The World We Want

Delivering as One UN in Kenya

The UN in Kenya has taken the first key steps on the roadmap towards Delivering as One (DaO), a major reform of the UN system intended to increase effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and national ownership.

Over 100 representatives from the Government, the development partners, NGOs, the private sector and the UN gathered in Nairobi from 8-9 May 2013 to define the types and areas of work that should feature in the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is set to be aligned to the Government’s Medium Term Plan II (MTP2).

In building on the current UNDAF, the next one will strive to be more inclusive of all the UN’s activities in Kenya. Based on a set of agreed outcomes, it will serve as a guide for the work of the entire UN system in Kenya over the next five years. Getting the outcomes right is therefore of paramount importance.

In essence, Delivering as One is the UN’s response to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It is about how the UN carries out its development work with the ultimate goal of a more effective system that is better equipped to support the Government to deliver on key development targets.

In September 2010, the then Finance Minister and current President of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta wrote to the chairperson of the UN Development Group, Ms. Helen Clark,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
requesting that Kenya becomes a DaO country. A positive response from Ms Clark in February 2011 made Kenya a de facto DaO “self-starter”.

DaO consists of 5 pillars, namely One Programme, One Leader, One Budgetary Framework, One Office and One Voice. At the latest DaO conference held in Tirana in 2012, a sixth pillar of One Fund was added.

While the UNDAF outlines what the UN System intends to undertake, Delivering as One provides the mechanism of how the intentions will be achieved through the leadership of the UN Country Team with the UN Resident Coordinator. One Office refers to the operational aspect of DaO and One Voice is about moving towards more coherent communication by the UN system.

The next critical step on the DaO road map is the forthcoming Strategic Prioritization Retreat, scheduled to take place in July-August 2013 as outlined in the roadmap at the end of the consultative workshop.

The Government of Kenya will take a leading role in the facilitation of the retreat, in line with the Paris Declaration principles that ensure strong national leadership of the development agenda.

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**UN-Habitat hosts the 24th Governing Council**

The twenty-fourth biennial meeting of governments in the Governing Council of UN-Habitat was successfully held in Nairobi in April with a broad consensus on the relevance of sustainable urban development and the important role the agency is playing in the United Nations system.

Several resolutions were adopted after five days of intense discussions and negotiations impacting positively on the work of UN-Habitat and the lives of millions of urban dwellers.

A total of 1,144 delegates from 107 countries attended the meeting representing national governments, local authorities, private sector, civil society as well as media.

The work programme and budget of the agency for the next two years was approved. There was also a resolution to give full support for the preparations of the Habitat III conference to be held in 2016 where a new global urban agenda will be formulated.

The Governing Council whose theme was ‘Sustainable Development: The role of cities in creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender’ recorded several firsts.

It was the first major gathering Kenya’s newly elected President Uhuru Kenyatta was presiding over and it was also the first Governing Council in the history of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) whose opening was broadcast live on national television. The meeting also saw two live broadcasts of the interactive Urban Talk series.

The two live TV shows relayed by a local television station attracted wide viewership during discussions by urbanization experts, including UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos.

The conference also implemented the ‘Paper Smart Initiative’, a United Nations plan which discourages the use of paper and promotes online applications. This system is cost effective and ensures environmental sustainability.
The Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), with support from UN Women, organized an induction workshop in Mombasa from 26 - 27 April 2013 to equip new members with the knowledge needed to execute their mandate.

The theme of the workshop was: ‘Laying the Foundation for an Effective Female Legislator’ and aimed at ensuring that the new female legislators make a significant impact in the current Parliament while building on the substantial gains made by the female MPs in the last Parliament.

One of the significant changes in the new Constitution is the introduction of exclusive elective posts for women as part of the Affirmative Action in Leadership principle.

The result of this and other affirmative action pursuits saw the election and nomination of eighty seven female legislators (47 County Women Representatives, 16 elected and 5 nominated members of the National Assembly, and 18 nominated Senators) the highest number in Kenya’s history.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Justin Muturi, gave his commitment to supporting women in Parliament.

“You have the Speaker’s unrelenting support in matters of legislation. I will do all it takes to ensure that your mandate is fulfilled,” said Mr. Muturi.

Deputy Speaker of the Senate Mr. Ekwee Ethuro also gave his assurance to supporting women at the Senate level.

“On behalf of the Senate, I wish to assure you of my personal support and that of the institution. We are also looking forward to getting support from KEWOPA and other development partners to ensure the issues of gender are well articulated, mainstreamed and concluded in the 11th Parliament,” reiterated Mr. Ethuro.

Noting the significant role that financial resources play in achieving equality in society, members were taken through a session on engaging the budget process to their representational advantage.

The Senior Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Mr Michael Sialai, focused on Parliamentary procedures, while Ms. Millie Odhiambo, one of the experienced female MPs, talked about the Rules of Debate.

Participants were also taken through a session on personal branding.
The United Nations Information Center (UNIC) Nairobi, in collaboration with the Rwanda High Commission, organized the observance of the 19th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda with students from various universities, secondary and primary schools in Kenya under the slogan “Healing, Reconciliation and Reconstruction”.

Prior to the observance, the students participated in essay writing and art work on their “imagination of a country with no conflict”, to underline the responsibility of everyone, including students, on their role in preventing conflict.

In her message, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde urged the students to make use of their knowledge and skills acquired to positively impact the communities where they come from.

In his message presented by Ms Zewde, the UN Secretary-General noted that preventing Genocide is a shared responsibility. “States must uphold their obligations under International law to prevent abuses and protect their populations. Collectively we must go beyond words and effectively safeguard people at risk”, he underlined.

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda, Ms Yamina Karitanyi, called on the students to play a role in educating their peers and get involved in conversations on social media to share views and thoughts about genocide.

After the observance at UNON, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and heads of International Organizations attended a church service as part of activities to commemorate the anniversary.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the East Africa Community, Mr. Chiboli Shakaba urged Kenyans to stand in solidarity with the people of Rwanda as the country propels itself forward. He emphasized on the need of learning from the experiences of Rwanda and noted, “As citizens of Kenya, we must reflect and learn from what Rwanda sadly experienced. Kenyans must value each other; we must be considerate and tolerant of each other. Recognizing always that our diversity is not a limiting factor, rather, it is our strength and in embracing and channeling it positively as a country, we shall be able to achieve all that we set out to”.

About 400 people attended the activities to commemorate the anniversary in honour of the victims of the genocide.
UNFPA donates reproductive health kits worth Kshs. 20 million to the Kenya Red Cross

For the past two months, heavy rains have pounded Kenya with resultant deaths of more than thirty people and displacement of hundreds more from their homes. Often, emergency response revolves around food, shelter, medicine and clothing, but rarely on sexual and reproductive health concerns.

UNFPA thus made a timely and much needed intervention towards this end by donating reproductive health kits worth Kshs. 20 million (US$200,000) that are primarily designed to facilitate the provision of priority reproductive health services to displaced populations without medical supplies, or where medical facilities have been disrupted during a crisis.

The donation was made at the headquarter offices of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) in Nairobi by UNFPA's Representative in Kenya ad Interim, Dr. Benjamin O. Alli.

“Where we gave will ensure timely and effective humanitarian response to the Kenya Red Cross Society during the current floods and support the refugees in Dadaab among other emergencies,” noted Dr. Alli. “The kits include various critical items such as rape treatment kits, sexually transmitted infections treatment kits, clean delivery kits, clinical delivery drugs, blood transfusion kits, condoms and other disposable equipment among others.”

This is not the first time that UNFPA is supporting the KRCS. In the current 2009-2013 funding cycle under the 7th Country Program, UNFPA’s support has been immense.

“We have worked closely with, and assisted the Kenya Red Cross Society, which is the leading humanitarian organization in Kenya, to strengthen sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies in the country,” explained Dr. Alli.

“UNFPA’s support to the KRCS for this year, 2013, is US$500,000. In local currency that is Kshs.42.5 million. This support will ensure timely and effective humanitarian response. Our effort as UNFPA is aimed at accelerating the attainment of Millennium Development Goal Five (5), whose objective is to reduce maternal mortality rates. The essential drugs, supplies and equipment that we have given today, and which we shall continue to give, will ensure that the increased risks of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, of HIV infection, of sexual violence and other reproductive health-related conditions are prevented or managed while upholding humanitarian principles.

“Finally,” Dr. Alli added, “I wish to reiterate UNFPA’s commitment to the Kenya Red Cross Society in ensuring that newborns, youth and mothers have access to sexual and reproductive health services during emergencies.”

On receiving the donation, KRCS’s Secretary General, Dr. Abbas Gullet, thanked UNFPA for its noble initiative and acknowledged the need for the strengthening of partnerships in order to alleviate human suffering and to save lives while enhancing timely service delivery to Kenyans.

“Issues bedeviling sexual reproductive health in Kenya include low family planning uptake, unskilled deliveries, a high prevalence of HIV, high female genital mutilation prevalence, morbidity of children under the age of five years due to minor illnesses, sexual and gender-based violence and poor access to services. These issues are made worse in emergencies,” noted Dr. Gullet. “Kenya Red Cross Society and UNFPA are committed to work in line with the national policies and strategies involving key local stakeholders in program implementation and decision-making at local and national level when necessary. Thus, the reproductive health kits that have been issued today will be of great support to KRCS even as we continue to assist those who have been affected by the ongoing floods in the country.”

Dr. Gullet lauded the provision of the reproductive health kits, saying they were a great response to the country’s maternal and child health challenges.

“We at KRCS have partnered with UNFPA in various emergency responses for many years to address the sexual reproductive health issues in this country. I, therefore, welcome UNFPA’s donation as it will provide the much needed reprieve to the affected populations in Dadaab refugee camps, its host communities and to populations in emergency settings who need access to sexual reproductive health services.”
Displaced communities in Moyale receive reintegration support from IOM

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working together with the Government of Kenya to establish shelter, boost livelihoods and promote peace among some 8,000 Ethiopians who were displaced by inter-community conflict in Moyale, along the Kenya-Ethiopia border.

IOM has sourced materials and technical labour for about 100 permanent shelters which are expected to be completed in May 2013. Together with partner agencies, IOM has also provided medical supplies to various health centres which were vandalized and further stocked other centres with medical supplies.

“We are grateful for the assistance IOM has accorded us. My hope is that the peace initiatives can bring lasting peace to this conflict that has pushed us away from home.” said Yework Zaff, a beneficiary.

The host communities on the Kenya side along the border have also received a boost in their livelihood activities through the provision of agricultural inputs such as seeds, as well as training in crop management.

In July 2012, inter-community fighting broke out between the Borana and the Gari in the Oromia region in Moyale, along the Kenya-Ethiopia border. The conflict triggered the migration of over 20,000 people from Ethiopia into neighbouring Kenya. The skirmish is reported to have been triggered by the attempt to settle around 200 people from the Gari community in the Borana area, resulting in the destruction of homes and a number of injuries and deaths.

An assessment by IOM, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP) with support from World Vision identified the priority areas for support as food, water, blankets, medicine, sanitation facilities and shelter. Majority of those displaced indicated interest to go back home once the situation allows.

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