, where it also approved the extended programme of action.

"The endorsement indicates Africa's strong political commitment to bring about a substantial reduction of social,

economic and environmental impacts of disasters on African people and economies," said Pedro Basabe, Head of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Africa.

The programme covers emerging trends and challenges, making links between disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation. It also touches on the importance of increasing investments in disaster risk reduction.

Attending the meeting was Abebe Haile Gabriel, Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the Africa

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Union Commission, and Mohamed Ali, Kenya's Assistant Minister of State for Special Programmes, who accentuated the importance of AWGDRR as a coordinating body.

The meeting kicked off in the wake of climatic hazards and urbanization challenges that have dominated the disaster profile of Sub-Saharan Africa, affecting, on average, around 12.5 million people per year.

The AWGDRR forum also provided for the formal launch of 'Making Cities Resilient Campaign', in which three cities, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Kampala (Uganda) and Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Narok county (Kenya) signed up. By signing up to the campaign, participating mayors and local government officials commit to "Ten Essentials" to make their cities resilient against disaster. Over 600 local government authorities from all over the world have joined this campaign since it began in May 2010.

The meeting was organised jointly by the Africa Union and UNISDR. During



Delegates follow through the proceedings during the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction (AWGDRR) that was held in Nairobi Kenya ©UNISDR 2011

the deliberations, the Group agreed on new terms of reference, and discussed the Africa position paper to be presented during the Third Session of the Global

Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled for 8-13 May 2011.

"Better Schools for Better Neighbourhoods"

Innovative approaches to integrate slum upgrading programmes

On Monday 28 March 2011 the community in Korogocho - Nairobi concluded at the Ngunyumu primary school, a first series of training and participatory exercises that will contribute to two pilot schools positioning themselves at the centre of the community's development process, influencing positive social and spatial transformations.

The training was under the UN-HABITAT and Nairobi City Council's collaborative project framework of "Better Schools for Better Neighbourhoods".

Korogocho is one of the biggest and poorest slums in Nairobi located next to the huge Dandora dumpsite. Basic services and social infrastructure hardly

exist and the incidences of crime and violence are alarmingly high. There are only two public and about 40 informal schools providing inadequate educative services to the needs of thousands of kids.

The initiative's approach, complementing and building on the comprehensive framework of the Korogocho Slum Upgrading Programme currently being implemented by the Government in partnership with UN-HABITAT and with funding support from the Kenya-Italy debt swap, seeks to tap in the overall upgrading process all the existent resources and available community assets.

Benefiting from the UN-HABITAT global network of knowledge and

partners such as the Safer Cities Programme as well as lessons learnt from other divisions and branches, resource persons from Uganda, South Africa and Egypt have been mobilized and are available for the City Department of Education (CDoE) in order to support its effort to introduce new methodologies and effective tools in the education policy for public and informal schools in poor neighbourhoods.

The project started with creating a common understanding of what a good school is. To that end, 'Raising Voices of Uganda' presented a "Good School Toolkit" during a first training workshop for CDoE officials. Subsequently the toolkit was shared with the Korogocho communities of Ngunyumu public

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primary and St. John informal primary schools which then prepared a work plan for its implementation together with a monitoring programme.

A consultant from the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research led members of the school management committees comprising of parents, teachers, pupils, and community leaders, through a participatory visioning exercise based on their model of a “Safe community of Opportunity” that culminated in three action plans.

Using participatory design techniques, the action plans were eventually translated into new spatial layouts and service provision configurations for the school, to assist the committees envisioning the same as an accessible, safe and multipurpose facility for the community.

The exercise was facilitated by a team of experts from the Cairo University assisted by a team of young Architects from the University of Nairobi, previously trained with the aim of creating local expertise



The technical team taking the community through the participatory re-design of the school ©UN-HABITAT 2011

on the subject.

The plans will be implemented according to priority and will also contribute to raise awareness, build trust and community ownership for the initiative.

This successful pilot experience will contribute to the preparation of a strategy paper for a policy and practices’ review by the CDoE, facilitating replication of the process city-wide.

UNV gets set to mark IYV+10 across Kenya

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) and as the national focal point, the UN Volunteers (UNV) Kenya is leading efforts to make sure the year is observed by recognizing the work of volunteers throughout the country.

According to UNV Programme Officer, Julia Albert-Recht, celebrations for IYV+10 will be happening at both the global and local level.

In view of 2015, the target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the tenth anniversary of IYV offers the opportunity to highlight the contribution of volunteerism to social and human development and the role of volunteers worldwide in the attainment of the MDGs.

Kenya has been selected to host the Global Volunteerism Summit which will

take place in Nairobi in June 2011. The Summit will bring together players from different organizations around the globe to discuss the impact of volunteerism on development and the MDGs. In addition, UNV will host sessions with academia and the private sector to highlight their role in supporting volunteerism. UNV is assisting the Kenya Government in its development of a policy on volunteerism, which will significantly strengthen the sector, as part of the outcomes for the year.

During the year, UNV will highlight volunteerism by sharing volunteer stories on different web and print platforms, through articles, pictures and videos, focusing on a variety of volunteers contributing through formal and informal volunteering.

“We want to encourage volunteers who are making an impact in communities, throughout the UN

system, and all over the country to share their story – IYV+10 is about celebrating the volunteerism in so many of us”, emphasizes George Oloo, the National Coordinator for IYV+10.

UNV Kenya is partnering with a number of organizations including the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Kenya Red Cross, VSO Jitolee and the Volunteer Involving Organizations Network (VIO) in marking IYV+10. These partnerships will go a long way in enhancing volunteerism post-IYV+10 and consolidate the gains already made.

IYV+10 activities will end on 5 December 2011, International Volunteer Day, during which the State of the World Volunteerism Report will be launched. Produced by the UN with the assistance of consultants and academics from around the world, the report is expected to address what is meant by



A UNV helps a mother and her child at the Mathare North Clinic during previous International Volunteer Day activities ©UNV 2011

volunteerism, why people volunteer their time, the many ways people choose to volunteer and the impact of this engagement. According to UNV, the State of the World Volunteerism Report will present an alternative vision to the one widely prevailing today, this being the first report ever commissioned by the UN to capture the state of volunteerism in the world.

“Let us honour volunteering as an expression of our common humanity and a way to promote mutual respect, solidarity and reciprocity.” Says Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General.

Join us in making IYV+10 count for the hundreds of volunteers who are making a difference across this nation.

This Newsletter is compiled by the UN Communications Group in Kenya and edited by the United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi.

For more information contact: UNCG Chair, P. O. Box 30552-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel: 020-7621102, E-mail: nairobi.unic@unon.org