On 18 July 2012, as millions of people globally observed the Nelson Mandela International Day, in Kenya it was marked with an “Anti-Jigger” activity. The staff of the United Nations, the South African High Commission, the Ahadi Kenya Trust Foundation and other partners joined hands to treat jiggers-infected persons at Juja farm in Thika district.

To make the Day a success, individual UN staff members and those of the South African High Commission contributed funds to buy medication kits for the treatment of Jiggers. In addition, private sector organizations donated various items to the community. Children as young as eighteen months were among those treated. At the beginning of the treatment process, Dr. Stanley Kamau of the Ahadi Trust Foundation explained the extent to which jiggers can affect individuals by highlighting the symptoms of an infected child. Led by the South African High Commissioner to Kenya, Mr. Ndumiso Ntshinga, all guests were provided with the necessary kits for treating the jiggers-infected kids. This was an opportunity for UN staff members who participated in the exercise to contribute in improving the health of the children at Juja farm.

The UNIC Director, Mr. Nasser Ega-Musa who led the UN team noted how the activity had strengthened the partnership between the UN, civil and corporate societies. He added: “The kids whose infested feet we lovingly washed will never forget the kindness and care we brought into their obviously difficult lives”.

The UN Secretary General’s message for the Day was delivered at the function. The message encouraged everyone to take action and be part of the Mandela movement to make the world a better place. “That”, he said, “is the best way to wish Nelson Mandela a very happy 94th birthday.”

The speeches from the Government and other partners recognized Mr. Mandela’s contribution to democracy, racial justice and reconciliation in his 67 years to public service.

At the UNON complex, the Secretary General’s video message was screened throughout the day.

What’s Inside:
- Mandela Day, making the world a better place in 67 minutes
- Victims of post-election violence feeding their host community
- UNV calls for volunteerism to enhance regional integration
- A Livelihood Strategy Report on Urban Refugees launched in Nairobi by UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council
- IOM supports host communities in Northern Kenya to cope with drought
- Innovative family planning services for Kenyan youths
- ICAO participates in a transformation process of the Kenya Meteorological Department
- UN-Habitat staffer takes part in Olympic Torch relay

Upcoming Events
- 8 September : International Literacy Day
- 15 September : International Day of Democracy
- 16 September : International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 21 September : International Day of Peace
- 24 September : World Maritime Day
Victims of post-election violence feeding their host community

The post-election violence that rocked Kenya in 2007/2008 left hundreds of thousands displaced in various parts of the country. Four years later, UN Volunteer Eric Oyuyo knows just how arduous the journey to recovery has been for the many that were displaced in and outside Kisumu.

Eric serves in the lake city as the Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)’s Post Election Violence Livelihood Recovery project with the Disaster Risk Reduction unit. Over the last three years, his work has involved working with the internally displaced persons (IDPs) through Government ministries and institutions to help them recover their livelihoods and move on from the post-election violence losses.

“People think that there were no IDPs in Kisumu...there actually were very many of them, in addition to all the ones who were displaced from other towns and came back to settle here,” Eric explains as he talks about the many beneficiaries of this project.

One of the groups that Eric has supported is the GREDCO self help group, an IDP group based in Muhoroni District of Kisumu County.

The group comprises 15 members who were displaced during election violence in 2002 and 2007, mostly from the Rift Valley region, and who have integrated and settled in their community back in Muhoroni, Mutwala area.

The group involves youth, who, after the violence opted not to go back to where they used to work but rather settle back home and find alternative means to meet their livelihoods needs. Given the food need in the mainly horticultural farming area, planting kales became handy as a starting point to meet their household food requirement and earn income to meet other family needs. The initial target market was traders from the local markets in Muhoroni town.

In August 2011, the project organized for a business management skills training for IDPs in Muhoroni and members of the group were identified as part of the participants for the training. From the training which covered among other topics marketing, record keeping and resource mobilization, the group got their business skills improved which they put into practice after the training.

The group has been able to source for other markets for kales which included two secondary schools within Muhoroni town, which gave them contracts to supply the schools with vegetables. Because of the training, the group also appreciated the need to diversify their products to include watermelons and butternuts, the latest project being local poultry-keeping which they have just initiated. Currently the group has a half an acre of kales soon to be harvested, one acre of water melons, half an acre of butternuts and 27 local chickens almost starting to lay eggs.

Because of the group’s hard work and impressive progress, the project has since granted their request for and provided them with a water pump which they are using to irrigate their farms. This will enable them produce vegetables and other crops all year round hence being in business throughout the year.

The group has started a revolving fund scheme with the project through the Ministry of Trade granting them a seed capital of Ksh.60,000. Members are able to borrow from this fund up to a maximum of Ksh.10,000 and use the money strictly to finance their individual businesses. Some members have initiated their individual farms; this is the ripple effect of the group’s horticulture project.

On average the group is making a net income of Ksh.15,000 from the sale of kales and butternuts. This is expected to increase with the introduction of watermelons and poultry farming. With
the constant follow-up from the Field coordinator and other partners in the project the group is set to be the food basket of Mutwala village in Muhoroni District of Kisumu County. For Eric, this one group is a prime example of the reason why his volunteering matters!

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**UNV calls for volunteerism to enhance regional integration**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme has called for the scaling up of volunteer effort to support regional integration in East Africa. Speaking at the Africa Conference on Volunteer Action for Peace and Development held at the UN offices in Nairobi (UNON), UNV Senior Manager for East Africa, Tapiwa Kamuruko pointed out that volunteerism could contribute greatly to enhancing regional exchanges and meeting common development challenges.

Mr. Kamuruko observed that the unemployed youth in the region should be encouraged to take up voluntary service and supported in exchange programmes to ensure they are gainfully engaged and are exposed to relevant skills and culture.

Speaking at the opening of the same event, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative Aeneas Chuma pointed out that the UN system, led by UNV, has continued to support volunteerism and called for stakeholders to continue doing so. He also noted the UN Country Team’s continued support to the process of developing a national volunteer policy for Kenya through the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Development.

The conference, held from 2 to 4 July, placed emphasis on the role of youth voluntary service and regional volunteer exchange programmes in fostering regional integration and community-centred sustainable development in East Africa and Africa in general.

It brought together about 400 young people from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi as well as Nigeria, Korea, Canada and others. It also included several volunteer involving organizations, both local and international as well as senior representatives from the private sector and Government.

Over the two days, UNV encouraged discussion around the outcomes of International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10), the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/67 of 2011 and the call from the UN Secretary-General to establish a Global Youth Volunteering modality. The conference ended with a resolution for the establishment of an East Africa Peace & Service Corps that will be a platform for galvanizing youth volunteer action in the region. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, Rt. Hon Raila Odinga, launched the East Africa Peace Service Corps Action Plan at the Conference.

The Chairperson of the Conference was the East African Business Council Chairman, Dr. Manu Chandaria. Also in attendance were UNON Director-General Sahle Work-Zewde, UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos, the Minister of Education, Hon. Mutula Kilonzo, and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the East African Community, Mr. David Nalo.

Sponsors of the conference included the Government, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations.

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*UNV’s Senior Portfolio Manager for East Africa Tapiwa Kamuruko (left) presents a copy of the State of the World’s Volunteering Report to Kenya’s Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, EGH, MP, during the Africa Conference on Volunteer Action for Peace and Development © UNV, 2012*
A Livelihood Strategy Report on Urban Refugees launched in Nairobi by UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council

A report on Urban Livelihood for refugees living in urban areas was launched in Nairobi on July 31 by UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The colorful event took place at the French Cultural Center in the middle of Nairobi city and was attended by over 120 participants who included urban refugees, donors, Government officials, UNHCR partners and members of the press.

The launch came three months after UNHCR and partners had agreed in a workshop to chat a four year livelihood strategic framework for urban refugees and asylum seekers. The strategic framework will address four essential pillars which include Safety nets and consumption support, Access to training and employment, and Advocacy and Enterprise development.

Speaking during the event, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Country Director Mr. David Kan’gethe said the launch was a culmination of a survey which was administered by both DRC and UNHCR in Kayole, Eastleigh and Kitengela estates in Nairobi. He also said that the launch of the report is the first step towards promoting refugee self reliance as envisaged in the four year strategic framework.

While supporting these sentiments, UNHCR’s Assistant Representative in charge of protection issues Jacqueline Parlevliet agreed that the report will go a long way to synergize partner’s efforts in livelihood interventions.

The Government’s Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) through its Commissioner Katelo Badu promised to ensure all urban refugees are provided with identity cards with ease since the document is necessary in uplifting refugees’ social economic lives.

Three urban refugees representatives from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia did not hide their excitement during the launch. They all narrated their mixed fortunes but expressed optimism with the report’s recommendations. They also urged the Government and humanitarian agencies present particularly UNHCR, to sustain efforts in improving refugees’ livelihoods.

IOM supports host communities in Northern Kenya to cope with drought

IOM has completed a-five-day training for 180 pastoralists from six locations in Dadaab district in northern Kenya on how to protect their livestock and improve their livelihoods during periods of drought.

The training involved animal husbandry and feeding during the dry season, pasture re-seeding during the wet season, and de-stocking during drought alarm and emergency stages. Pastoralists who attended the course are expected to pass on their knowledge to others.

Raising cattle is the main occupation of the people of northern and northeastern Kenya who are hosting thousands of Somalis fleeing drought and war in Somalia. The area is home to some of the world’s largest refugee camps housing some 453,000 Somalis.

During the dry season, thousands of
livestock perish every year due to lack of pasture and the spread of animal diseases, and Dadaab pastoralists are currently on alert following a short wet season in April and May 2012.

Pastoralist communities are particularly affected by drought as they face the imminent threat of losing their livelihoods as their weakened herds struggle to survive disease, hunger and thirst in an increasingly desperate search for pasture and water.

The influx of the Somalis has exacerbated the difficult livelihood conditions and often spikes tensions between the refugees and host communities over sharing scarce resources. Helping to improve the adaptability of livestock to drought is designed to reduce livelihood hardships for the hosting community and foster better communal relations.

IOM is also carrying out a five-day livestock vaccination of 15,587 animals belonging to Dadaab refugees and the host community to help boost their resilience to drought conditions. The animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, camels and donkeys are being de-wormed and are also receiving treatment against various parasites common in the area and pneumonia.

IOM organized the training, which is funded by Japan, following a request from the Kenya Ministry of Livestock and Development.

In 2011 IOM spent US$ 400,000 provided by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide livelihood assistance and training to some 40,000 vulnerable pastoralists in the region, 60% of them women. The funds were used in a six-month emergency programme that involved re-stocking households with camels, which are more resistant to drought and disease, as well as providing training in various agricultural activities.

IOM has provided training for 180 pastoralists from six locations in Dadaab District to improve their livelihoods during periods of drought © IOM, 2012

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Innovative family planning services for Kenyan youths

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Kenya has launched a Family Planning programme focusing on youth within the Muslim communities in Malindi District along the coastal strip of Kenya. The project will use innovative approaches to demystify myths and misconception around family planning and Islam.

The programme aims at enhancing the delivery of quality Adolescence Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) information and services; increasing commitment by political, religious and community leaders to ASRH and demand and utilization of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services by young people.

The project is being implemented by UNFPA and the Kenya Government through the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, with support from the Packard Foundation.

The innovative programme was launched on World Population Day on 11 July 2012 in a ceremony attended by UNFPA staff, Government officials, community leaders and NGOs. The project, Catalyzing Action in Kenya: Working with Muslim faith leaders for Family Planning, seeks to increase uptake of family planning within the community.

The launch which coincided with the World Population Day celebrations, included outreach services for three days to increase the uptake of reproductive health services. The event was attended by Dr. Alexander Ilyin, the UNFPA Deputy Representative and Dr. Anisa Omar, the Provincial Director in the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation. UNFPA Technical personnel present included Dr. Geoffrey Okumu, Batula Abdi and Kjetil Bordvik. The event held at the Malindi Stadium was presided over by the Malindi District Commissioner. Public mobilization events included a procession and a caravan show organized by Radio Kaya, a local radio station.

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The project will provide a platform for Muslim scholars to discuss and develop standard family planning messages within the context of Islam. The programme comes in handy in the backdrop of huge gaps in the unmet need for family planning. Kenya has a maternal mortality rate of 488 per 100,000 live births. The unmet need for family planning is 24 per cent. The Coast province has a Contraceptive Prevalence Rate of 30 per cent against the national one of 46 per cent. Coast province therefore has a high unmet need for family planning.

Through the programme, UNFPA seeks to show that even in the most difficult environments family planning outputs can be improved through research-informed and context-specific planned activities.

At the heart of this programme is the commitment to furthering research and the constant production of strategic information. Insight will be gained into the social and cultural barriers for accessing family planning among young women in Muslim communities. Faith leaders within these communities will be engaged on a number of levels and will contribute to the active interpretation and teaching of Islamic texts in support of family planning.

ICAO participates in a transformation process of the Kenya Meteorological Department

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), as a major stakeholder of the National Meteorological Service of Kenya, participated in a workshop organized by the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) to chart the way forward for its transformation into an autonomous agency. The workshop was held on 20 July 2012 in Nairobi.

As an autonomous entity, the KMD would be enabled to provide services in a more flexible, affordable and cost effective way, to meet the ever changing user needs and technological advancements.

Such transformation requires wide consultation and involvement of stakeholders especially in the initial stages. One important step in the process is holding of a stakeholders’ workshop to discuss the effects of transformation of KMD into an agency, the role of the proposed agency in the socio-economic development and also how best to reap maximum benefits from the agency.

Participation of ICAO at this important meeting could not be underscored because a vital activity following delinking of KMD from the mainstream civil service, will be the establishment of a cost recovery mechanism for aeronautical meteorological services. These services, being part of air navigation services, will be expected to comply with ICAO global charging policy. Similarly, regional agreements relating to cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological services to which Kenya is a signatory, will also need to be adopted. Workshop participants were
Earlier in July, UN-Habitat staff member Julius Mwelu became part of history when he participated in the Olympic Torch Relay in Norwich City, United Kingdom.

“This is a dream come true for me because participating in the Olympics is almost every human being’s dream. I am glad that in a way I took part in this historic event by carrying the Olympic Torch,” a beaming Julius said after the race.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) invited UN-Habitat to take part in the Olympic Torch Relay for the London Olympic Games 2012. UN-Habitat Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos, selected Julius, the UN-Habitat official photographer, as the agency’s representative for his personal achievement from being a Mathare slum dweller to becoming a recognized professional with an international docket.

Julius is an example of United Nations values at the Olympic Games. A visibly elated Julius said that his participation in the relay was in line with the new

made aware of these issues and KMD agreed to consider and include them in their policy paper.

ICAO, in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization, has developed several guidance materials on cost recovery of aeronautical meteorological services which the new entity can benefit from. A number of workshops and seminars have also been conducted on cost recovery in the region through ICAO’s initiative.

The meeting was assured that ICAO is willing to provide further guidance when required, in relation to cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological services.
UN-Habitat campaign, ‘I am a City Changer’, an initiative that seeks to encourage all urban dwellers to take proactive action to improve the living conditions in their cities.

By the time the games kicked off, some 8,000 Torchbearers carried the Flame through more than 1,000 cities, towns and villages in the United Kingdom over a period of 70 days. Each one of them had a personal history to share with the other people who were watching.

Julius Mwelu is a photographer from the slums of Nairobi. All the awards that Julius has won, such as the Magnum Foundation grant, have been a great support to his torchbearer application. Julius says: “I started taking photos when I was just 12 years old but my first attempts were not very good because I had missed people’s hands and sometimes their heads! But no pain no gain, and after two or three months I became a better photographer, under the Shootback project [a project that trained teenagers from Mathare to use a point-and-shoot camera to capture their everyday lives]. A selection of photos from this project was made into a self-titled book which was a success and encouraged me to work harder.

“Later, with the help of Jasper Groen (a photographer from Holland) I managed to hold a solo photo exhibition in Holland and even published a book with my own photos called “Julius” all about life in the slum. In my normal routine of photography, I would meet with enthusiastic kids in the community, who would ask me how the camera works and how the photos come out. That’s how I came up with the idea for the Mwelu Foundation through which I help youth living in slums to express their lives through photography and video.”

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This Newsletter is compiled by the UN Communications Group in Kenya (UNCG) and edited by the United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi.
For more information contact: UNCG Chair, P. O. Box 67578-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 020-76221102, E-mail: nairobi.unic@unon.org