UN signs USD 1.2 Billion partnership for Human Prosperity in Kenya

The United Nations and the Government of Kenya have signed a four-year United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) estimated at $1.2 billion to complement the Government’s development programme. The agreement signed by the Kenya Government and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), under the ‘Delivering as One’ initiative, will see the Government take control of development projects in the country, while the UN will improve the efficiency of implementing them.

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Upcoming Events
- 3 May: World Press Freedom Day
- 6 May: Launch of the 7th National Human Development Report, National Museum, Nairobi
- 6 May: Launch of the 2013/14 Education for All Report, Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi
- 14 May: “Vesak”, the Day of the Full Moon, UNON Conference Room 13, 10:00 am-12 noon
- 15 May: International Day of Families
- 17 May: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
- 21 May: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity
- 23 May: International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
- 29 May: International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 31 May: World No-Tobacco Day
of its operations. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The UNDAF expects to deliver on four main strategic results that include Transformational Governance, Human Capital Development, Inclusive Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability, Land Management and Human Security within the 2014 to 2018 timeline. This is well aligned to the Government’s second Medium Term Plan (MTPII) of the vision 2030.

Speaking at Statehouse Nairobi during the signing ceremony, President Kenyatta lauded the United Nations cooperation with the Government and noted that the targeted activities were aimed at improving the business environment, skills development and promoting job creation.

“I look forward to its implementation and to its positive impacts on the lives of Kenyans, particularly for those most disadvantaged,” he said.

The President called on all implementing partners to ensure that the programme benefits the people and that it is implemented in a timely manner. “I wish to make it clear that our people’s expectations are very high and we cannot afford any laggards,” he warned. “We shall hold you, the implementing agencies, accountable for delivery of services funded by this programme.”

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas observed that under the ‘Delivering as One’ framework, there will be reduction of costs and a positive impact on the country’s development. “From now, these projects will belong to the Government rather than the previous years, and we expect that Government will contribute much more than before.” This is the fourth UNDAF with the Government of Kenya and the first one under the 2010 Constitution and the newly devolved governance structure that decentralizes power and resources to the 47 counties. The programme will be implemented by 25 UN agencies that form the United Nations Country Team in Kenya. The programme has also brought on board the IMF and the World Bank for the very first time.

Kenya is now officially a ‘Delivering as One’ country. This initiative was set in motion when the President, then the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, wrote to the United Nations Development Group Chair, Ms. Helen Clark, requesting that Kenya become a UN ‘Delivering as One’ country in line with the Paris Declaration Principles on Development Assistance. The UN responded positively to this request.

The UN continues to have close collaborations with the Government of Kenya and development partners. During the last programming cycle (2009-2013), the total programme delivery of United Nations Funds and Programmes in Kenya was close to three billion US dollars, equivalent to approximately 258 billion Kenya shillings. The UN Resident Coordinator observed that 70% of the previous total delivery was for humanitarian activities, in response to emergencies and crises. Only 30% or about 86 billion Kenya shillings went to medium and long-term development programmes. She emphasized that “the UN would seek to reverse this situation by focusing more on crisis prevention, while intensifying and expanding support to medium and long-term development programmes.”

Kenyan First Lady’s marathon effort with UNAIDS for mothers and children

FIRST lady Margaret Kenyatta may not have set the same pace as elite Kenyan runners, but she had an important reason to finish this year’s London Marathon. The First Lady who finished the 42 km race in seven hours and five minutes, just four days after her 50th birthday, ran as part of the “Beyond Zero” campaign to stop new HIV infections, and improve maternal and child health in Kenya.

Mrs. Kenyatta was in good company with compatriots Wilson Kipsang and Edna Kiplagat winning the men’s and women’s races. World Marathon record holder Kipsang set a new course record, crossing the finish line near Buckingham Palace in just over two hours and four minutes.
The First Lady was joined in the London race by over 36,000 other runners, including Kenyan MPs and coach Douglas Wakihiuru, the first Kenyan to win the London Marathon in 1989. The First Lady was congratulated at the finish line by her husband, President Uhuru Kenyatta.

As a pre-cursor to the London Marathon, Mrs. Kenyatta hosted the inaugural First Lady’s half Marathon in March in Nairobi, mobilising Kenyans to support the “Beyond Zero” campaign.

The First Lady and her team trained at high altitude camps in Kenya, including Iten, which has produced champions such as Edna and Florence Kiplagat, and Linet Masai.

“Beyond Zero” campaign, supported by the UN Joint Team on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), aims to improve maternal health and end mother-to-child HIV transmission by focusing on political will and raising funds for mobile health clinics to serve the 47 counties. Despite recent improvements in access to life-saving ARV medication in Kenya, over 13,000 children are born with HIV. Close to 5,500 mothers die each year due to pregnancy-related complications, with 20% of these deaths being HIV related.

“...you and I must make an effort to save these lives, that is my mantra as I forget about the aches and pains in my body and focus on finishing the London Marathon...and help prevent the needless maternal and early childhood deaths. Together, we can do it!”

First Lady Margaret Kenyatta

Kenyan women unite to increase access to maternal and child health

MORE than 100 leaders and representatives of women’s rights organizations from across Kenya came together on 24 March in Nairobi to discuss ways to stop new HIV infections among children by 2015 and improve the health of mothers in the country.

The women’s rights leaders meeting was co-organized by UNAIDS, UNDP, the National AIDS Control Council, the National AIDS and STI Control Programme and the Community Advocacy and Awareness (CRAWN) Trust. The meeting aimed to accelerate the momentum started by the First Lady of Kenya, Margaret Kenyatta through the ‘Beyond Zero’ campaign—an initiative to end mother-to-child transmission and AIDS-related maternal deaths in Kenya.

Speaking at the meeting, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Jan
Beagle applauded the First Lady’s personal commitment and stressed that for UNAIDS, gender equality and human rights, including sexual and reproductive health rights, are non-negotiable elements to ensure effective HIV and health responses.

“We need to leverage synergies across movements, bringing together the capacity and innovation of the AIDS response with movements to advance sexual and reproductive health rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,” stressed Jan Beagle.

Government figures show that in Kenya, AIDS-related illnesses account for one in five maternal deaths and 100,000 children under the age of five years died from preventable causes in 2012. According to WHO figures, Kenya currently dedicates 6% of its national budget—less than half of the 15% Abuja Declaration target—to the health sector.

“Our involvement as the women’s movement is a game changer and will catalyze actions needed to bring the necessary changes and accelerate the achievement of the “Beyond Zero” campaign goals,” said Daisy Amdany, CRAWN Trust Executive Director.

Gay debate affecting fight against HIV

**Dr. George Githuka addressing participants. Back R-L Sylvia Ayon, Kenya AIDS NGO’s Consortium and Ruth Laibon Masha of UNAIDS ©UNAIDS,2014**

**The** Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mr. James Macharia recently stated that the ongoing debate on homosexuality in Kenya is affecting the fight against HIV.

In his statement, he noted that men who have sex with men are among key populations who are adversely affected by HIV in the country, with 30% of them being HIV positive. Men who have sex with men, sex workers and injecting drug users are categorized as “Most at Risk/Key Populations” by the National AIDS programme and as such, have been targeted to reduce their vulnerability to HIV.

Prior to the release of this statement, the National AIDS and STI Control Programme held a two day consultative workshop with HIV awareness peer educators of these key groups drawn from the 47 counties. During the workshop participants shared their experiences as peer educators, expressed the challenges faced in providing HIV prevention, treatment and care information to the members of key population, and discussed access to health services for these communities.

Speaking at the meeting, UNAIDS Country Director, Ms. Maya Harper stated that despite the current security challenges experienced by these groups, UNAIDS stands firm to uphold human rights, protect people from violence and discrimination, and promotes campaigns that ensure access to health services including HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for these key groups.

Dr. George Githuka, Most at Risk Populations Programme Manager at the National AIDS and STI Control Programme highlighted the need to sensitize policy makers and law enforcers to ensure the five year gains made in the fight against HIV and AIDS are not reversed.

Inspector Wilson Edung from the Kenya Police Service informed the audience that he had been involved in the implementation of the community policing for seven years, which brings together citizens including key populations and law enforcers to prevent crime and respect the human rights of every citizen.
RED t-shirts and a wide variety of condoms coloured the streets of Nairobi, Kenya in February 2014, marking the International Condom Day celebrated on the side-lines of Saint Valentine’s Day, to promote safe sex and condom use as a preventive measure for unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The celebration began with a public procession accompanied by the Kenya Prisons Band through the Nairobi Central Business District to the National Archives. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, Nairobi County Government, private sector, civil society, the United Nations Joint Team on HIV and AIDS in Kenya and other stakeholders joined the march.

According to the Ministry of Health, an estimated 199,040 people – out of which 9% are children – were living with HIV in Nairobi in 2011. The County also accounted for 11,800 out of the 91,000 new infections that occurred in 2011 – the highest number of new adult HIV infections in Kenya. Studies also show that young people in Nairobi have an early sexual debut – before the age of 15.

Representing the United Nations team, Bouri Jean Victor Sanhouidi, Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) commended the Government and partners on their commitment in the AIDS response. He noted that coordinated efforts within the multi-sectoral devolved governance structure will ensure availability and accessibility of condoms.

According to the National AIDS Control Council demand for condoms in Kenya was expected to increase from about 400 million per year to over 500 million by 2017. Mr Sanhouidi urged the Government to explore innovative financing mechanisms such as creation of trust funds, tax breaks and public-private partnership to meet its condom utilization target of 80% by 2017 among the sexually active persons in the country.
KENYA'S first National Health Promotion Strategy and Guiding frameworks were officially launched in February, marking a major milestone in the country. Also launched at the same occasion were the National Standards and Guidelines for Health Promotion and the National Health Communication Guidelines.

The launch was graced by the Cabinet Secretary of Health, Mr James Macharia and other dignitaries including the Principal Secretary of Health, Prof. Fred Sigor, senior Ministry of Health Officers, County Health Executives and Directors, WHO Country Representative, Dr Custodia Mandlhate and other UN representatives.

In his key remarks, the Cabinet Secretary congratulated the Health Promotion Unit for the completion of the important documents and thanked all partners and stakeholders involved in the process.

The Cabinet Secretary called upon other sectors to mainstream and promote health, and formulate policies which will impact on the health of individuals, families and communities. He appealed for partners' continued support in the implementation of set out strategies and interventions, and urged all to utilize the existing information-sharing platforms including the launched website.

Representing the UN family at the occasion, the WHO Representative, Dr Custodia Mandlhate commended the Ministry's stewardship, leadership and commitment in developing its guiding frameworks in health promotion. She emphasized the need to invest in health promotion interventions as the country was facing the burden of diseases. Prevention of key health risk factors was still a major strategy in tackling both communicable and non-communicable diseases, she said.

The strategy seeks to strengthen the stewardship role and build capacity of national and county governments in the implementation of health promotion approaches that address the risk factor and major health determinants. It also strengthens the capacity of communities and enables them to increase control of their health and their determinants. Furthermore, it enhances coordination and collaboration of partners for effective multi-sectoral action, thereby increasing synergy and sustainability in health promotion activities. This will promote a comprehensive and participatory approach to the improvement of health and well-being among the people in Kenya.

The launching of the health promotion guiding frameworks and website was followed by a presentation of the documents to County Executives present. Prior to the launch, the Executives and County health directors underwent a one day sensitization workshop on the guiding frameworks to prepare them for the roll-out of the strategies and interventions in their respective counties.

Kenya commemorates World Cancer Day 2014

KENYA joined the rest of the world in commemorating this year's World Cancer Day. The national event, commemorated in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, under the global theme “Debunking the Myths”, was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Mr. James Macharia. The Chief Guest noted that the day provided a special opportunity to raise awareness and improve general knowledge and dispel myths and misconceptions about cancer.

Mr. Macharia stated that cancer is shrouded with myths and misconceptions affecting health.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
UNHCR inaugurate new girls secondary school

WHEN the sun rose above the gentle rolling hills and plains of Kakuma town in Turkana County in Northern Kenya, the students of Morneau Shepell Girls Secondary School woke up to an eagerly awaited day – the inauguration of their boarding school.

February 26, 2014 was a day of pomp and colour at the girls’ only secondary school as a Canadian delegation led by Mr. Bill Morneau, the Executive Chairman of Morneau Shepell (a well-known Canadian company dealing with health assistance and retirement plans) streamed into the school’s compound to officially open the institution. The generous contribution of his company, Morneau Shepell, allowed the realization of this important project.

The auspicious occasion was also attended by the Member of Parliament seeking behaviors and treatment outcomes. He urged those present to utilize the opportunity to educate themselves and get screened for cancer.

Mr. Macharia noted with concern that about 80% of reported cases of cancer in Kenya are diagnosed at advanced stages, when the treatment is costly and the prognosis is poor. He said that his Ministry, in collaboration with partners in both public and private sectors is in the process of improving the cancer prevention and control infrastructure and increasing the number of cancer specialists, which is currently very low and concentrated in the cities. This is intended to improve access to cancer treatment and thus reduce the long waiting times currently being experienced in the health facilities.

In her remarks on behalf of WHO Director General, the WHO Regional Director and the UN family, the WHO Country Representative Dr Custodia Mandlhate reported that many cancers can be prevented by avoiding exposure to common risk factors, such as tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity; and exposure to chronic infections from hepatitis B and C viruses and to human papilloma virus, these being the main cancer risk factors especially in low and middle income countries.

Educational and advocacy stands to provide information on cancer prevention, detection and treatment services to the public were erected as part of the activities. Free screening services for various cancers, including breast, prostate and cervical were offered at the referral hospital.
for Turkana West, Hon. Daniel Nanok, the District Commissioner, representatives from UNHCR and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and parents of the students. "We hope education will give you the opportunity to become great leaders in your society," observed Bill Morneau in his opening remarks. "In my country (Canada) we strongly support empowerment of women in the society. To give you an example, in my company most of the staff are women," he continued.

"This school will improve the quality of education in Turkana sub-county," noted the Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Mohamed Dara. He stressed the importance of access to education for all communities. The host community will be allocated more than 10% of the slots in the school.

"By creating this facility you have increased the interaction between the host community and refugees and promoted unity of spirit among these two communities," pointed out Mr. Daniel Nanok, MP for Turkana West. Mr. Nanok praised Mr. Bill Morneau for supporting the initiative, adding how he looked forward to future projects in the spirit of equal education to enhance the cooperation between refugees and host communities.

There was an impressive line-up of lively and colourful performances by the students of Morneau Shepell School and pupils from other primary schools in Kakuma. The performances were punctuated with key messages on the importance of educating the girl child and hard work. Poems, skits and songs were in plenty and they all had a resounding note of appreciation for Morneau Shepell's support in providing an avenue for quality education in Kakuma.

The project was started in October 2012 and has been implemented by LWF in the following four phases to ensure that a quality and modern education facility was realised:

- **Phase 1**: Construction of four classes, administration block, dining hall/multipurpose hall, two dormitories with two adjoining bathroom blocks (with 8 bathrooms), 10 latrines and one teachers’ quarters.
- **Phase 2**: Construction of four classes, twin laboratories, library, and fence, two dormitories with two adjoining bathroom blocks (with 8 bathrooms), one teachers’ quarters and eight latrines.
- **Phase 3**: Operationalizing of facilities which involved installation of solar lighting, water connection, construction of water tanks, installation of septic tanks for drainage, construction of a kitchen and fitting it with energy saving stoves, furnishing of facilities, construction of sport facilities and procurement of school supplies.
- **Phase 4**: The final phase which was implemented in 2014 involved improving the drainage system, installing water tap stands, washing bays and drying lines for clothes and gravelling the access road from the highway to the school.

The school has adequate and modern facilities that can sufficiently cater for 250 students and ensure learning occurs in a conducive, safe and secure environment. Currently, there are 170 students enrolled in the school, representing about 11 nationalities from the refugee community in Kakuma and some from the Turkana community. The facilities include:

- Eight classes, each with a capacity of 40 students.
- Five latrine blocks
- Four dormitories with a capacity of 80 students each
- Two well-equipped laboratories, each with a capacity of 40 students.
- A library with a capacity of 80 students...
students.
- Sports facilities which include a football pitch, basketball, volleyball and netball courts.
- Two water tanks, each with 10,000 litre capacity.
- Secure fence with a gate and security office.
- The staff comprises of:
  - 13 teachers, seven of whom are from the refugee community
  - 11 non-teaching staff
  - One school matron

The endless supply of sunshine in the area has been harnessed to provide solar energy that is used for lighting the entire school. This ensures that the students can enjoy seamless learning and after school activities with adequate lighting in the classrooms and living quarters.

It is believed that the standard of the school has set the bar for future education facilities in Kakuma. Indeed, both the refugee and host communities are expected to benefit from the school.

Mr. Morneau later expressed his commitment and support to the school and identified the need to maintain its long-term sustainability.

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**Women leaders to focus on county development**

It is one year since Kenyans went to the polls in March 2013 and voted in a new government under a new Constitution. The new devolved government opened up space for women in leadership through the two-thirds gender rule requiring that no single gender should take more than two-thirds of elective and appointive positions in government.

After 12 months of settling down in the new government, women leaders are now seeking to consolidate the gender gains in the new Constitution and also fight for more political space, both in the national and county assemblies.

It is in this regard that UN Women facilitated various forums for women leaders to reflect on their journey so far, address pressing challenges and strategize on the way forward.

In Nairobi, a workshop dubbed ‘Women in Leadership’ was held from 24 – 25 March 2014 and brought together female Senators, MPs, Women
Representatives and County First Ladies (wives of County Governors) to discuss gender gains and gender gaps in the counties. The workshop was organized by UN Women, UNFPA and World Vision.

Some of the key topics tackled in the workshop were:- Role of Women Leaders in Securing Affirmative Action, Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Counties, the Role of Women in Peace building, Maternal and Child Health, among other topics.

“Lack of empowerment, ignorance and lack of opportunities are some of the challenges facing women in Kenya today,” said Senator Agnes Zani.

On the issue of peace and security in the various counties, UN Women’s Peace and Security Specialist Ms. Idil Absiye noted that women and girls experience conflict differently from men and boys hence the need for raising awareness amongst both groups.

“I see an opportunity for women representatives, MPs, Senators and others to push for the peace agenda at the County level. UN Women is working with organizations at all levels to address the issue,” said Ms. Absiye.

While pledging to hold regular forums to address challenges facing them, the women leaders appealed to the Government to strengthen affirmative action in all sectors of the economy.

Japan backs IOM Community Stabilization Project in Northern Kenya

IOM has received USD 1 million from Japan to support a project that aims to enhance community stabilization for mobile populations and communities that host them in Northern Kenya.

The project was launched on 14 April 2014 by Japanese Ambassador to Kenya Tatsushi Terada and will be implemented in close cooperation with the local (county) governments of Turkana, Marsabit, Uasin Gishu and Garissa.

Turkana County is currently grappling with drought and an influx of refugees from South Sudan. The targeted counties have also had to contend with severe flooding, landslides and recurrent inter-communal conflicts.

About 30 per cent of people in the region are dependent on food aid in the course of a normal year, and conflict and sudden changes in the environment can have an immediate and devastating effect on their lives and livelihoods.

This project will contribute towards building the resilience of vulnerable mobile communities through improved human security. This will be achieved by addressing the communities’ shelter needs and improving small-scale infrastructure, such as livestock markets and water treatment systems, to support their livelihood activities.

Speaking at the launch, Ambassador Terada underscored the need to improve the livelihoods of women and youth in the region.

“Kenya’s Government is tackling inequality and poverty through (its) Kenya Vision 2030, (a development blueprint). This project will support that effort by improving the resilience of pastoralists affected by natural disasters and conflicts, and providing emergency aid to improve human security. It will offer practical, appropriate and affordable help, but will also give local communities the knowledge that they need to improve their lives themselves,” he said.

The project will also emphasize the importance of peace and livelihood creation opportunities with the aim to reduce resource-based conflict. There will also be a focus on the special needs of women and young people.

Japan has funded IOM projects to enhance peace-building and livelihood opportunities for migrants and host communities affected by natural and man-made disasters in Kenya since 2009.
MORE than 200 young people and high-level experts gathered at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi for a Youth dialogue forum in commemoration of Africa Environment Day (AED) and Wangari Maathai Day on 3 March.

The AED, established by the African Union in 2002 to accelerate action on the pressing environmental challenges facing the continent, is observed in conjunction with Wangari Maathai Day decided by African Heads of State in 2012 to celebrate the work and vision of Africa’s most prominent grassroots environmental champion, first female Nobel laureate, and fervent defender of biodiversity, the late Prof Wangari Maathai.

The AED was celebrated focusing on “Combating Desertification in Africa: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Food Security”, while Wangari Maathai Day’s specific theme in Kenya, “Youth-Healing the Earth: Education, Environment, Empowerment”, captured the vision of the late Professor of preserving the environment for today and generations unborn, emphasizing the important role of community empowerment, environmental education at all levels and training towards sustainable development in Kenya and Africa.

Activities organized by the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in collaboration with the Wangari Maathai Institute of Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), and UNEP’s Environmental Education and Training Unit, and Tunza youth programmes to mark the Day included tree planting, exhibitions and a landmark youth dialogue forum attended by UNEP’s Executive Director, Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Environment and other high profile guests.

UNEP’s Executive Director, Achim Steiner reiterated the need to adopt environmentally sound practices and curb the illegal trade of wildlife products. He said that Professor Maathai showed the kind of visionary leadership that is required to win this crucial race and expressed his hope that other leaders would be inspired to pick up the baton and ensure that Africa’s rich natural resources can be conserved, and thus serve as the foundation for a sustainable future and food security for all.

Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water & Natural Resources, Prof. Judy Wakhungu pledged the Government’s support towards environmental conservation for a sustainable future. Wanjira Maathai, Chair (GBM) and Director of Programmes (WMI) emphasized the need to understand what is happening in the world through research and outreach in a bid to secure a healthy environment.
UN Volunteers support Youth Encounter on Sustainability Kenya 2014

The Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) programme is a 15-18 day intensive learning initiative exploring environmental, economic, social, and technological complexities. The scientific state-of-the-art programme provides a deeper understanding of multidisciplinary and transcultural perspectives in addressing these challenges, combined with active entrepreneur knowledge.

This year, the YES Kenya 2014 Programme was held in Naivasha at Elsamere Conservation Centre, from 28 January to 14 February. Guest lecturers and faculty members included Prof. Ludwig Ellenberg (Humboldt University, Berlin); Dr. Stefan Gara (ETA Environmental Consulting); Luke Metelerkamp (Sustainability Institute); Dr. Alex Awiti (Aga Khan University, Kenya); Dr. George Ogendi (Egerton University, Kenya); Halima Muringa (World Bank Group) and CJ Jones (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) among others.

The YES Kenya 2014 participants gained enormous knowledge and training through informed guidance and interactions on various global environmental and sustainable development challenges. These included sustainable social systems; practical sustainable energy solutions and smart cities; environmental education for change; social accountability; eco-social resilience; clean development mechanisms; water and sanitation; food and nutrition; organic farming; and human rights.

Brian Waswala, a UNV UNEP Environmental Education and Training Specialist enlightened his peers on UNEP’s role in promoting environmental education and training. He also talked about volunteerism and development, as well as UNVs activism in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Sharing his experience as a UNV, Brian said “my volunteer experience has been so exciting. Working with fellow UN volunteers local and international-UN staff and the academia has changed my approach towards personal and community development. I have added value to my life by seeing the impact of my work on communities.”

The seasonal trainings are organized by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich), my climate and UNEP. For more information please visit: http://www.myclimate.org/yes.

FAO’s successful digital pen innovation now monitors livestock movement

In collaboration with the State Department of Livestock, FAO has now introduced a Livestock Movement Module to the Digital Pen Technology currently in use that will radically reduce farmers’ market transaction costs for livestock movement.

The digital pen is a modern technology that can report on disease outbreaks within seconds as opposed to the traditional paper-based data collection that is prone to errors and may take several weeks before the alarm is raised. The technology which comprises of a digital pen and paper, and an internet enabled phone, helps reduce the response time and contain the outbreaks in time.

The newest innovation in this technology is the Livestock Movement Module that relies on point surveillance data captured by extension staff. Using this module, the authorizing veterinary officer is able to trace the livestock movement route using a digital pen.
If during the tracing the pen detects a notifiable disease that can impede movement, the system raises an alarm and the request for livestock movement is rejected. If no disease is detected, permission for the movement is granted immediately through the system.

The digital pen was initially piloted by FAO in 29 districts of Kenya over four years ago. The pilot districts in the North Eastern region were selected because their main source of livelihoods and economy revolved around livestock. The successful pilot saw the Government upscale the use of the technology to now cover more districts in the country with plans in high gear for countrywide coverage.

Trials for this new Livestock Movement Module by FAO and the Directorate of Veterinary Services are set to commence in May 2014, with an actual roll out in July 2014. A team from the Government and FAO was recently trained on the innovation in Durban, South Africa.

A digital pen in use- this technology comprises of a digital pen and docking station, digital paper and an internet enabled phone to transmit disease information from the field in seconds. © FAO, 2014

Visitors’ Service, Nairobi launches a new look

“THE long-awaited day is finally here!” exclaimed Marian Aggrey’s, Chief of the Visitors’ Service. Excited she was and for a valid reason. In a couple of minutes, the Visitors’ Service would for the first time, launch new uniforms for its tour guides. It was also the day that the Service would officially be introduced to the public after the establishment of the office in January 2012.

The Launch coincided with the visit of Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, the UN Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Communications and Public Information. Together with Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the UN Office at Nairobi (UNON), they officially presented the Visitors’ Service and its new ultra-modern uniforms to the public.

It was a warm sunny day with visitors trickling in to be part of UNIC Nairobi’s “New Look Launch.” Kenya’s popular four-member Afro Pop Band -Sauti Sol- was present to entertain visitors. The talented Slum drummers, adorned in full African regalia were also present with their drums to provide a spectacular performance to the audience. Also in attendance were staff members, the current Miss Kenya Wangui Gitonga, Kenyan artist Rabbit and fans of the Visitors’ Service.

After welcoming the invited guests, UNIC-Nairobi Director Nasser Ega-Musa invited UNON Director-General and USG Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal to make a few remarks. A high-spirited Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal acknowledged the fact that the UN Member States saw a need to establish a Visitors’ Service at UNON as it demonstrates an ongoing commitment to keeping UN Headquarters complexes
open to the peoples of the world and to have them informed on the work of the Organization.

“What a better way to celebrate two years of having a Visitors’ Service in Nairobi than to have the guides, who, after all are ‘our ambassadors’ to the public,” introduce the new outfits,” he concluded.

Ms. Zewde applauded the Visitors’ Service for working hard to give more visibility to the UN Office at Nairobi and the Organization as a whole.

“It is my hope that this launch will attract more visitors to this complex, increase the public understanding of the UN’s work and create more social ambassadors for the Organization,” she said.

Immediately after, the UNIC Nairobi Director ushered in the tour guides to show off their beautiful dresses. The ladies did a synchronized ‘cat walk’ on the red carpet as Slum Drummers provided the music. The crowd cheered and clapped while taking pictures. It was evident that they had fallen in love with the new unique uniforms. A dedicated online photo album was created where photos of the event can be found at: http://visitors.unon.org/?q=galleries/16

The uniforms, designed by Kenyan Fashion House Kiko Romeo, are not only fashionable but also functional. They were designed with a business look and an African twist to enable the guides navigate the impressive vast land on their tours daily. For the mile (1.6km) long tour, “the guides need to feel very comfortable in their uniforms. They trek up and down stairs, slopes, grass and very often under the scorching African sun daily to present this beautiful complex to visitors taking a guided tour,” stated Marian Aggrey.

It is the first time an African fashion house has designed uniforms for the tour guides and the first time the guides at the Nairobi duty station would be wearing uniforms. The tour guides in Geneva, New York and Vienna duty stations currently wear uniforms designed in 2001 by the Italian fashion house Mondrian. In the past, the guides in New York have worn uniforms by internationally renowned designers including Evan Picone (1969), Christian Dior (1982), Benetton (1988) and Jones New York (1995).

The Service also extended the ‘New Look’ to its website by revamping and redesigning the architecture on its website. Visitors participating in a guided tour programme at UNON now have access to quick and easily accessible information on the UN Tour, UN agencies/organizations located in Nairobi, a database of speakers who are members of its Speakers’ Bureau and how to book a tour. The website developer Arthur Buliva, Information Systems Assistant at the UNON Information Communications Technology Service said “this website is the most aesthetically appealing website I have ever worked on in my six years’ experience as a web developer and I enjoyed working with the Visitors’ Service team on this project.”

Following UN General Assembly’s resolution A/60/248 of 23 December 2005, a Visitors’ Service was established to open-up the UN complex in Nairobi to the public through guided tours.

The UN Tour organized by the Visitors’ Service is increasing in popularity. Since its introduction, over 6,000 people have participated in it. The Visitors’ Service conducts tours on Mondays to Fridays upon request.

UNESCO holds ICT CFT Open Education Resources Courseware Development workshop in Nairobi, Kenya

UNESCO held a four-day Workshop on ICT for Teacher Training from 7 to 10 April 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. This workshop is part of UNESCO’s continued efforts of promoting application of ICTs to enhance quality of, and access to education, including stimulation of production, sharing and access to Open Educational Resources (OER).

The workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge for primary education teachers in Kenya, and included national and international OERs. This would build capacity of participants
to enable them to adapt and customise Open Education Resources and support deployment of the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers within the Kenyan context. Furthermore the workshop equipped participants with instructional design principles, including a development opportunity for an ideal structure of a blended course.

Mr. Andrew Moore, facilitator of the workshop stated that “there is need for OER ICT CFT to complement the Kenya Government’s One laptop per child project as this will enhance its integration to the country’s education programme.”


The workshop comes as a follow up to the one held on November 2013 that took stock of existing ICT teacher training initiatives in Kenya and proposed UNESCO’s project to focus on offering additional professional development opportunities to those teachers and school managers who had completed the initial ICT integration training.

This activity is within the 2012 World Congress on Open Educational Resources which released the Paris Declaration on OERs calling on Governments to openly license all educational materials produced with public funds. It is supported by a generous grant from William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (USA).

UNESCO is working with the governments of Kenya, Oman, Bahrain and Indonesia to implement dynamic and relevant policies to guide and recognize teachers and learners to find, adapt, use, develop, and share open educational resources.
UN DPI Under-Secretary-General (USG) Visit to Kenya

Visit to Ghetto Radio and meeting with its Management

1. USG live on Ghetto Radio Show 2. USG at the Ghetto Radio offices 3. USG with iHub Executive Director 4. A demo at iHub 5. USG with the Ushahidi team 6. USG in a discussion with iHub Executive Director 7. USG stressing a point 8. USG on a Fireside discussion with the techies at I-Hub 9. USG with UNIC Nairobi Director (center) and iHub Executive Director 10. USG displays a T-shirt donated by IHub techies 11. USG and his Chief of Office, Jaya Dayal together with Sheilah Birgen (center) of I-Hub M-Labs
Meeting with University students

12. USG discussing with university students
13. USG in a group photo with students
14. USG with Maqbul Mohammed of Capital FM Radio
15. Renee Ngamao of Capital FM radio with the USG
16. USG with UNON DG, UNIC Director and tour guides
17. UNON DG addressing staff and visitors
18. USG and UNON DG admiring the new uniforms
19. USG and Slum Drummers
20. Guides in their new uniform
21. USG, UNIC staff and UN interns
22. Guides model their 2nd set of uniforms
23. USG addressing staff and visitors
Interaction with:

i) Civil Society

Launch of UNDAF at State House

Visit to Standard Media Group

24. USG with some Civil Society Organizations representatives in Kenya 26. USG with the Patron of the Global Peace Foundation, Manu Chandaria

27 and 28. USG with the Creative Artists 29. USG, Executive Directors of UNEP and UN-Habitat, and UNON DG with President Uhuru Kenyatta 30. Group photo during signing of UNDAF at State House, Nairobi 31. USG meets President Uhuru Kenyatta 32. USG with Managing Director and Print Manager of the Standard Media Group 33. Group photo with USG at Standard Media Group offices 34. USG meets the Standard Media Group Departmental Heads
Every day the United Nations works to tackle global challenges and:

1. Provides food to 90 million people in 73 countries
2. Vaccinates 58 per cent of the world’s children, saving 2.5 million lives a year
3. Assists over 36 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution
4. Combats climate change; heads a campaign to end leaded fuel use in over 100 nations
5. Keeps peace with 120,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents
6. Fights poverty, helping 370 million rural poor achieve better lives in the last 30 years
7. Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
8. Mobilizes US$12.4 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies
9. Advances democracy, assisting some 30 countries a year with their elections
10. Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year

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