



OCHA seeks US \$764 million for humanitarian needs in 2012 and beyond for Kenya

The 2012+ Kenya Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (EHRP) appeal was launched in Nairobi on 15 December 2011 seeking US \$764 million to address humanitarian needs and build Kenya's resilience to disasters

The Appeal by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was developed to respond to acute humanitarian needs in Kenya and the entire Horn of Africa region. It intends to cushion the population against drought, the ongoing refugee crisis, floods, internal displacement and urban humanitarian challenges. This time round, the strategy has adopted a medium-to-long term approach in recognition of the need to build resilience among those communities repeatedly affected by emergencies.



The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma addressing guests at the launch. Next to him is Patrick Lavand'Homme, the Deputy Head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Kenya © OCHA, 2011

What's Inside:

- OCHA seeks US \$764 million for humanitarian needs in 2012 and beyond for Kenya
- IYV+10 – UNV launches global Volunteerism Report as IVD is marked
- The Kariobangi community volunteers its services in observance of the IVD
- Observance of Human Rights goes social
- Building partnerships for a greener Kenya

Other areas to be addressed in the plan include nutrition, education, health, and early recovery. In addition, sectors such as Agriculture & Livestock, Food Aid, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene are also covered.

In his remarks, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma, said: “the humanitarian context in Kenya is characterized by a combination of chronic needs and acute shocks that range from the current floods witnessed in various parts of the country to inter-

communal and resource-based conflict”. He stressed the need to prevent famine by coming up with realistic and sustainable solutions.

The Minister for Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands, Hon. Mohammed Elmi, noted: “the appeal method in its four years of being launched in Kenya is richer and a better instrument for ensuring that best practices are adhered to by the implementing partners in addressing disasters and building resilience in the country”. He added that current efforts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 26 January | International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust- Green Garden School, Kukuuyu, Nairobi |
| 20 February | World Day of Social Justice |
| 21 February | International Mother Language Day |

by the Government of Kenya to end drought emergencies in the country are done through the Drought Management Authority and the Drought and Disaster Contingency Fund which enable timely response to prevent humanitarian crises.

The Minister of State for Special Programmes, Ms. Esther Murugi, in

a speech presented on her behalf by Assistant Minister Mohammed Gabbow acknowledged how partnerships are essential to address humanitarian challenges. “You all appreciate that the Government alone cannot handle all humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations. It is in this regard that over

the years it has welcomed the support of international organizations and NGOs.”

Other guests who attended the launch and also presented their remarks included the Country Director for Islamic Relief Fund, Mr. Rashid Abdulla and Ms. Tegla Loroupe, founder of the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation.

IYV+10 – UNV launches global Volunteerism Report as IVD is marked



Assistant Minister Hon. Atenas Keya, (center), UNDP Country Director Maria-Threase Keating, and the UNV Senior Portfolio Manager Tapiwa Kamuruko launch the State of the World's Volunteerism Report in Nairobi © UNV, 2011

The UN's first ever global report on volunteerism, the State of the World's Volunteerism Report, was launched on 5 December 2011 in Nairobi. Commissioned by UNV, the launch was the first event of the International Volunteer Day (IVD) and was presided over by the Assistant Minister for Gender, Children & Social Development, Honorable Atenas Keya, and the UNDP Country Director, Maria-Threase Keating as well as the UNV Senior Portfolio Manager for East Africa, Mr. Tapiwa Kamuruko.

While launching the Report, the Assistant Minister lauded the work being done by UNV and reaffirmed the

Government's commitment to ensuring that a national policy on volunteerism is in place within a year, building on the work of a taskforce that has already been set up with the help of UNV.

The State of the World's Volunteerism Report focuses on the universal values that motivate people all over the world to engage for the common good and examines the impact of volunteer action on societies and individuals. Numerous examples in the Report illustrate the profound changes that volunteers produce and experience. It is expected that this Report will contribute to a better appreciation of this potential and encourage greater strategic thinking

and action in order to incorporate volunteerism into mainstream policies and programmes for peace and development within the UN system and national planning.

The launch of the Report was followed by public celebrations of the International Volunteer Day at the University of Nairobi grounds in the center of the city. The celebrations were open to the public and were attended by over 400 volunteers. The activities were put together by the Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIO) Network with key support from UNV, Kenya Red Cross and VSO Jitolee.

As part of the day's activities, about fifteen different volunteer organizations set up exhibition stands at the venue to showcase their work and give out information. The organizations included UNV, Kenya Red Cross, Ungana AMREF, President's Award scheme, Junior Achievement and VSO Jitolee. The others were the National Volunteer Network Trust (NAVNET), St John Ambulance, Kenya Girl Guides and the Organization of Student Volunteers. At the exhibition stands, volunteers got an opportunity to share their stories with fellow volunteers as well as members of the public.

In remarks presented on his behalf by UNV's Tapiwa Kamuruko, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon congratulated the UN Volunteers programme and commended the many millions of volunteers working for sustainable development, humanitarian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

assistance, environmental preservation, and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

“With passion and commitment, they are helping to show how volunteering can change the world. As we mark

International Volunteer Day, I encourage policymakers to do even more to support and welcome volunteerism, and I urge everyone to consider what they can do to join the movement,” Mr. Ban said.

The launch and IVD celebrations

brought to a close what has been a year-long observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) both locally and all over the world.

The Kariobangi community volunteers its services in observance of the International Volunteer Day



Guests at the observance of the International Volunteer Day in Kariobangi
© UNV, 2011

In acknowledgement of the achievements of volunteerism in Kenya, the Kariobangi community partnered with the Global Peace Festival Foundation Kenya, the National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management (NSC), the Administrative Police, the Nairobi City Council and various Kariobangi youth groups among many others, to celebrate the International Volunteer Day on 5 December 2011.

The theme of the event was “Our community; Our responsibility” in

an effort to encourage residents of Kariobangi to volunteer their services for the development of their community. Activities of the day included a clean-up exercise along one of the main roads in the area, and tree-planting in various parts of Kariobangi.

UNIC presented UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message to mark the day and commended the Kariobangi community and all the other partners for volunteering their services to make a difference in the residential area.

In his message Mr. Ban underlined how everyone, through volunteering can play a part in addressing global challenges for a better future. “With the world population having surpassed seven billion this year, we must tap every person’s potential to help others. Everyone can make a difference. Volunteering matters.” He emphasised.

Prior to the clean-up and tree-planting sessions, there was a procession through the streets of Kariobangi to attract a wider audience to participate in the event and encourage community ownership and responsibility. In the end, more than 500 people took part in the activities.

International Volunteer Day is a chance for volunteer-involving organizations and individual volunteers to promote their contributions to development at local, national and international levels. By merging UN support with a grassroots mandate, IVD is a unique opportunity for volunteer-involving organizations to work with government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups and the private sector.

Observance of Human Rights goes social



Some of the guests at the commemoration of the Human Rights Day © UNIC, 2011

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), in collaboration with a Youth focused NGO, SLUMCODE organized the commemoration of the Human Rights Day on 8th December 2011 in Huruma, Nairobi.

In order to attract a wider audience, the commemoration began with a street walk in Huruma, and by the time the procession reached the venue of the event, the crowd had increased with everyone eager to learn more on the use of the social media to champion human rights.

UNIC gave welcome remarks

and reiterated the importance of young people and the use of social media in the realization of human rights. In his message presented at the commemoration, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted: "Many of the people seeking their legitimate aspirations were linked through the social media...Today, within their existing obligation to respect the rights of freedom of assembly and expression, governments must not block access to the internet and various forms of social media as a way to prevent criticism and public debate."

In addition to the various organizations

that attended the commemoration were members of the Kenya Administrative Police. The police, was all out to explain both work and their relationship with communities. Through various channels including the social media, the police has been clarifying its obligations and responsibilities.

The delegation leader, Chief Inspector Davies Lomwatu revealed that the Kenyan Police Service was undergoing reforms, one of which was the inclusion of the social media in its communication activities. He added that engaging proactively with the public will ensure that the role of the police is clearly understood and supported.

A representative from Google spoke on the company's stance on human rights and the continuity of its policy of providing open source applications that will in the end, contribute in the achievement of human rights.

Also participating in the commemoration was a representative of a human rights movement in Kenya, Bunge la Mwananchi, who acknowledged how the observance of Human Rights Day gives people an opportunity to reflect and take stock of the progress of the gains made in the realization of human rights.

The commemoration took the human rights discussion to a new platform in a high density area setting, giving a chance to the community to have a say on the subject.

Building partnerships for a greener Kenya

Located in the Central province of Kenya, the Aberdare forests host a rich diversity of vegetation and plant species, thanks to the altitude and conducive climate. To the far south, the forest has been greatly fragmented leaving only a few indigenous trees.

To address this, Unilever East and Southern Africa, Kenya Defense Forces, TupandePamoja Initiative and United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 7 December 2011, planted over 30,000 indigenous trees at Kereita Forest in the Aberdares.

The initiative was aimed at promoting responsible consumer behavior through tree-planting. It was also meant to build tree-planting partnerships between private entities and local communities especially within Kenya's five water

towers.

Unilever, a manufacturer of foods, home and personal care products was represented by its Human Resources Director, Ms. Ellen Bvekerwa, the company's skin products Manager for Kenya, Mr. Joseph Uimbia and more than 80 trainee managers.

The Kenya Defense Forces was represented by Captain Isaiah Ong'esa,

who was accompanied by more than 40 military officers. UNEP's representatives were Mr. Moses Mbego and Ms. Emah Madegwa, while Mr. David Kuria from TupandePamoja Initiative was the host.

Unilever Kenya, the chief financier of the tree-planting activity, purchased the seedlings and will nurture them until they are at least six months old, contributing towards the restoration of the forest.

The tree-planting initiative was made possible with the partnership of a number of relevant stakeholders including Government and the local community. On the D-day, all the participants took a tedious walk along an uneven trail inside the forest to the planting site which was later brought to life by the excitement derived from the energetic singers and dancers who provided entertainment throughout the tree-planting session.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Kuria demonstrated how to plant a tree as follows:

First dig a hole at least twice the width of the root ball to allow the roots to spread out. Remove the tree from its container, carefully cut-off broken roots, and slightly loosen the root ball. Place the tree in the planting hole. Always lift the tree by the root ball and never by the trunk. Spread periphery roots outwards. Avoid planting the tree too deep. Make sure that the soil line of the young tree is higher than the surface of the surrounding hole.

Shovel some soil into the planting hole. Check the planting depth and



(L) Mr. David Kuria from TupandePamoja Initiative, together with Ms. Emah Madegwa and Mr. Moses Mbego from UNEP, plant a tree in Kereita forest in the Aberdares © UNEP, 2011

adjust if needed. Confirm that the tree is straight. Fill the hole gently but firmly. Pat the soil around the base of the root ball. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at the time of planting. Water the tree.

Follow up care will be provided by the local community to protect the trees

from pests and diseases, by removing plants nearby which are likely to affect the trees. The aftercare will also include removal of weeds as they will compete with tree roots for moisture and nutrients. The community will also protect the trees from destruction by livestock.

