UNESCO organised training workshops on Financial Planning, Management and Resource Mobilization Skills for women entrepreneurs from 25-27 April 2015 in Uguna, Siaya County and from 30 April to 2 May 2015 in Chwele, Bungoma County. Facilitated by the Africa Center for People Institutions and Society (ACEPIS), the training workshops attracted participation of 40 women entrepreneurs, 20 from each of the aforementioned counties.

The training aimed at equipping women entrepreneurs with knowledge and skills on basic principles of financial planning and management to enable them plan, control and analyze financial information for their various enterprises and organised groups. It also focused on improving the women’s capacities.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
to explore and select suitable methods for raising revenue for their business activities in their respective counties.

The workshops were conducted in English and Swahili languages in Chwele, and in English and Luo languages in Ugunja. Topics covered included: fundamental concepts of financial planning and management; how to write and read financial statements; managing cash; receipts and payment processes; budget formation, cash flows and income management; application of financial information in decision making processes; risk management; and resource mobilisation.

During the training, Felistus Abonya, a participant from Ugunja stated: “Most women entrepreneurs run their businesses without proper knowledge on financial planning and management. We often give out money and thereafter get into a dilemma when we cannot account for the money that we have spent. I am grateful that UNESCO organised this training as it has reminded us the importance of financial planning and management in our businesses”.

Ruth Chelongo, a participant from Chwele commented: “Such training could not have come at a better time than this. Since I started my business 3 years ago I have never had proper financial records for my business. I am happy that the skills and knowledge that I have gained from this workshop will not only enable me expand my business, but also make it sustainable”.

The training was conducted through presentations from trainers, group discussions and assignments. Role plays and interactive trainee reflection sessions were also used. This enhanced active participation of the women in the workshops.

Entrepreneurship among women is an effective way of integrating women into economic development, improving their financial circumstances, especially for women in rural areas, and an important avenue through which women can overcome their subordination within the family and the society as a whole. This training was part of UNESCO’s ongoing initiatives of building capacities of women entrepreneurs in ICTs through gender equality approaches and establishes gender inclusive access to information and knowledge. It was supported by the UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Kenya.

End of 2015 a target for the elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission

HIV experts and participants in Kenya who met in April for a stocktaking meeting on the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (eMTCT) heard that the country still faces various challenges in its effort to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. These include low prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) awareness; weak health-seeking behavior; stigma and discrimination, social cultural beliefs, and low male involvement, among others.

Of the 69,815 identified HIV-pregnant women last year, 17,432 (24.96%), were not on prophylaxis treatment. Comparably, this is an improvement from previous years in which 20,530 out of 76,074 women missed the opportunity for treatment in 2013.

About 60% of facilities provide PMTCT services and of which about 20% provide comprehensive PMTCT.

Speaking at the meeting, WHO Country Representative, Dr. Custodia Mandlhate, said recent data had shown that one in every five of the maternal deaths are HIV related, while as much as 15% of all deaths in under five-year old children in the country are the result of HIV infection.

The Global Plan sets the end of 2015 as the target of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (eMTCT). Dr Mandlhate said elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV means that the MTCT rate has to be below 5%.

She commended the Government of Kenya for the tremendous progress towards eMTCT, including the launch and implementation at county and facility levels of the 2013 Consolidated ARV Guidelines that consists of Anti
Retrovirus Therapy (ART) for all HIV infected pregnant and breastfeeding women, in line with WHO Global guidance.

She called for integration of services as a critical strategy for eMTCT, adding that this has tremendous potential for systems strengthening, improving efficiencies, ensuring sustainability, and broadening the impact of the health investments.

“Integration can improve the quality of antenatal and maternal care, not only for the clients receiving PMTCT services, but for all women and their children, through more synergistic use of the available resources, training, monitoring and evaluation,” Dr. Mandlhate noted.

The meeting was also addressed by the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Nicholas Muraguri, and the Director of the Kenya National Aids and STI Control Programme, Dr. Nduku Kioko, among others.

HE second annual devolution conference took place in April 2015 at the Tom Mboya Labour college in Kisumu County. President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya officially opened the conference which was attended by close to 5000 delegates across board, including all the 47 governors, principal secretaries, ambassadors, members of parliament and members of county assemblies.

Prior to the conference, UNV Kenya joined UNDP, the Council of Governors, the Ministry of Devolution and Planning and other development partners, to input to the concept note and programme activities for the conference. As its contribution, the UNV Programme in Kenya supported the conference with funds and mobilized 60 student volunteers from the local universities to assist at the conference. The student volunteers were trained by the UNV Field Unit in Kenya and deployed to serve at the conference.

In the spirit of Delivering as One, all the UN agencies and entities exhibited their work under one booth coordinated by UNIC, which attracted the attention of governors and other delegates. The visitors to the UN booth expressed interest in the UNV Programme as a platform for youth involvement in development work.

The commitment and dedication of the student volunteers contributed to the success of the conference.

“I am encouraged by your effort to promote volunteerism, especially among the youths. Personally, I have kept the secrets of volunteerism at the center of my heart. If it were not for
forums like this, maybe I wouldn’t have realized the importance of volunteerism. My experience at the conference explains the rate at which many of us are embracing volunteerism. Congratulations for your efforts to instill the spirit of volunteerism among Kenyans. I love the song of volunteerism!! Keep up with the spirit!” expressed Hariet Opoma, one of the student volunteers at the Conference.

In the meantime, the Council of Governors of Kenya is preparing a proposal to the UNV Programme in Kenya for deployment of a number of national UN volunteers to support the counties.

UNEP establishes a consortium of universities to develop curricula on waste management

The world population currently stands at 7.3 billion; it is projected that it will have passed the 9 billion mark by 2050. More than half of the world’s population now resides in cities. The increase in urban populations, coupled with rising income levels, is resulting in a change in consumption and production patterns, and hence, in growing amounts of municipal waste.

To support African countries overcome this challenge, UNEP is supporting a major initiative for local, national and regional capacity building on waste management in Africa. Experts from selected universities met in Nairobi, Kenya on 25 March, to discuss the development of an academic curriculum for waste management and agreed to establish a consortium of universities to develop it.

The Consortium aims to stimulate a holistic waste management approach to train the next generation of experts through the creation of educational modules and training courses. The consortium will develop a unique Master (One year professional/executive Masters) programme to equip students, waste managers, policy makers, and technicians in Africa, with both technical
Full potential of groundwater in Kenya is unknown. A lack of scientific information about the location and volumes indicate only an estimated 5% of the overall national water endowment. Meanwhile, the intensifying use and demand for water resources in Kenya reveal its strategic importance. Limited understanding of groundwater resources and inadequate monitoring systems, rainfall variability, seasonality of streams and lack of large reservoirs for water storage, all prove to hinder development. An intervention in groundwater can bring tangible change.

Under this context, UNESCO and the Government of Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 8 May, 2015, to build a knowledge base of Kenya's groundwater resources by improving the scientific knowledge on the nation's groundwater wealth. This new framework will provide the means of effectively mobilizing partners to plan and implement activities, such as conducting groundwater resources assessment and building the capacity of local and national actors by delivering tools to efficiently and sustainably manage groundwater resources across Kenya. The programme also aims at strengthening drought preparedness of local and national actors and improving the access to clean drinking water for emergency situations. Groundwater is also considered to be a prominent resource for long term development governance and managerial tools on holistic waste management. Currently, most of the existing academic curriculum and other capacity building programmes on waste management have a compartmentalized approach of dealing with solid waste management, wastewater treatment, and gaseous emissions. Usually, these stages of waste are not considered from a holistic perspective in an integrated urban waste management planning approach.

This holistic approach project will be jointly implemented as part of the UNEP Programme of Work, through its International Environmental Technology Center (IETC) based in Osaka, Japan and the UNEP Regional Office for Africa. The project shall also be implemented in coordination with UN-Habitat and other relevant partners such as the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
needs. During the signing of the MOU, Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, reflected on the achievement of the 2013 Gridmap Turkana groundwater survey conducted by UNESCO, with funding from Japan, as ground breaking and had led to the development of the Kenya National Ground Water Programme. She added: “Kenya is interested in improving our groundwater assessment capabilities and enhancing our capacity building in rolling out to the rest of our country”. She also added that from 2016 onwards, Kenya’s commitment in working with the water sector will be reflected in its budgetary allocations, underlining its seriousness in infrastructure development.

Mr. Mohamed Djelid, the Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, also reaffirmed UNESCO’s support for the water sector and a strengthened relationship with Kenya: “to assess and map its water resources, building upon what we’ve achieved together in Turkana”.

The four year support of Kenya Groundwater Mapping Programme to the country’s Vision 2030 will be elaborated in the new National Groundwater Policy and Regional Catchment Management Strategies. It is also in line with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2018, calling for effective and integrated management of water resources.

The MOU provides UNESCO and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, with a framework for mobilizing and coordinating partners’ contributions for the implementation of the programme. A Programme Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the Government of Kenya, UN, and development partners will be established and a joint UNESCO-Kenya Technical Support Team will monitor the implementation of the programme. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed to support its implementation, together with a special Funds-In-Trust framework established by UNESCO.

**Migration practitioners in Kenya committed to evidence-based migration management policy making**

Recently, a coalition of migration stakeholders launched the first ever migration profile for Kenya. The launch was the culmination of the IDF-funded project entitled “Migration profile in Kenya: Building Capacities to Promote Evidence-Based Policy Making,” which was implemented from November 2013 to March 2015. The project was implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kenya, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, the African Migration and Development Policy Centre, and Samuel Hall.

The project aimed to promote evidence-based migration policy by ensuring that reliable and comprehensive migration data is available to the Government and other migration management practitioners, and by ensuring that relevant Government officials have the skills, tools and knowledge to regularly collect, consolidate, analyze, and report on migration data. Throughout 2014 the project implementation team, with the support and guidance of a technical working group chaired by the Department of Immigration, conducted a comprehensive review of migration data available for Kenya and analyzed the impact of migration in the country and the existing migration governance frameworks. The results of the compilation of the migration data and analysis is presented in the migration profile report, along with key recommendations for maximizing the development benefits of migration and ensuring an all-inclusive and coherent migration governance framework that recognizes Kenya’s roles and responsibilities within broader international conventions and international law.

At the launch, the Head of IOM Kenya Country Office, Mr. Mike Pillinger, stated that: “Kenya faces a complex set of migration management challenges. It hosts...”
the largest refugee camp in the world and has a large domestic migratory population comprised of rural to urban migrants and nomadic pastoralists. Kenya also has tremendous potential to leverage migration for national development, and for the well-being of migrants, their families and communities. I believe that this migration profile will help set the stage for the development of appropriate migration management policies that will maximize these benefits of migration for years to come.

Speaking at the same event, the Director of Immigration, Mr. Gordon Kihalangwa, called for the full utilization of the report, which he noted will help the Government plan effectively towards managing population flows at Kenya’s entry ports and border points. “The report provides an excellent basis and foundation for building the necessary capacity to address migration concerns, while capitalizing on the immigration and emigration data for policy and decision making.”

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**Protecting our heritage and fostering creativity: Nairobi Cultural Festival**

THE 3rd, Nairobi Cultural Festival took place at the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) on Sunday 19 April with pomp and fanfare. The festival, organized in collaboration with UNESCO, under the theme, ‘World Day-World Unity: Unity in Diversity’ showcased diverse cultural expressions from 15 countries, namely Botswana, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Spain, Somalia, Switzerland, USA and the host country, Kenya. International organizations, ADEC Innovation and Child Fund also participated, as well as NMK Children’s Art Club which provided a platform for young people to experiment with various art forms.

Speaking at the occasion, the Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Arts, Dr. Hassan Wario Arero, explained: “the idea behind the Nairobi Cultural Festival is to bring people together from different parts of the world and to offer them a forum to experience and enjoy the rich and diverse cultures of different nationalities. Through each other’s diversity we become more aware of our own”. He thanked UNESCO, NMK and other sponsors for successfully organizing the festival, promising the Ministry’s continued commitment in making it bigger and better.

All ambassadors, heads of missions and representatives of countries that participated in the Festival expressed their gratitude to NMK and UNESCO for organizing the event and committed to ensuring that the cultural expressions of their respective countries are shared through such an annual forum.

Representing UNESCO, Ms. Mulekeni Ngulube, Programme Specialist for Culture, explained how the Festival is one practical way of making the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions work. Ms Ngulube said: “through distinctive cultural forms and artistic expressions such as crafts, books, fashion, food, music, dance, storytelling and documentaries, displayed and shown here - culture becomes the medium through which individuals express themselves.”

The Convention’s aim is to promote the value of the diversity of cultural expressions within a country, but especially encouraging access, exchange and dialogue with cultural expressions from around the world, in order to facilitate mutual understanding and appreciation to bring social cohesion and sustainable peace and development.
The official launch of the ‘Education for All’ (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) in Kenya took place during the EFA Global Action Week, under the theme, ‘The Right to Education post-2015’. The event was co-hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF.

Various presentations were made ranging from an overview of the achievements and challenges of the EFA movement concluding in 2015 as recorded by the GMR, as well as the process employed by UNESCO in the regional transition towards the post-2015 global agenda for education, and Kenya’s position at country level as an example. The theme on the Right to Education was further reinforced by UNICEF’s presentation, followed by a roundtable comprising of representatives of civil society, Government and academia as a way of reflecting on the post-2015 education agenda for Kenya.

The EFA GMR report emphasized the achievements and challenges at stake for quality and equity in education. The report noted that although tremendous progress has been made, many of the EFA targets have not been achieved.

Professor Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, while officiating at the launch, stated: “it is important to know the challenges we face in order to be able to develop strategies - together with strong partners like civil society and private sector - that are in line with specific needs and circumstances of the different countries”.

The EFA targets were developed in 2000 during the World Education Forum in Dakar to achieve the guarantee of quality education for all children by 2015. The outcome of the report showed varied accomplishments over the past 15 years. Whereas only one third of the 164 countries achieved all of the goals, there is considerable progress towards parity in primary education, with almost two thirds of the countries reaching the target in 2015. Globally, 120 million children are still out of school and 781 million adults remain illiterate. The first target of Universal Primary Education (UPE) was reached by seven countries in East Africa and by half of the countries worldwide. The EFA global assessment reminded the world of the disadvantage to the poorest in education, since poor children are five times less likely to complete primary school than privileged children, of which girls in sub-Saharan Africa are the most vulnerable group.

“If education is to be accessible for all, special efforts need to be made to give access to the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in society,” said Hassan Keynan, UNESCO Programme Specialist for Education. These inequalities extend easily to children with special needs who inevitably get left behind due to the general lack of specialized institutions at a reasonable distance, or the chronic shortage of trained teachers that could otherwise ‘include’ them in a regular school. One must also take advantage of the tremendous progress made in ICTs for the education of persons with disabilities. This state-of –the-art knowledge and access to education through ICTs must become a major part of teacher training programmes worldwide, for the benefit of all children.

Mr. Daniel Baheta, Chief of Education for UNICEF Kenya, highlighted the need to increase access to quality education by addressing “the various opt-out reasons for out of school children, ranging from lack of a safe school environment to lack of access in terms of infrastructure or transport; to lack of free education and social support to attend school, among others. We have to make schools available for children by developing resource and capacity”.

The roundtable on the Right to Education advocated for more strengthened and effective policies to ensure the right to education by all by making it more available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable for children in all circumstances. In Kenya, laws and policies have been developed in line with the EFA targets, although further political will is needed for policy implementation.

Another crucial working point is the further elaboration of monitoring and reporting systems to ensure the development and amplification of the quality of education. Fatuma Chege from the Kenyatta University raised the issue for further collaboration among
all education stakeholders “to be able to immediately solve problems as they arise and to assess the progress made to reach the goals”.

Also participating in the GMR launch and roundtable discussion were students from selected schools. Halima Esmail, a speaker of the National Children’s Government, expressed her contentment with the progress that Kenya has made in gender parity and equality in some of the counties. She also highlighted: “for gender equality to be meaningful, mechanisms for ensuring equality of treatment as well as equality of opportunities for both boys and girls in education, are important”. She urged policy makers to fulfill their commitment to non-discrimination in access to education for both genders.

Furthermore, raising public awareness on EFA needs more attention from parents, since they are an important stakeholder next to government and civil society. The parents are often “left behind in the discussion while they can have impact on children since they directly interact with them, even in places where no official instances are represented,” noted Janet Muthoni Ouko from Elimu Yetu Coalition working on devolving the EFA campaigns to the counties.

In order for Kenya to reach the goals as it set out to do, Mr. Mohamed Djelid, the Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa stated: “Kenya should focus on addressing the remaining challenges on EFA related to quality, equity, access and monitoring – thus ensuring that all children are guaranteed quality education.” Aware of the challenges that need to be addressed, Professor Kaimenyi also referred to the development of a National Quality Framework in education that aims to “upscale the quality through competency based education to guarantee the development of competencies and capacities related to every education level”.

Education holds the key to achieving the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. It is a catalyst for development that cannot be ignored by all working towards the Road to Dignity by 2030, as per the global theme for the post-2015 goals for sustainable development.

Framework for profound sustainable management of the oceans elaborated

The Third Session of the UNESCO/IOC’s Sub-Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA III) was held in Nairobi from 13-15 April 2015, to review progress in the implementation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) programmes on ocean sciences, services and observations in the region. It was also to discuss the 2015-17 work plan to be submitted to the 28th session of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, to be held in June 2015 in Paris, for consideration.

The session was attended by more than 50 participants representing 23 member states from the region, namely Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, and Tunisia. Also attending were UN agencies, regional programmes and NGOs active in marine science in the region, as well as invited experts.

In his opening remarks, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Professor Fred Segor, representing the Cabinet Secretary, highlighted several developments since the establishment of the Sub Commission, and requested the delegates to take these into consideration during their deliberations. These included the adoption of Agenda 2063 by the African Union, a vision of “an Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa”. The 2050 African Integrated Marine Strategic Plan of Action (AIMS2050),
and the ongoing preparation of the proposed post 2015 agenda focusing on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Furthermore, Professor S.K. Byun, IOC/UNESCO Chair, emphasized: “IOC should strengthen its ability to expand its service over global oceans and coastal seas. Besides that, attention has to go towards finding suitable mechanisms such as operational oceanography for sustaining observation and service, as well as the required level of scientific research and knowledge”.

The delegates welcomed the progress that had been made in the implementation of IOC activities in Africa in the period 2013-2015. Expert and institutional capacities were developed through the organization of training courses and workshops covering a wide range of topics, such as development of coastal and marine atlases, and an information portal, marine instrumentation, ocean modelling and forecasting, and marine biogeography and biodiversity. Four regional training centres were also established in the framework of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy in the course of the three-year-period at KMFRI (Mombasa, Kenya), School of Marine Sciences-UEM (Quelimane, Mozambique), CRODT (Dakar, Senegal) and AFRICOG (Grahamstown, South Africa).

In addition, assessment of human resources, infrastructure and equipment capacities was conducted in the region, as well as some of the coastal erosion problems being observed in Congo and Gabon. During the session, some of the achievements of the project such as the Enhancing oceanography capacities in West Africa, and the Integrated data and information products and services for the management of oceans and coastal zones were also highlighted.

Concluding the session, the delegates adopted an ambitious work plan for 2015-2017 focusing on the strengthening of ocean observations in the African oceans and coasts by developing an ocean data portal through the participation in the 2nd International Indian Ocean Expedition. Commitments were also made to further advance collaborative studies on ocean forecasting and storm surges, harmful algal blooms, climate change scenario development, adaptation and mitigation, as well as marine biodiversity and biogeography.

The delegates also welcomed the collaborative framework involving the IOC-WESTPAC, the EAF Nansen project, World Meteorological Organization, and the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association. Wenxi Zhu from IOC/WESTPAC highlighted the importance of this partnership: “It creates the possibility to develop programmes that are strategic. We learn from our partners and together focus on training and capacity building for resources and knowledge to better understand the ocean”.

Lastly, the artwork book on The Stories of Africa’s Oceans and Coasts – as told by its children and youth was also launched during the session. The book contains a selection of more than 70 pieces of artwork on the theme “Living together with the oceans” organized by the Sub Commission in 2014 to mark the World Ocean Day (8 June 2014) and the African Day of Ocean and Seas (25 July 2014). The winners of the artwork competition in the category above 15 years were Angela Hoareau (School of visual arts, Seychelles), Lisette Roseline (Tourism Academy, Seychelles), and Keshni Soorkia (Windsor Girl College, Mauritius).

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO’s Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States was established as a framework to improve visibility, coordination and to ensure the efficient implementation of IOC programmes in Africa. IOC-Africa supports the Commission's marine scientific and research programmes, ocean services, ocean observing systems, capacity development and related activities in the region.
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