



Sustainable Development: A Future worth Choosing

A stitch in time saves lives: UNICEF-supported maternal shelter gives women joy of motherhood



(Left) Habiba Ero with her son at the maternal shelter (Right) Shagaa Issack and her baby at the maternity unit at the Garissa Provincial General Hospital. © UNICEF, 2012

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In northern Kenya, where health facilities are as far as 300 kilometres apart, a complication occurring during pregnancy or delivery could easily result in the death of the mother or the baby, or both. The situation is further aggravated by a poor road infrastructure and inadequate means of transportation which hamper effective referral to a health facility where a mother can receive emergency obstetric care.

According to the last Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (2008), for every 100,000 live births in North Eastern Province, 1,200 mothers die. This is alarmingly high -- more than double the national average of 488 deaths per every 100,000 live births. Most of the deaths result from obstetrical complications of haemorrhage, sepsis,

obstructed labour, hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and septic abortion.

To address the problem of long distances to health facilities and consequent delay in managing childbirth complications, UNICEF supported the establishment of a maternal shelter in Garissa in 2007. The shelter with a capacity for 24 mothers, was designed to cater for and accommodate high risk pregnant women from remote and far-flung areas who are in their last days, weeks or months of pregnancy. The home is located within the Garissa Provincial General Hospital vicinity so that when the women go into labour or develop antenatal complications, they are transferred to the hospital wards for management and safe delivery.

For Habiba Ero, 21, the successful

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Upcoming Events

20 June	World Refugee Day
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
7 July	International Day of Cooperatives
11 July	World Population Day
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day

birth of her son (Faihan) is her crowning moment after five aborted pregnancies.

“I am really happy. I have been childless for a long time and I thank God for this baby,” she says.

Habiba was referred to the Garissa Provincial General Hospital, 800 kilometres away from her home in Elwak, Mandera as soon as her sixth pregnancy was confirmed.

After a cervical scan, the Gynaecologist made a “Mc’Donald Stitch” on her cervix and advised her to stay at the maternal shelter for the remainder of her term for close monitoring.

“I have stayed here for six months. I would only leave to attend the antenatal clinic. A relative who accompanied me has been providing me with all the support. She cooks our food and washes my clothes. It has been a very comfortable stay and I am so grateful,” she says.

As Habiba speaks, Shagaa Issack, another mother at the shelter, reports that her labour pains have set in.

In a matter of minutes, the maternal shelter’s caretaker holds Shagaa’s hand and, with the young woman’s husband and two other relatives in tow, they slowly make their way to the hospital,

just 300 metres away.

The 25-year-old mother of two is “prepared” for theatre and a Caesarean-Section performed.

After about an hour, the operation, performed by the resident Gynaecologist, supported by six medical personnel, begins. Soon the baby is out, and is quickly handed over to a nurse, who places her in a cot and wheels her out of the theatre. She returns ten minutes later and announces: “3.75 kilogrammes!” much to the joy of the team that is finalizing the operation.

By the time Shagaa is wheeled out of the theatre, her proud husband is marveling at the baby girl in a nearby cubicle. But he is apprehensive about his wife’s condition. “How is the mother?” he inquires from the nurse who handed him the baby. After reassurances that the operation was a success and Shagaa was recovering well, the elderly man sighs with relief.

However, this is short-lived as only a few hours later, there is pandemonium in the maternity unit as frantic efforts are made to revive the young woman. A quick transfusion of two pints of blood gives Shagaa a new lease of life and puts her on the path to full recovery.

Two days later as she cuddles her baby, Shagaa thanks God for saving her life and that of her baby. Her husband too thanks God. Then he thanks the doctors who made the life-saving decision to refer Shagaa to the maternal shelter. This ensured she was regularly monitored at the hospital and, most importantly had access to emergency obstetric care fast enough to save her life and that of her baby.

“The two previous deliveries were difficult. She almost died from excessive bleeding,” says Shagaa’s husband Issack. He was, therefore, happy to accompany his wife on the 800-kilometre journey to the only maternal shelter in the vast province, where she stayed for a month before delivery.

“Had my wife not come to the shelter and to deliver at this hospital, she could have died,” observes Issack.

This remark is echoed by scores of families in the region as they celebrate successful deliveries after high-risk pregnancies that could have otherwise resulted in the deaths of mothers and their children.

UNDP launches the first Africa Human Development Report



President Mwai Kibaki and the UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark at the launch of the Africa Human Development Report. © Josephat Kariuki / UNEP, 2012

UNDP launched in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 May 2012, the Africa Human Development Report entitled “Towards a Food Secure Future”.

It is the first Human Development Report focusing specifically on Africa.

Speaking at the launch, the UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, said that food security is basic to human development, and that food insecurity can trap generations of people in underdevelopment. She added that access to food in Africa, in both rural and urban settings, is threatened

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by increasingly extreme weather, ecosystem degradation and volatile global food prices.

In his statement, President Mwai Kibaki acknowledged that although Kenya was rated in the Report as one of the countries at high risk of food insecurity, progress had been made towards enhancing food security over the last ten years. He pledged to continue to expand land under

irrigation, improve access to credit, develop better marketing infrastructure and ensure agricultural extension services and research are available to farmers.

While recognizing that there are no quick fixes, the report recommends a series of measures, including boosting agricultural productivity, prioritizing nutrition, building resilience for people and their communities and empowering

women and other marginalized groups.

The report, launched at the UN complex in Nairobi, was also attended by the UNON Director-General, Sahle Work-Zewde, UNEP and UN-HABITAT Executive Directors, Achim Steiner and Joan Clos respectively, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa Director, Tegegnework Gettu, and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya, Aeneas Chuma.

Invest in food security for human development says UNDP

The people of Namelok in Kenya's Amboseli region have had to learn to adapt to change. They are ethnic Maasai and traditionally keep livestock, but successive droughts have decimated many of their animals, so they broke with tradition and now cultivate tomatoes, maize and beans.

To hear their story in person, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark visited the area ahead of the launch of the Africa Human Development Report on 15 May. "I think across Africa a big answer to fighting hunger and food shortages is empowering women farmers," Helen Clark said after meeting the women.

To earn a living, 43-year-old Motialo Kiserian is trading goats at the local market after her husband left her with four children to feed. But the income is unreliable and, realistically, she can only earn around 50 dollars a month. Now, she and the other members of her women's group have leased two acres of land with the help of a small local charity, and they have already had one successful harvest, which earned them around 500 dollars—shared between the women in the group who needed the money most.

"We would like to farm more arable land and do this on a bigger scale," says Motialo. "And we want to learn better



Helen Clark joins Maasai women in Kajiado South District. She advocated for the right to land by rural women as a means of improving food security in Africa
© UNDP, 2012

agricultural practices, so that we can become a society that can sustain itself."

The women's farm lies at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro and the natural springs that water it are fed by the mountain's glaciers. That water does not just support the region's farmers but also a biodiverse ecosystem including the elephants that attract visitors from all over the world to the nearby Amboseli National Park. Tourism is a major earner of foreign exchange for Kenya and the community has recognized that conservation can also bring economic benefits.

The Satao Elerai Conservancy is a

65,000-acre wildlife corridor that has been set aside by the community to protect the environment, and provide an income from tourism. A luxury camp built in the Conservancy pays dividends to the Maasai landowners, and the money has been used to drill a much needed borehole as well as build a school.

That's not all, explains Elerai Conservancy Secretary Jonah Marapash who comes from a village near the camp. "People get employment," says Marapash, "they get fuel to run the borehole generator which supplies

water to the people. In addition to that, we are getting a lot of revenue which we use to provide bursaries and also take care of medical emergencies and other related assistance required by the community.”

“We’re in an area with incredible conservation values,” Helen Clark noted

while she was visiting the Conservancy, “but it’s also an area where people have lived for a millennia. So the trick is to find a way that the people can live, that human development can go ahead, while nature is also protected. And I think that this village is very committed to finding that way.”

The ultimate aim is for communities like this one to be able to capitalize on their resources better, so that in times of drought, they have other sources of income and do not have to sell their land and livelihood. This will ensure that they can be successful farmers, whatever the weather.

FAO promotes simple technology to reduce harvest losses



Simple metal silos such as this one can prevent up to 100 per cent of post-harvest crop losses due to pests and disease. © Daniel Irura / FAO, 2012

Post-harvest losses due to poor storage facilities and handling practices continue to be one of the major contributing factors to food and nutrition insecurity in Kenya.

Losses in some cases can reach as high as 50 – 70 per cent, often negating a good harvest and placing vulnerable farming families and communities at risk. Crop losses following harvest can be devastating in Kenya’s arid and

semi-arid lands (ASALs), which have struggled recently following successive years of below-average rain and resulting reduced yields.

Post-harvest losses are generally caused by biotic agents, such as insects, rodents and fungi, and can be aggravated by factors such as humidity, moisture and temperature. For example, food poisoning from aflatoxins, produced by a fungus which thrives in warm and

humid conditions, is a growing threat to both human and animal health. Pests such as the larger grain borer (LGB) have caused serious damage to stored maize, with losses in some areas of up to 100 per cent.

In Kenya, especially in eastern ASAL areas, farmers typically store grains in burlap bags and wooden containers, both easily susceptible to insects and mold. Farmers without reliable storage options are increasingly forced to sell most grains soon after harvest. This leaves them vulnerable to the vagaries of market prices and to food shortages. With improved storage, farmers are able to store more grain for food, allowing them to cope better during dry conditions, as well as to sell surplus at higher market prices, improving income.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), together with a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Kenya, has been promoting the use of metal silo technology for the post-harvest storage of grains. The airtight cylindrical storage silos are made by trained local artisans and come in various sizes. Many farmers using the silos in Kenya have reported reducing post-harvest losses to near zero. The cost per silo is reasonable, depending on the size. For example, a silo with a

capacity of 540 kg (or six 90 kg bags of grain) can cost approximately Ksh 10,000.

FAO has been promoting the use of metal silos and providing related training through Government extension services, field schools and farmer groups, allowing evaluation and

adoption by farmers over time. Access to credit through community banks is also facilitated so that farmers without savings may purchase the silos.

Funding from the governments of Spain and Sweden has allowed FAO to train some 16 artisans in eastern Kenya in the fabrication of metal silos. On 5 June

2012, FAO Kenya distributed 200 metal silos to farmer groups for evaluation and promotion. Trained artisans, with the support of Government extension agents, will continue to manufacture, market and promote the technology throughout eastern Kenya.

Improving food security through Cash for Assets

Although 63 year-old Grace Gateria does not have formal training, she is a teacher in her own right. She teaches her neighbours how to improve their agricultural produce. Grace is a beneficiary of the World Food Programme's (WFP) Cash-for-Assets project in the marginal agricultural county of Tharaka, in Eastern Kenya.

"Before the project was introduced here, I always planted maize and because the rainfall was not sufficient, I harvested very little," says the mother of ten.

"Now I plant crops that do not need much rainfall such as green grams or sorghum and I am able to harvest much more," she adds

"I have decided to share what I have learnt with my neighbours who are not beneficiaries of the WFP project and many of them are applying the very simple techniques to improve their own crops," Grace mentions.

Grace has also implemented the new soil and water conservation technologies that she has learnt. These include constructing negarims



Grace prepares to take fruits to the market. © WFP, 2012

and zai pits* at her mango and pawpaw farm. These are simple water harvesting structures used by communities in arid and semi arid areas to collect rain for improved crop production.

In the Cash for Assets programme, Grace and others like her work with WFP on projects focusing on rainwater harvesting for human and livestock use, soil and water conservation, rehabilitation of

degraded land and producing drought-tolerant crops. These assets and the development of appropriate skills enable communities to improve their resilience and increase food sufficiency.

"My mangoes and pawpaws have improved so much and I get good harvests. I no longer have to sell the grains that I grow as I sell the fruits to meet my family's daily needs," she says.

*Negarims are diamond shaped basins surrounded by small earth embankments that help trap water. They are suitable for growing fruit trees in dry areas. Zai Pits are box-like pits used to enhance soil fertility as well as retain water. They are suitable for crops such as sorghum, millet, beans and others.

Free, independent media essential in achieving freedom of expression



President Mwai Kibaki (front row, 3rd right) and Minister for Information and Communication Hon. Samuel Poghisio (front row 2nd right) with East African Journalists' Convention participants and organizers at KICC, Nairobi. This was the first time the President was attending the World Press Freedom Day celebrations.
© UNESCO, 2012

Alfredo Villatoro, a renowned Honduran radio presenter repeatedly received death threats before he was abducted on 9 May 2012. On 15 May, his body was found outside the capital, Tegucigalpa. He is not the only journalist to be killed in Honduras and indeed worldwide.

A total of 20 journalists and media workers have been killed in Honduras since 2009, and similar cases have been reported in nearby Somalia, Mexico, Colombia, Syria, and other countries. Last year alone, UNESCO, the United Nations agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, condemned the killing of 62 journalists who died as a result of their work.

As nations marked World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2012, the UN Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General Ms. Irina Bokova, in a joint message noted: "freedom of expression is one of our most precious rights. It underpins every other freedom and provides a foundation for human dignity. Free, pluralistic and independent media is essential for its

exercise."

World Press Freedom Day is celebrated annually to uphold the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

To mark the Day in Kenya, UNESCO and UNDP Kenya partnered with the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), the Ford Foundation, Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK), Nation Media Group, Standard Media Group, and other media stakeholders in the region and organized the East African Journalists' Convention from 2 - 4 May 2012 in Nairobi. Based on the theme **Harnessing Media Freedom to Transform Societies: A Journalist Perspective**, the Convention focused on the essence of media freedom in transforming societies, media regulation, media and election coverage in Africa and professionalism in the media industry.

The Convention brought together over 250 media practitioners and policy makers

from Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and South Sudan.

President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya presided at the opening ceremony of the Convention on 2 May 2012. Also present at the ceremony was the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya, Mr. Aeneas Chuma, the Minister of Information and Communication, Hon. Samuel Poghisio, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Communication Dr. Bitange Ndemo, the Chairman of the Media Council of Kenya, Dr. Levi Obonyo, and chief executive officers of major media houses in Kenya.

In his speech, President Kibaki emphasized on the right to information. "Public information is a common public good, with the Government acting as its custodian. It should, therefore be made easily and readily available. As a Government, we are determined to ensure that this happens," he said.

Mr. Aeneas Chuma, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya presented the joint message from the UN Secretary General and UNESCO Director-General.

In his speech delivered at the Convention on 3 May, UNESCO Nairobi Office Director Professor Joseph Massaquoi highlighted the Agency's work with the media to promote communication for development. "This includes support to community media- especially the community multimedia centres-; capacity building for both media associations and journalism training institutions; assessment of media development indicators in various countries; and most importantly, activities that promote freedom of expression which underpins every other freedom and provides a foundation for human dignity," he said.

Presenters from various countries, among them media owners, scholars and practitioners shared views on the status

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of media regulation in their countries, journalists' experiences in reporting elections and conflicts, the role of journalists' associations in championing and protecting the rights and privileges of journalists as well as the role of media in creating democratic societies.

In his remarks, Mr. Paul Melly, the Standard Media Group Chief Executive

Officer noted: "press freedom is a national asset and cannot be owned by anyone but only managed to ensure it is practiced responsibly". Mr. Linus Gitahi, the Nation Media Chief Executive Officer said: "we are moving from an era of fighting media freedom to one of discussing media responsibility".

The Convention culminated into the

1st Annual Media Council Journalism Awards held on 4 May 2012 where 76 print and broadcast journalists were awarded for exemplary reporting under various categories. This award will be held annually to coincide with the World Press Freedom Day in Kenya.

Peacekeeping, a global partnership

Sounds of the Kenya Police Band filled the grounds of the UN complex as the police officers led a procession of a group of UN blue berets from the military, police and the UN security. The event was graced by dignitaries including the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde who also presented the message of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Activities kicked off on a high note with students from Starehe Boys and Girls centres presenting entertaining poems on peace and peacekeeping.

The occasion was the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers with the theme "Peacekeeping is a Global Partnership".

In his message for the Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that currently, 116 Member States contribute military and police personnel to UN peacekeeping operations, reflecting growing global confidence in the value of UN peacekeeping as a tool for collective security. However, he added that: "the ultimate goal of any UN peacekeeping is to no longer be necessary. Until we reach that objective, we make every effort for peacekeeping to be as effective and efficient as possible."

"Indeed, peacekeeping missions can never end wars themselves. However, they can offer the best possible option for ensuring there is sustainable peace," said Assistant Minister for Foreign



The Police Band leading the former UN peacekeepers during the commemoration.
© Josephat Kariuki/UNEP, 2012

Affairs, Richard Onyonka, who was the chief guest. He also emphasized the need for peaceful coexistence of persons to avoid the new nature of conflicts that occur within countries.

Speaking at the same occasion on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Forces of Kenya, Lt. General Mwathethe recognized and acknowledged the country's peacemaking and peace building efforts. He stated that Kenya military personnel are currently involved in peacekeeping operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Lebanon, Somalia and now Syria. He paid tribute to all UN peacekeepers for their selfless commitment to uphold the rule of law in ensuring peace and a just world.

In his address, Commissioner of Police, Mathew Iteere, emphasized that the need for peace and security transcends national, regional, racial, religious, cultural, economic, political or any conceivable boundary. He stressed the need for the police to reinforce and re-establish security in ensuring compliance with international human rights standards and restoring and promoting public safety and the rule of law. He reminded the officers that the best way to enforce the rule of law is first to dutifully observe the same law and respect human rights.

During the ceremony, four wreaths were laid in memory of all the fallen peacekeepers. In addition, a minute of silence was observed.

Over 400 guests comprising of members of the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations, students and the

UN staff attended the ceremony, which was organized by the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in collaboration with the

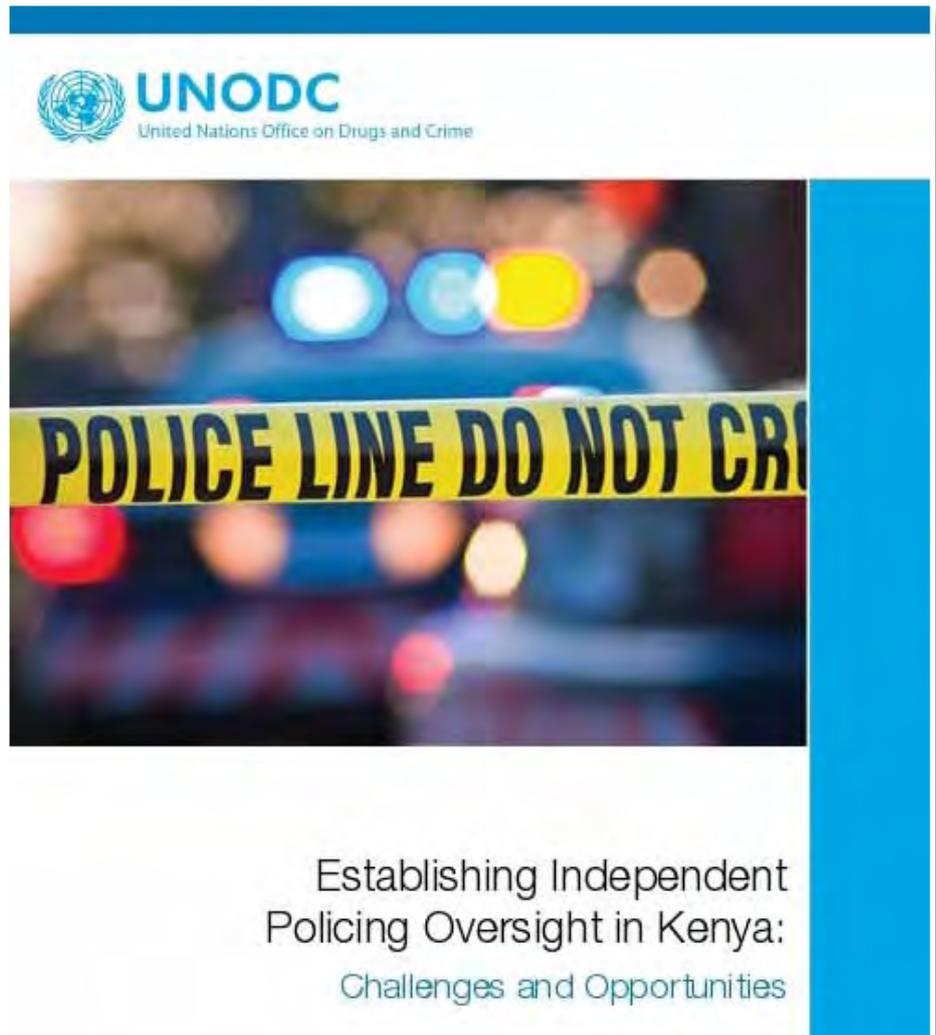
Department of Defence and the Kenya Police.

UNODC contributes towards Police reforms in Kenya

Police accountability in Kenya is a challenging subject. Over the years, the perception of the Kenyan public and international observers was that members of police and security forces are a major perpetrator of human rights violations. Police involvement in the history of violence related to the electoral cycle seems to bear this out.

The first multi-party elections in 1992 resulted in violent clashes between political and ethnic rivals that left more than 1,500 people dead and displaced over 300,000 others. The police were implicated in the violence. It was credibly reported that they either failed to intervene to prevent or stop it, or participated directly in some of the most brutal acts. More recently, the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Post Election Violence of 2007-2008, also known as the Waki Commission, noted that the police used unjustified force in responding to post-election demonstrations and violence. A huge percentage of the 1,300 reported deaths were attributed to the police.

The Independent Policing Oversight Authority Act (IPOA) 2011 was enacted by parliament to address the multiplicity of problems and bad record historically associated with the police. The creation of IPOA was driven by several factors. First, in circumstances where crime and violence are increasing, a more accountable police service and higher quality police oversight can improve public safety. Second, it is thought that because of the longstanding public distrust of police, accountability mechanisms can strengthen public confidence in the police. Third, in a



context of inter-ethnic conflict, effective oversight can help the police establish a reputation for fairness and non-partisanship that allows it to protect all citizens.

As part of its work to promote the rule of law in the region, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Eastern Africa (ROEA) engaged a consultant to carry out a study on the feasibility of establishing IPOA in Kenya and

produce a report on the findings. The report entitled “*Establishing Independent Policing Oversight in Kenya: Challenges and Opportunities*” was published and launched in April 2012. This report provides in detail:

- A common understanding of police accountability for both public safety and respectful treatment of civilians;
- The role played by multiple institutions in police

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accountability and oversight. These can be divided into three types of oversight control: internal control by the Police itself; control by governmental institutions such as the executive, judiciary and the legislature; control by public through mechanisms such as policing forums, media and civil oversight boards; international control through international bodies such as international human rights treaty bodies and regional treaty bodies;

- The functioning of police

oversight from all of these perspectives with attention on how they can work best together with other institutions on governance reforms;

- Lessons learnt from other jurisdictions;
- The challenges and opportunities of establishing IPOA in the Kenyan context.

A workshop to launch this report was organized by UNODC ROEA and sponsored by the Department of State of the United States of America. It was attended by the Police Reform Implementing Committee

members, representatives from various Government institutions, donors, civil society and experts from India, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

In her speech, the UNODC ROEA Representative, Ms. Loide Lungameni pledged to provide, upon request, technical assistance and advisory services to support the Government of Kenya as it proceeds to operationalize IPOA.

Deliberations and recommendations from the workshop proceedings will be forwarded to the IPOA once it is confirmed by parliament.

UN Human Security Trust Fund Project approves six million USD to reduce cross-border conflict and food insecurity in North Eastern Kenya

The Human Security Trust Fund Project (HSTF) has approved six million USD to strengthen the resilience of approximately 300,000 Turkana affected by cross-border insecurity and reoccurring drought in Kenya. The proposed activities supported by the allocated funds within the UN inter-agency coordination framework, will improve human security. The project will build on the capacities of local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and local Government authorities working in conflict management and peace-building in Turkana and across its borders (Ethiopia, Uganda, and Sudan).

The targeted area for the HSTF project is Turkana central district which has a total population of 273,268. The district is in the Arid and Semi Arid lands (ASAL) Livelihood zones in Kenya, making it one of the most vulnerable regions in the country. Pastoralism is the main subsistence and economic activity in the district, with 60% of the population deriving its livelihood from it. Turkana central is ranked amongst



An armed young herder looks after cattle at Nadapal along Kenyan – Sudan border.

An armed young herder © UNOCHA, 2012

districts with the highest poverty incidences in Kenya, with sixty-four percent of the population living below the poverty datum line.

Turkana is part of the 'Karamoja cluster' which includes the Dodoth, Matheniko and Jie in Uganda, the Toposa in Sudan, the Nyangatom and the Merille in Ethiopia, and the Pokot in Kenya. Regional ethnic and political inter-play within the Kenya-Uganda-Sudan and Ethiopia borderlands are

characterized by remoteness from national decision-making centers and numerous incidents of severe armed violence pitting local groups against each other.

Turkana region suffers from a 'climate change-migration-conflict-nexus' where recurring, severe drought cycles lead to increasingly frequent out migrations of pastoralists within Kenya or across the border, in search

of water and pasture for livestock. This has led to rising levels of violent inter-ethnic conflict over scarce resources across the region.

Limited infrastructure, roads, communication, markets, trade opportunities and socio-economic activities have contributed to the marginalization of border communities such as those in Turkana central, and have created an environment of recurring economic and food insecurity. The region shows human development indicators below the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets and national averages.

Weak governance structures coupled with porous borders and ineffective security systems have led to the mainly pastoralist population resorting to acquiring arms. The resulting proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region has turned traditional conflict over resources and cattle rustling more deadly. Cattle rustling, once a 'cultural' practice used for restocking in times of scarcity has

in many instances turned into a well-organized and profitable commercial activity.

Turkana's pastoralist lifestyle combined with severe poverty and drought has also hindered children's access to education. Nomadic children face barriers to school education as their lifestyle requires their families to move around remote areas with their animals to seek new pastures and water. Children in Turkana (6-13 age group) are less likely to access primary education with only 50% enrolled (53.2% boys, 46.8% girls), compared with the national average 92.5% (94.6% boys, 90.5% girls). Likewise, only half of preschool-age children in Turkana (4-5 age group) participate in Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE).

The proposed activities supported by the HSTF will build on local capacities to reduce inter-communal, cross-border tensions. It is hoped that the fund will promote social and economic development through the delivery of

basic health care, the stepping up of crucial water initiatives for populations and livestock, access to basic education for out-of-school and vulnerable children as well as alternative livelihood skills training.

The project activities contribute to the realization of the MDGs by targeting poverty reduction, and access to education and health care. This is in line with the Government's objectives of poverty reduction and Disaster Risk Reduction for the region, as outlined in the National Policy for the Development of the ASALs.

The United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security offers a unique funding source that is integrated, holistic and multi-sectoral, aptly suited to addressing the multi-faceted challenges in the ASALs. The project benefits from the input and guidance of different UN agencies that include UNDP, FAO, WHO, IOM, UNICEF, ILO and OCHA, local partners and most importantly, disaster affected communities themselves.

Dutch Minister for Immigration visits IOM Transit Centre

The Minister of Immigration, Integration and Asylum Affairs of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands Mr. Gerd Leers on 29 May 2012 visited the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Transit Centre in Nairobi where he attended an actual immigration interview process conducted by members of his team.

Mr. Leers, who was accompanied by the Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands in Kenya, Mr. Joost Reintjes, was taken on a tour of the Transit Centre which plays a critical role in IOM's Refugee Resettlement Programme. The Centre provides pre-departure health assessment, cultural orientation and movement related assistance to refugees accepted for resettlement. The transportation of



The Minister of Immigration, Integration and Asylum Affairs of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Gerd Leers is welcomed at the IOM Transit Centre in Nairobi by Dr. Aleksandar Galev, the IOM Representative in Kenya.
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migrants and the related processing activities are central to IOM's operational functions.

IOM Kenya serves as a resettlement hub in Africa, providing coordination and assistance for resettlement activities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The IOM office in Nairobi functions as an interface between the Agency's field missions and resettlement partners including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the various

governments which receive refugees, family reunification cases and other migrants.

The Minister, who praised IOM "as an organization known for its deliverables", was appreciative of the efforts of the Agency in Kenya, in support to the Netherlands' immigration team on the ground in Nairobi and Kakuma.

On his part, IOM's Representative, Dr. Aleksandar Galev assured the

Minister of the Agency's commitment to assisting populations on the move. "IOM appreciates the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands to refugees in Kenya, and is ready to further support it to resettle refugees out of Kenya and the region", he said.

The Centre, which can accommodate 350 migrants, includes a dining area, accommodation rooms, a medical clinic and pre-departure orientation class rooms.

UNHCR strengthens its presence in Dadaab refugee complex

As part of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Refugees (UNHCR) efforts to ensure continuity of life-saving services for more than 460,000 refugees in the Dadaab refugee complex in north-eastern Kenya, the agency opened a new office in Alinjugur, Fafi District.

The new office opened in the presence of top Government officials including the North Eastern Provincial Commissioner, Mr. James ole Seriani and UNHCR Country Representative Elike Segbor, is about 80 kilometers from the Somali border and some 20 kilometres from the main UNHCR compound in Dadaab.

Alinjugur hosts staff of UNHCR, other agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The teams based in Alinjugur will cover Hagadera and Kambioos sites - which shelter some 150,000 Somali refugees.

The Alinjugur office will enable UNHCR to be closer to refugee communities and consequently, provide better services for refugees and the host communities. Its opening is a result of talks and cooperation with the Kenyan authorities to decongest the camps and to increase the field presence for UNHCR



James ole Seriani officially opening the UNHCR Alinjugur sub office
© UNHCR, 2012

and other humanitarian organizations. In addition, UNHCR is working closely with the host community to aid positive co-existence with refugees. The new development will enable UNHCR to expand humanitarian space and facilitate operations.

Security has been a major challenge in Dadaab in the last six months, restricting the scale of field operations. The situation remains complex and tense as threats from improvised explosive devices, kidnappings, vehicle

hijackings and banditry remain high.

Dadaab has been providing protection, shelter and humanitarian assistance to Somali refugees for two decades, often under difficult and complex circumstances. Chronic overcrowding, a risk of disease, and seasonal floods are among the challenges faced. Dadaab is the largest refugee settlement in the world and spreads over an area of more than 50 square kilometres.

Training the Trainers' Course in Quality Management Systems for Meteorological Services

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) Regional Office, in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), recently organized and conducted a Training the Trainers' Course in Quality Management Systems (QMS) for the provision of aeronautical meteorological services for English-speaking States within the Eastern and Southern African (ESAF) and Western and Central African (WACAF) Regions of ICAO. The course was held from 7 to 18 May 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya, while a French version of the same course was held in April 2012 at the same venue.

The need for this course followed a survey conducted in ICAO ESAF Region in November 2011 to assess the extent of establishment and level of implementation of QMS by States to which the Regional Office is accredited. The results indicated that many States had indeed embarked on the QMS and were at different levels of implementation. Only Mauritius, South Africa, and Tanzania had already received certification in the ISO 9001:2008 Standard.

ICAO requires that all States ensure



Participants of the Quality Management System (QMS) course with the ICAO Regional Director © ICAO, 2012

that the meteorological authority designated by them establishes and implements a properly organized quality management system comprising procedures, processes and resources necessary to provide for the quality management of meteorological information to be supplied to users of their services and products by 15 November 2012.

The QMS course, which was conducted in English, was aimed at

equipping participants with skills and knowledge necessary for the establishment and implementation of ISO 9001:2008 Standard. It was attended by 18 participants from 11 States namely: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, the Seychelles, Uganda and Zambia, as well as Libya and Yemen from other regions of accreditation, which participated upon request by WMO.



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For more information contact: UNCG Chair,

P. O. Box 67578-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel: 020-76221102, E-mail: nairobi.unic@unon.org