Government applauds UN effort in Delivering as One

The Government of Kenya has commended the UN System in Kenya for its commitment to working together with the government in promoting development in the country. Speaking at the UNDAF Medium Term Review Validation Workshop held on 6 June, 2016, Acting Director General of Public Debt Management Office, Mr. Jackson Kinyanjui described the MTR as a candid depiction of great progress in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. “The Framework has been solid in Kenya and perhaps we can share this with other countries during the High Level Meeting,” he said.

Head of the Resident Coordinator’s Office, Mr. Per Knutsson thanked the government for “offering the guidance and direction” that has seen twenty-seven UN agencies work with GOK and other partners deliver as one on the government’s development agenda.

The event which attracted over a hundred participants among them senior UN and government officials provided the opportunity for reflection on the achievements and challenges realized so far in the implementation of UNDAF 2014-2018.

The discussions in the workshop were focused on various issues arising from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
report on UNDAF’s four Strategic Result Areas (SRAs) namely Transformational Governance; Human Capital; Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth; Environmental Sustainability, Land Management and Human Security.

The Report which outlined results both at output and outcome levels observed, among other things, enhanced philanthropic and private sector engagement and the need to strengthen the resource tracking mechanism of the Framework.

The lessons learnt both in the implementation of UNDAF in the first half of the year and in the preparation of the MTR will contribute to an even better Annual Review scheduled for September at State House.

Africa Dependence on Primary Commodity, a Challenge for Development

Emerging lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa, at the University of Nairobi, it was noted that many resource-rich countries are experiencing slow growth, low human development and widespread poverty. While Kenya’s economic performance is above the 3.7 percent continent’s average growth at 5.5 percent, it is still vulnerable to high volatility of commodity prices.

UNDP Country Director, Ms. Amanda Serumaga said African countries tend to increase expenditures during booms and cut back during price declines, rather than ensuring smooth and sustainable levels of expenditures over the commodity price cycle. “There is a need for Governments to save more, spend less and spend wisely in order to guard against uncertainty and instability in case of volatility in the prices of primary commodities” she said.

The UNDP report indicates that Africa’s export revenues increased six-fold between 2001 and 2011, thanks to strong demand from middle-income economies such as China, Brazil and India. Between 2011 and 2014, due to a sharp decline in commodity prices, per capita growth on the continent decreased by half as
UN-Habitat establishes host community settlement development group in refugee project

UN-Habitat, together with Peace Winds Japan has been taking forward the project Planning for Integrated Refugee and Host Communities in Kalobeyi, Town, Kenya funded by the Government of Japan.

The second community meeting convened in Kalobeyi Town was attended by 40 participants from different age and social groups from different locations within the town’s administrative area. The community discussed the planning process considering the current situation of the settlement including challenges, resources availability and the collective community vision for the town.

The Assistant County Commissioner Mr. Richard Kimtutai and the Sub-County Land Administrator Mr. Simon Lokakwan welcomed the proposed project adding that it will support improving livelihoods and attract economic development. The community has particularly requested training and business support especially for women and the youth groups.

UN-Habitat team led the formation of a Settlement Development Group, with members from different social groups in Kalobeyi Town; to ensure a well-balanced representation of gender, age groups, ethnicity, religions, and tribal groups. The nominations came from the community members and finally 10 members were selected to represent local
administration, grassroots organizations, Community Based Organizations, youth and women groups, opinion leaders, other types of communal organizations and vulnerable groups in the project.

The need for cooperation with host community and local organizations was emphasized. UN-Habitat approach enhances participatory and inclusive planning by allowing community members to be involved in discussions that shape their future.

The Settlement Development Group will work with UN-Habitat throughout the planning process, including participatory planning workshops concerning the integration of refugee and host community in Kalobeyei area. The members will acquire knowledge on the importance of land use and town planning, supporting the project team in research activities, giving spatial planning insights and supporting community mobilization for implementing project activities on the ground.

The growth of Kalobeyei town will require considerable infrastructure investment based on a sound planning and design, in response to the urgency of planning and implementation of an integrated spatial plan for Kalobeyei. This will call for participatory and inclusive planning and community empowerment program supporting development and economic growth.

UN joins Government in launching Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement

Vocational and Technical Training PS Dr. Dinah Mwinzi speaks at the launch. (Photo by RCO/UNDP)

As the role of philanthropies in development becomes more apparent, there has been a growing concern over how philanthropic input can be harnessed in a way that significantly improves the lives of billions of the world’s poor.

The Government of Kenya and the UN System in Kenya have been at the forefront of a clamour for a more rewarding philanthropic engagement framework. As a result of the behind-the-scenes efforts, the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement in Kenya Initiative (GEPE) was launched on 29 June, 2016 at the Office of the Deputy President.

The Guidelines are a product of a comprehensive consultation process and will foster mutual recognition and collaboration between philanthropic actors, governments, development agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders on the basis of their respective, comparative advantages.

The launch was co-hosted by the Government of Kenya through the SIFA (Social Investment Focused Agenda) initiative in conjunction with the SDG Philanthropy Platform, UNDP, OECD netFWD, key philanthropy organizations, including EAAG and Kenya Philanthropy Forum as well as other development stakeholders.

Most speakers at the event underscored the need for partnership for effective delivery of development goals. “There is no way we will achieve sustainable
World Refugee Day Commemorated in Nairobi

UN Refugee Agency in Kenya joined the world in commemorating the strength, courage and resilience of the over 60 million refugees globally, and 600,442 refugees in Kenya during this year’s World Refugee Day. The event held at the National Museums of Kenya was themed ‘Get to Know Refugees, People like You and Me’ with key conversations focusing on UNHCR’s #WithRefugees Global Campaign.

The key highlight of the event was the 5 refugee athletes who will be competing in the Rio Olympics. The athletes were unveiled to a rousing applause from the refugees, the Government of Kenya officials, diplomatic corps, UN Agencies and partners that graced the occasion. The athletes expressed their gratitude to UNHCR, Tegla Loroupe Foundation and the International Olympics Committee for believing in them. “This is our day and we are very happy to be here,” said one of the athletes originally from South Sudan.

Tegla Loroupe, a legendary Kenya athlete and the founder of Tegla Loroupe Foundation that has been training the refugees for Rio Olympics, gave a moving testimony of her journey as a struggling athlete in Kenya and the peace races she has organised to unite communities, including those in Kakuma refugee camp, in partnership with UNHCR.

“Refugees should never lose their dignity,” said Tegla. “The refugees selected during the peace race have received professional training and five of them will represent ‘Team Refugees’ at the Olympics.” She thanked the International Olympics Committee (IOC) for giving refugees the life-changing opportunity. “The spirit of refugee athletes is there. They just need you and me to help them,” she added.

In his remarks, Mr. Raouf Mazou, UNHCR Kenya Country Representative thanked the Government of Kenya for their generosity towards refugees, the donor community, the United Nations and partners for supporting the Kenya operation. He also read a statement from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi, that read in part “UNHCR stands together with refugees, on World Refugee Day and every day – and on 19 September we want the world to stand with us. By
A national forum of women living with HIV and women’s leaders was convened in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 and 29 June to discuss sexual and gender-based violence, especially against women living with HIV.

Participants at the national forum, supported by the United Nations Development Programme and the national network of people living with HIV, in partnership with the National AIDS Control Council and UNAIDS, recognized the slow progress in realizing gender equality and women’s empowerment in Kenya.

The forum called for greater protection from, and response to, sexual and gender-based violence, including access to justice. The HIV and AIDS Tribunal of Kenya—the only HIV-specific statutory body in the world—was cited as a model that could be used to accelerate access to justice. It aims to protect and promote the rights of people living with and affected by HIV in Kenya by increasing access to justice. The forum participants agreed to engage with the tribunal to seek redress and information on preventing violence, especially against women living with HIV.

The forum stressed the importance of doing so we can send a message to world leaders that they must act.”

The U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Mr. Bob Godec said the U.S has increased its resettlement quotas from 70,000 to 85,000 yearly. “Refugees are no different from us. They are fleeing violence. The U.S stand with refugees. We stand together.” He added that humanitarian leadership is essential in the current refugee crisis. “Keep the borders open and keep aid flowing to provide for the most vulnerable people in the world.”

The Ambassador noted that humanitarian systems were under strain. He affirmed that the Summit to be held in September 2016 will leverage new resources aimed at addressing the growing global refugee crisis.

The days’ celebrations also highlighted the importance of empowering youth through art and music. This is currently being executed through the Artists for Refugees Project with support from Victor Ndula, a cartoonists and illustrator, and Henry Ohanga, a hip-hop artist commonly referred to as Octopizzo.

While maintaining that Dadaab camps will be closed, the Principal Administrative Assistant in the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Joseph Irungu assured refugees that repatriation will be done in a humane way. He further added that the Government will review the Refugee Act 2006 as well as the Refugee Policy.

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of holding the government accountable for the implementation of policies and guidelines to protect women from violence, a significant driver of new infections among women and adolescent girls.

Gender-based violence is a global health challenge—women who experience violence are more likely to acquire HIV and women living with HIV are more likely to be subjected to violence.

QUOTES

"WE NEED TO BREAK THE SILENCE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE; WHEN SITUATIONS DEFINE YOU, THEN THEY CONFINES YOU. WHEN WE BREAK THE SILENCE, WE DISEMPOWER THE ABUSER."

ZIPPORAH NDERITU KENYAN NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Dr Jantine Jacobi UCD Kenya gives remarks at the forum (Photo by UNAIDS)

"I CHALLENGE YOU, WOMEN LEADERS, TO HARNESS YOUR POWER AND FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS AND IDENTIFY ACTIONS FOR THE FUTURE. WOMEN NEED TO ACT AS A COLLECTIVE ENTITY TO ADDRESS AND RESPOND TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE."

NDUKU KILONZO, DIRECTOR NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL COUNCIL, KENYA

"IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT GIRLS AND WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. WE MUST ACCELERATE OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE HIV RESPONSE, AS CALLED FOR BY THE 2016 POLITICAL DECLARATION."

JANTINE JACOI UNAIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR, KENYA

"THE HIV TRIBUNAL SHOULD BE DECENTRALIZED TO THE COUNTY LEVEL, AND THEIR DECISIONS DOCUMENTED."

AMINA FORUM PARTICIPANT, MARSABIT, KENYA
Sixteen immigration and border officers from Kenya’s Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government have completed a five day training held from 11-15 July. The Training of Trainers workshop was conducted by IOM Immigration and Border Management experts from the African Capacity Building Centre, in coordination with IOM Kenya.

The training sought to equip the participating high ranking officers from the Department of Immigration Services, with skills and knowledge on document examination and fraud detection, as well as teaching skills, to enable them extend the same knowledge to the country’s frontline border officials. The training also covered the complex topics of human trafficking and smuggling.

Participants had an opportunity to present and share the acquired knowledge with the Director of Immigration Services Major-General (Rtd) Gordon Kihalangwa, who underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation at the border points saying, “We are already seeing the effects of technology and how it is influencing the flow of people and goods. I am glad that the collaboration between IOM and the Department of Immigration Services over the years has yielded a lot of positive development.”

He expressed his appreciation to the Government and People of Japan for their consistent support and generosity to the Government of Kenya, especially in the efforts to help Kenya boost its efficiency in immigration border management.

“We expect that this Training of Trainers will strengthen the capacity of immigration officers to manage borders, improve security and respond to various migration threats,” said John Njoroge, IOM Kenya’s Senior External Relations Officer.

Kenya experiences a number of factors which contribute to its vulnerability to terrorism, transnational crime, and irregular migration across its borders. The need to address security, the rule of law, and to secure its borders has been noted as a priority by the Government of Kenya in its Medium Term Plan for 2013 to 2017 and under the strategic plan Vision 2030.

With funding from the Japan Supplementary Budget, IOM is working closely with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government to improve the capacity of officials in the Department of Immigration Services, strengthen border infrastructure at key border crossing points and by so doing, help in countering transnational organized crime.
UNESCO contributes to Kenya’s Digital Literacy Programme by capacitating primary school teachers

UNESCO organized a two-day workshop on revision of the Kenya UNESCO Information and Communication Technology Competency Framework for Teachers (KICT-CFT) on 15 - 16 June 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the workshop was to improve the KICT-CFT online course in preparation for the training of teachers within the national roll-out of the Digital Literacy Programme.

The Digital Literacy Programme is Kenya’s national ICT program that aims to improve learning and build 21st century skills among primary school students through the use of digital technologies in education. Through the Digital Literacy Programme, it is expected that all 22,000 public primary schools in Kenya will be equipped with 1.2 million digital devices by the end of 2017.

Successful implementation of the Digital Literacy Programme will depend upon the capacity of primary school teachers and education managers to fully harness the power of technology to enhance student learning. Therefore, in light of the Framework Agreement signed by the Government of Kenya and UNESCO on cooperation in the implementation of the Digital Literacy Programme, UNESCO will assist the Ministry of Education in developing capacities of over 22,000 teachers and 22,000 head teachers in all public primary schools, 1,000 field officers, as well as fostering the use of accessible ICTs in Kenya.

The KICT-CFT online course has been developed and piloted nationwide in two groups of selected teachers. The second cohort of 59 teachers drawn from 47 counties received face-to-face and online trainings from January to May 2016. From the feedback gathered, they felt the course was relevant and beneficial to their professional development. They also expressed the importance of online facilitators for coordinating remote collaboration among the cohort.

“The teachers really appreciated the course, up to the end,” said Aggrey O. Joab, one of the online facilitators from KICD, “The cohort's online chat platform is still vibrant even after the course came to an end.”

At the workshop, online facilitators, content developers and technical experts made revisions in the course materials and facilitator guide according to teachers’ feedback. A strategic plan was also developed to guide implementation of the DLP at the next stage. The workshop brought together partners from the Ministry of Education, Teachers Service Commission (TSC), Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education in Africa (CEMASTEa), Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI), National ICT Innovation and Integration Centre (N13C) and Airtel Kenya.
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Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Child health

- 17,000 fewer children die each day than in 1990, but more than six million children still die before their fifth birthday each year.
- Since 2000, measles vaccines have averted nearly 15.6 million deaths.
- Despite global progress, an increasing proportion of child deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Four out of every five deaths of children under age five occur in these regions.

Maternal health

- Globally, maternal mortality has fallen by almost 50% since 1990.
- In Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Southern Asia, maternal mortality has declined by around two-thirds. But, the maternal mortality ratio – the proportion of mothers that do not survive childbirth compared to those who do – in developing regions is still 14 times higher than in the developed regions.
- Only half of women in developing regions receive the recommended amount of health care.

HIV/AIDS

- By 2014, there were 13.6 million people accessing antiretroviral therapy, an increase from just 800,000 in 2003.
- New HIV infections in 2013 were estimated at 2.1 million, which was 38% lower than in 2001.
- At the end of 2013, there were an estimated 35 million people living with HIV.
- At the end of 2013, 240,000 children were newly infected with HIV.

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91%, but 57 million children remain out of school.
- More than half of children who have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- An estimated 50% of out-of-school children of primary school age live in conflict-affected areas. Children in the poorest households are 4 times as likely to be out of school as children in the richest households.
- The world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys, but few countries have achieved that target at all levels of education.
- Among youth aged 15 to 24, the literacy rate has improved globally from 83 per cent to 91 per cent between 1990 and 2015.
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