



## Mombasa retreat heralds New Year of collective work for UNCT

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Kenya ushered in the New Year with a list of resolutions at its 2011 Annual Retreat held in Mombasa.

Building on what has been achieved as a collective in 2010, the UNCT set out to agree on priorities and plan strategically for 2011 and beyond,



Participants of the 2011 UNCT Retreat in Mombasa  
( Credit: UNRCO/Jan-Patrick Schnell )

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with a deeper level of stakeholder engagement.

Heads of UN Agencies and selected partners from Government and the development community reviewed and validated the major national development challenges, the comparative advantages of the UN system, and identified key priorities for UN interventions.

Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, reminded participants that this was the "first UNCT Retreat after an eventful 2010 that saw the passing and promulgation of a new, rights-based Constitution, which will greatly affect and influence the development agenda

of the United Nations in Kenya."

The organizing theme "Umoja – Delivering as One" was selected bearing in mind the milestone UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Review of 2010 and the Capacity Assessment for *Delivering as One*. It served as an inspiration for the team to face challenges as One from a position of shared and agreed leadership.

The Retreat was structured in nine sessions, spread out over two days from 20 to 21 January 2011. A total of about 50 participants attended the event.

## International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust observed at a girls' high school in Nairobi



*Part of the audience at the Commemoration in Honour of the Victims of the Holocaust at State House Girls High School  
(Credit: UNEP/Josphat Kariuki)*

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nairobi, in collaboration with the Embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel, observed the fifth International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust at the State House Girls High School in Nairobi on 27 January 2011, under the theme “*Women and the Holocaust: Courage and Compassion*”.

The solemn function was attended by about eight hundred guests including members of the diplomatic corps and students from State House Girls High School, among others

The main ceremony was kicked off by a song from the students which

complemented the theme of the Day, highlighting some of the attributes of women and girls, such as perseverance and dedication which help them get through very difficult situations.

In their speeches, the Ambassadors of the embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany and Israel shared their first hand knowledge about the holocaust, underlining the need to learn from the lessons of the atrocities committed during that time..

Educating young people to better understand the evils of the holocaust, particularly towards women and girls, would contribute to the prevention of future holocausts, guests were reminded.

The main message from all the speakers was that history should never be forgotten since it helped to shape the future, thus testimonies from the survivors should remind everyone of their role to embrace diversity in order to uphold human dignity.

In his message, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon noted how, despite appalling acts of discrimination, deprivation and cruelty, women, during the holocaust consistently found ways to fight back against their persecutors.

All the six guest speakers at the ceremony each lit a candle in remembrance of the six million victims of the holocaust. This was followed by an observance of a minute of silence to honour the victims.

The girls concluded the ceremony with a song calling on everyone to become instruments of love in order for peace to prevail in the world.

Prior to the main ceremony, students were taken through a one hour presentation on the history of the holocaust by the Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of Israel. In addition, an exhibition on the holocaust was mounted at UNON for one week.

State House Girls High school was selected to launch a new study guide and DVD with survivors’ testimonies, which was screened after the closure of the official ceremony. The DVD assisted the students to understand further the ways in which the holocaust affected women. The study guide will be taken to other schools throughout the year.

## UNICEF supports roll-out of a Child-Friendly School concept

The Ministry of Education on 25 January 2011, launched the manual on implementation of the Child-Friendly School concept in Kenya, laying the foundation for key improvements in the quality of teaching and learning.

The manual, which was developed by education experts with the support of UNICEF, will guide teachers in implementing the Child-Friendly School concept. The Kenyan manual is an adaptation of the global version.

The launch was presided over by Kenya's Minister of Education, Prof. Sam Ongeri, and attended by UNICEF Kenya Representative Olivia Yambi. Children from two primary schools in Nairobi where the Child-Friendly School concept has been piloted participated in the launch. The children were full of praise for the concept: "A child-friendly school is what makes education cool ... for the school is never the same," the children from Ayany Primary School recited in a poem.

Others present at the launch were Prof. James Ole Kiyapi, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Mr. Joseph Karuga, the Chairman of the Kenya Primary School Headteachers Association. Teachers and education officers representing all counties also attended the launch.

Under the Child-Friendly School framework, schools must not only help children to realize their right to a basic education of good quality, but are also expected to help them learn what they need to face the challenges of the new century; enhance their health and well-being; guarantee them safe and protective spaces for learning free from violence and abuse; raise teacher morale and motivation; and mobilize community support for



*UNICEF Kenya Representative Olivia Yambi, Education Minister, Prof. Sam Ongeri and Permanent Secretary, Prof. James Ole Kiyapi, are joined by Njomo Wainaina and Frida Njagi of Nairobi Primary School to launch the Child-Friendly School manual for Kenya.*  
(Credit : UNICEF )

education.

A child-friendly school assures every child an environment that is physically safe, emotionally secure and psychologically enabling. It aims to develop a learning environment in which children are motivated and able to learn. Staff members care about the children and attend to their health and safety needs.

The Minister called on communities to support schools in providing a wholesome education for children. "We must address all facets of a child's life. We must take care of psycho-motor development, physical development, the environment and the socialization of the child," he explained.

He said primary school enrolment had increased from 5.9 million children in 2003, when free primary education was introduced, to 8.6

million this year. Transition to secondary school has also increased from 43 per cent to 72.5 per cent.

The UNICEF Representative said that by embracing the Child-Friendly School concept, schools would be managed in a way that ensured a child's holistic development. It would also address the questions of equity, access and quality of education.

"The Child-Friendly School concept is aimed at reducing inequities in education. It defines the role of the school to seek out all children and diversify teaching processes in a way that allows children, irrespective of their background, to learn at their full potential," she elaborated.

With the launch of the manual, the concept, which has been piloted in some schools in Nairobi, Coast and North Eastern provinces, will now be rolled-out countrywide.

## Adequate, motivated and well-trained teachers, a guarantee to effective learning



*Hon. Prof. Sam Onger, Minister of Education, during the opening ceremony of International Conference on Teachers for EFA in Africa  
( Credit: UNESCO )*

The International Task Force on Teachers for Education For All (EFA), whose secretariat is based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in conjunction with the Government of Kenya, hosted an International Conference on Teachers for EFA in Africa, in Nairobi from 19 to 20 January 2011.

The conference, whose theme was *Collaborative Action to Address the Teacher Gap*, aimed at providing a multi-stakeholder platform composed of national representatives, teachers, international organizations' representatives and experts, to discuss

the gaps relating to teacher provision to be able to reach the EFA goals.

In his remarks during the opening ceremony, Hon. Prof. Sam Onger, the Minister of Education said the inadequate supply of teachers was impeding on the achievement of EFA goals. "Teachers are the single most important education resource in any country. Each country must strive towards ensuring that there are adequate, well motivated and trained teachers as a guarantee for effective learning," said the Minister.

Mrs. Alice Lamptey, a representative from the African Union Commission

reiterated: "you cannot have effective education systems without professional teachers".

To reverse the situation, stakeholders must address policy, capacity and financing gaps affecting the provision of teachers. According to the 2010 Global Monitoring Report on EFA, 10.3 million more teachers would be needed worldwide to achieve the goal of Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2015. Globally, out of the 99 countries that do not have enough teachers, 35 are in Africa, and of the 29 experiencing severe shortage of teachers, 20 are African nations. Sub-Saharan Africa will thus have to recruit another 2.5 million teachers, including 1.3 million to replace those who exit through retirements and other causes, in order to be on track to achieving UPE by 2015.

The International Task Force on Teachers for EFA was launched in December 2008 as a voluntary global alliance of EFA partners combining efforts to address the shortage of teachers through coordinating efforts, monitoring global progress and reporting to the High-Level Group on EFA.

"The initiative is significant to UNESCO due to the importance of teachers in the education programme," said Mr. David Atchoarena, Director of the UNESCO Division of Planning and Development of Education Systems.

## Children of Taveta speak out, thanks to a UNDP project

At Madarasani Primary School in Taveta District, bordering Tanzania, pupils

can now report child-abuse and neglect without fear.

The Taveta Human Rights

Network (THR) has installed an 'information box' at the school which acts as a discrete and

effective tool in reporting human rights violations. The local human rights workers regularly check the boxes installed at six schools in the district and handle any reported cases of abuse accordingly.

THR is one of the 27 Human Rights Networks (HURINETS) supported by the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) under UNDP's Access to Rights programme.

KHRC and the HURINETS have noted that child protection measures in Kenya are currently not implemented effectively and fully. Compliance with such legislation would increase if the magnitude of the problem and better knowledge about the factors that put children at risk were available.

In light of this need, through the Access to Rights initiative, KHRC is engaging community stakeholders, especially agencies charged with protection, in highlighting the issues and thereby promoting adherence to protection policies. In addition, affected children are also involved in the process.

"Kenyan children, child activists and human rights organisations are pinning their hopes on the implementation of the Children's Act to improve the lot of the nation's youth," remarked Andrew Odete, a KHRC Programme Officer and Advocate working on the project.



*A Madarasani pupil uses the human rights information box  
(Credit: UNDP)*

In Kenya, the physical and sexual abuse of children, including commercial sexual exploitation is alarming. The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) sponsored the Access to Rights programme, and through KHRC, has assisted in the establishment of a gender violence rehabilitation centre at the Taveta District Hospital. Being

the only clinic of its kind in the entire district, the centre has been vital in the treatment of physically and sexually abused children and women in the area.

KHRC is one of the six organizations collaborating with UNDP and SIDA in achieving the goals of the Access to Rights project.

## UN holds training sessions for Internally Displaced Persons Protection Working Group

UNHCR, in conjunction with UNICEF, UNFPA and Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC) hosted an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Protection Working Group (PWG) workshop in Nakuru in January 2011.

In attendance were top Government officials mainly from the provincial administration, NGOs working with IDPs, and IDP representatives. The main objectives of the workshop were to provide training on basic international standards related to

protection and assistance of IDPs, and to create a forum for discussions on how best IDPs can be assisted in the South Rift region.

The workshop was officially opened by the Regional Commissioner in the Ministry of State for Provincial



*Participants of the Protection Working Group during the Nakuru workshop  
(Credit: UNHCR/Emmanuel Nyabera )*

Administration and Internal Security, Mr. Amos Gathecha. During his address, Mr. Gathecha applauded members of the PWG for the role they have played to alleviate the problem of displacement in Kenya and especially in the Rift Valley Province.

“I sincerely appreciate the support that you have continued to give us to help these desperate people. I am sure they all join me in thanking you,” he stressed.

UNHCR Protection Officer, Ms. Sarah Khan, observed that in Kenya, the issue of durable solutions continued to be a key concern due to the fact that a considerable number

of displaced persons were yet to be fully integrated and settled elsewhere or returned to their places of origin and enabled to resume their lives in dignity and safety.

“The aim of any response to IDPs is to seek a resolution for their situation of displacement. Nobody likes to be rootless and without a future for themselves and their family”, said Ms. Khan.

UNHCR’s involvement in the IDPs programme in Kenya is traced back to 2008 during the post election violence. The agency was appointed the cluster leader in Protection, Camp Coordination and Management, and

Emergency Shelter.

Ms. Stephanie Shanler of UNICEF explained the effects of displacement on children, families and their communities. She also underlined protection risks faced by vulnerable groups of children such as those in child-headed households, survivors of sexual violence and children out of school.

Ms Matilda Musumba of UNFPA pointed out that Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) response should incorporate the health concerns; psychosocial needs; legal redress against the perpetrator; safety and security needs of the survivor. She noted four guiding principles to be adhered to, namely safety, confidentiality, respect and non-discrimination by humanitarian actors involved in SGBV prevention and response, in order to safeguard the welfare of survivors

KNHRC reported that the national PWG, in collaboration with the Ministries of State for Special Programmes, and Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, had finalized an IDP draft policy for presentation to the Cabinet.

One of the IDP representatives Mr. Michael Maina expressed his desire to get a permanent home: “We have stayed in the wilderness for too long and I hope we will be resettled soon”.

A similar workshop was held in Eldoret at the end of January 2011.

## UNEP’s role in reducing pollution to produce energy

A year on since the creation of the Nyongara Biogas Plant, numerous positive effects have been derived from it. The plant, which has turned out to be a blueprint for Africa has attracted the attention of several representatives from different UN agencies who have paid

a visit. On 20 January 2011, UNIDO Director General, Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella and UNEP’s Regional Director for Africa, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye visited the plant.

Ordinarily, as one approaches the Dagoretti abattoirs, a heavy stench of decomposing offal, mixed with

a pungent smell of methane gas generated from animal waste, fills the air, a couple of miles from the site. New technology is available to deal with this characteristic smell and harness the gas generated to supplement energy needs of the abattoirs’ operations.

Slaughter houses normally generate waste which, when disposed without processing, decomposes and pollutes the environment. Waste from a slaughterhouse includes paunch, blood, hair, bones, hooves and horns and if it finds its way into the water-ways, produces a foul smell and generates methane among other harmful gases. The Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) load in such water systems eliminates the natural biodiversity as well.

Nyongara slaughterhouse in Dagoretti is one of such major operations in the area, and it supplies meat to wide parts of Nairobi and its environs. Management of slaughterhouse waste has been a major challenge for operators, and the slaughterhouses have been the main source of pollution into the Nairobi River. But, thanks to the technology from the Rottaler Modell Biogas plant, there is now a solution.

The introduction of the Rottaler Modell Biogas plant technology from Germany, through a partnership between UNIDO, UNEP, and Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI), has opened up the possibility of turning a waste disposal problem into a useful energy resource. At Nyongara, animal waste is converted into methane instead of being discharged into the river systems. Along with the newly installed boiler and solar collectors (which help maintain temperatures at a constant 37° C), sufficient biogas is generated to power a “gen-set” for electricity for the slaughterhouse operations including its cold storage facilities.

In his remarks during the visit, UNIDO Director General Mr.



*UNIDO Director General, Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella (speaking) flanked by UNEP Regional Director for Africa, Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye (right), German engineer and entrepreneur, Mr. Walter Danner and Mr. Joseph Kang'ari Mugo, owner of the Nyongara Slaughterhouse. ( Credit: UNEP )*

Yumkella noted that the project would be used to solve immediate problems such as addressing the need for energy to produce power that can be utilized by women in local households. Presently, gas produced runs a “gen-set” that provides lighting, powers pumps and motors for the operations of the slaughterhouse. In future, when other slaughterhouses adopt the technology and the gas is produced in mass, the community could package it into cylinders for domestic use.

UNEP Regional Director for Africa Mr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, reiterated how the project was important for both Kenya and Africa and that it was a blueprint to be replicated all over the continent. He made reference to the Green Economy Initiative launched in 2008

saying that the project would greatly benefit the initiative. UNEP has developed a working definition of a green economy as “one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities”.

Mr. Goumandakoye believed that the successful implementation of the project would greatly benefit the families in Dagoretti and the entire continent, in general.

For more information on the directors’ visit go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNObctKK0H4>

## “Mwanga Bora”, a sustainable development project for all – Kenya’s initiative



*Evans and some of the recipients of “Mwanga Bora”  
(Credit: UNHABITAT)*

**E**vans Wadongo, a young wonder lad and CNN 2010 hero, is the inventor of “Mwanga Bora- good light”, a solar powered lantern that provides clean renewable energy light. He is also the founder of ‘Use Solar- Save Lives ‘ project of Sustainable Development for All (SDFA) –Kenya.

Evans has managed to assemble

and distribute over 14,000 lamps to different rural households in Kenya. With the help of his fellow staff members and volunteers, he fundraises for the cost of production from interested people and organizations. A small percentage of the lamps are given to the youthful volunteers to help them earn a living.

One of the areas that Evans has managed to reach is in Samburu district, Kirisia division, a village called Maralal where he identified and managed to distribute one hundred lanterns. In this village there was a need of the pastoral communities to access clean light to improve their children’s education by enabling them to study at night. The communities have also managed to save some money initially spent on kerosene and have set up economic ventures such as bee keeping, Furthermore, the pastoralists’ health has improved because they no longer inhale smoke which was emitted from kerosene lamps initially used.

In his project under the UN-HABITAT Urban Youth Fund, Evans has identified poor communities through the national poverty index and with the help of women and youth groups. He has provided them with the solar lanterns and education on how to use and maintain the lanterns. From his humble background where he was forced to study using the small naked flamed kerosene fueled lamps, which in turn had a negative impact on his eye sight, Evans was inspired to invent the solar-powered lantern.

## UNON hosts the 17th annual session of the Middle School Model UN

**T**he Middle School Model United Nations (MSMUN) held its 17th annual session between 19 and 21 January 2011 at the UN Complex in Nairobi. The conference brought together over 800 delegates from 34 schools from Kenya and different countries in Africa.

The conference was officially opened by Ambassador George Kayonga, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to UNEP and UN-HABITAT, who spoke to the delegates about his life and his rise from being a refugee in Uganda to becoming a diplomat for his country. Ambassador Kayonga spoke of the great emphasis the

United Nations is putting on youth development and how Model United Nations conferences provided a “critical connect” between the UN and young people.

During the three days, delegates lobbied and debated resolutions in four committees, namely: Human Rights, Ecology and Environment,

Health and Technology, and the Security Council. Also throughout the conference, the press corps, made up entirely of students, covered the days' events and reported them in the "Daily Informer", the MUN's news publication.

At the closing ceremony the students watched a video of a young girl, Severen Suzuki, giving her speech at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (Earth Summit 1992). In the video, Severen spoke of the great challenges facing the world and what little was being done to change this. She encouraged youth to be active in highlighting these problems and being a part of the solution. Her speech stirred the world in 1992 and it in turn inspired the delegates during this conference.

Shiro Wachira, a 15 year old MSMUN Executive Committee member gave the closing address to the delegates. In her message she noted that idealism was the hallmark of youth and that it was not foolish, rather everyone should hold on to it and use it to make a difference in the world.

She spoke of what, aside from everything else, she would wish for



*The High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda addressing MSMUN delegates at UNON (Credit :UNEP/Josphat Kariuki )*

on her birthday. She would wish that everyone had food and a place to live. She said she now realized that her birthday wish probably would not change the world, but believed that if one helped even a single person, by giving food or clothing, this will have changed that person's life. Thus contributing to a better world for all.

The Middle School Model United Nations came to a close on a high

note with the press corps screening a retrospective video of delegates caught in action through the course of the week. Later that evening, delegates attended a closing dance.

Among all the Model UNs held in Kenya, the MSMUN is represented by the youngest delegates, aged between 11 and 14 years.

