Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kenya

Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, has been appointed United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kenya where he will lead and coordinate 25 UN agencies in the country. He will also serve as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Prior to this appointment, Chatterjee, an Indian national, was the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative in Kenya. In 1997 he joined the UN in Bosnia and over the next two decades served in Iraq, South Sudan, Indonesia, Sudan (Darfur), Somalia, Denmark, and Kenya. He has worked in UN Peace Keeping, UNICEF, UNOPS, the Red Cross and UNFPA.

Welcoming the appointment, Ms Ruth Kagia, Senior Advisor, International Relations and Social Sectors in the Office of the President of Kenya said, “Sid’s insightful understanding of clients’ needs as the UNFPA Representative in Kenya has translated into tangible gains in maternal, child and adolescent health. His relentless energy and focus on results has helped build relationships and networks of trust and confidence with the highest levels of Government, civil society, the private sector and development partners.”

Chatterjee is expected to continue his advocacy for women’s empowerment in Kenya where he has led notable initiatives to advance reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health.

Dr Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA’s Regional Director for East and Southern Africa said, “Sid resolutely pushed UNFPA’s mandate in the hardest to reach counties and service of the most vulnerable. He mobilized resources and partners in the private sector to join this drive to leapfrog maternal and newborn health. This bold initiative was highlighted by the World Economic Forum in Davos and Kigali.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
The National Migration Coordination Mechanism (NCM), a Government led inter-agency coordination platform that will be in charge of national migration issues in Kenya has been launched.

The body launched on 19 July, is tasked with facilitating interagency coordination, collaboration and information-sharing on migration concerns at the national level. It brings relevant Government ministries, departments and non-state actors to a common platform.

NCM was conceived from the findings and recommendations of a joint assessment by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and IOM in 2014. It also draws from the migration profile for Kenya launched by the Government with the support of IOM in 2015.

Speaking during its launch, the Director of Immigration Services, Maj. General (Rtd) Dr. Gordon Kihalangwa said the NCM provides a platform for stakeholders to enhance the understanding of migration realities and address the twin problem of duplication and wastage of resources.

“The inception of NCM comes at a right time, when Kenya and countries in the region are grappling with similar migration challenges,” he told a.

Among Chatterjee’s other career achievements include mobilizing the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement to join the eradication of polio initiative; negotiated access with rebel groups to undertake a successful polio immunization campaign in the rebel controlled areas of Darfur; led UNICEF’s emergency response when conflict broke out in Indonesia’s Aceh and the Malukus provinces; and oversaw UNICEF’s largest demobilization of child soldiers in South Sudan in 2001.

A prolific writer, Chatterjee’s articles have featured on CNN, Al Jazeera, Forbes, Huffington Post, Reuters, the Guardian, Inter Press Service, as well as the major Kenyan newspapers. He was recently profiled by Forbes magazine in an article titled, “Passionate Leader of UNFPA Kenya Battles Violence against Women, FGM and Child Marriage” http://onforb.es/1NbpZLF.

His early career was in a Special Forces unit of the Indian Army, where he was decorated in 1995 for bravery by the President of India.

Chatterjee holds a Master’s degree in Public Policy from Princeton University, USA and a Bachelor’s degree from the National Defence Academy in India.

Director of Immigration Services, Maj. General (Rtd) Dr. Gordon Kihalangwa stresses a point as he addresses participants. (Photo by IOM)

Participants pose for a group photo. (Photo by IOM)
workshop that brought together high level Government officials in Naivasha, Kenya.

In July 2012, IGAD member states adopted a Regional Migration Policy Framework (RMPF) to address the migration dynamics in the East and Horn Africa region.

To support the implementation of the RMPF at the national level, IGAD and IOM are supporting the establishment and strengthening national platforms and mechanisms for cooperation on migration.

NCM will now be domiciled at the Department of Immigration Services, within the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

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Malala Celebrates her 19th Birthday with Refugees in Dadaab

Today I turn 19 years old and I am here to speak on behalf of my unheard sisters of Somalia striving to get an education,” said Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and an advocate for girls’ education.

Amid the scorching sun, Malala braved the dusty and windy afternoon to encourage and cheer on girls pursuing education under difficult conditions. “We cannot talk about peace without your voice. I’m here to stand with you, as someone who knows how it is to flee their home in the middle of the night,” she said.

Incidentally, this was her first visit to dadaab that also coincided with her birthday, ‘Malala Day’, and the graduation of 75 refugee girls that have been undergoing a mentorship program on leadership and life skills with support from Malala Fund.

The education campaigner said she chooses to visit different regions where girls’ education has been neglected to celebrate her birthday. At 17, she spoke on behalf of Nigerian girls and at 18 she was championing for the rights of Syrian girls.

Malala could not help but worry about girls going back to Somalia especially if infrastructure such as schools and hospitals are not in place. She cited the example of Rahma, a Somali refugee whose thirst for education led her back to Kenya after her family voluntarily returned to Somalia in 2015.

“You have challenged society and you are heroes. I salute you for your courage,” Malala told Dadaab refugee camp girls. Out of the more than 340,000 refugees in the camp, 50% are school going children aged 3-17 years with an average enrolment of 61%. Of the 86,914 enrolled in education, 41% are girls.

Malala pointed out that 8.5 billion dollars a year could ensure that children affected by conflict go to school but unfortunately that was not the case.
United States International University (USIU) Leads in Becoming the First HeForShe Private Academia Champion

United States International University-Africa (USIU) became HeForShe champions on 4th August 2016, the first private university to commit to the HeForShe campaign in Kenya; through rebranding their Amka Dada Club to a HeForShe Club. The event was graced by the USIU Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, UN Women Deputy Country Director Ms. Karin Fueg, Dean of Student Mr. Robert Onsarigo, Prof. Scott Bellow, members of USIU rugby team and students from USIU.

The campaign which was officially launched in Kenya by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta on 26th November 2014 is a UN Women solidarity movement for gender equality that looks into mobilizing both men and boys as advocates and change agents to bring about gender equality.

The event saw USIU Amka Dada Club rebrand to a HeForShe Club and the institution become the first Private University to commit to the HeForShe Campaign through their Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza signing up as a HeForShe Champion.

“We all have a role to play especially men, towards gender equality because the future of this issue lies on our hands,” pointed out Amka Dada Vice Chair Ruth Nyambuto. She also invited her fellow students to join the rebranded club to champion for change in the university and to drive the gender equality agenda in their daily lives.

Speaking at the launch USIU Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza reiterated that gender equality is not a women’s issue but a human issue. “My commitment to Gender Equality is bound by the human rights commitment,” He pointed out. Prof. Zeleza illuminated that USIU has established a 24hr help line to address issues of sexual violence and a committee was set up to addresses sexual harassment in the University. “As a university we are cut out to achieve Gender Equality beyond enrollment,” he added.

In her remarks, UN Women Deputy Country Director Ms. Fueg explained that social transformation of both men and women is key in achieving Gender Equality. She challenged the students and Faculty present to not just sign up to the campaign but also make Gender Equality part of their daily lives. “I also urge you to join the newly unveiled HeForShe club, be part of developing a community that can chart out actions for taking forward the Campaign on campus.” Ms. Fueg stated.

Ms. Fueg concluded her remarks by reiterating UN Women’s commitment to working with the HeForShe Club and USIU administration to continue transforming the campus into a center of excellence, where all women and men be they staff or students can enjoy a safe environment, where they can pursue equal opportunities and enjoy equal rights.

A panel discussion that comprised of four men: Prof. Paul Zeleza USIU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Scott Bellows USIU Faculty Representative, Mr. Eanes Ongus USIU Staff Chair and the only male official of the now HeForShe Club Mr. Lewa Lionel.

The discussions revolved around socialization, gender roles and the roles of men and boys in the fight for gender equality. It was highlighted that; blaming of GBV victims should not be tolerated, women are much capable than men even in sports, doing house chores does not diminish any man, if we want to be complete in any process especially political we need to bring both a male and a female on the table of decision making, institutions need to be mindful of hurdles women face and put in place policies that solve these challenges among others.

USIU Vice Chancellor in response to a question from the audience on gender roles stated that, “we as men need to challenge each other towards gender equality and women’s empowerment and hold each other accountable to deconstruct patriarchy in the society.” He also highlighted that gender roles are constructed and can also be deconstructed at any time.
Kenya Reaffirms Commitment to Address Stigma and Discrimination

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination with a new national campaign titled “Kick out HIV stigma”. The campaign, which aims to engage the Kenyan youth through the Maisha County Football League, leverages the power of football to mobilize young people to end HIV stigma and link them to stigma-free HIV testing, treatment and care.

Championing the campaign, Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya received the league’s trophies, which he will award to the winning teams on World AIDS Day 2016 - 01 December.

HIV is significant health threat among adolescents and young people in Kenya. As per 2015 estimates, a total of 35 776 new HIV infections and 3 853 AIDS-related deaths occurred among young people aged 15 to 24. HIV-related stigma remains a significant barrier to many young people accessing HIV counselling and testing, as well as lifesaving HIV treatment.

The “Kick out HIV stigma” campaign intends to reach 10 million young people in Kenya with HIV messages; provide mentorship to 3 million through an innovative digital platform and HIV counselling and testing—including immediate linkages to HIV treatment for those who test HIV positive—to 1 million by 1 December 2016.

The campaign is led by a partnership between government, the Football Kenya Federation, civil society, the United Nations and Kuza Biashara, a social enterprise on innovative information technology.

QUOTES

“I AM PARTICULARLY CONFIDENT OF OUR CAPABILITY TO TURN THE TIDE ON HIV BECAUSE THE MAISHA COUNTY LEAGUE PROVIDES US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO HARNESS THE POWER OF SPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT.”

UHURU KENYATTA PRESIDENT OF KENYA

“NO SINGLE ENTITY, NO SINGLE INTERVENTION CAN END HIV STIGMA, NEW HIV INFECTIONS AND AIDS. WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER.”

JOYCE AMONDI, ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH CHAMPION

“I LOOK FORWARD TO A DAY WHEN ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN KENYA WILL LIVE IN A STIGMA-FREE SOCIETY.”

ELIJAH LEMAIYAN ADOLESCENT CHAMPION

“YOUNG PEOPLE MUST HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, HIV TESTING AND TREATMENT FREE OF STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION.”

JANTINE JACOBI UNAIDS COUNTRY DIRECTOR, KENYA
UN-Habitat trains Turkana youth in photography

A group of youths from Kakuma and Kalobeyei recently had the once in a lifetime opportunity to train in photography. The photography workshop was organized by UN-Habitat through the project Supporting Planning for Integrated Refugees and Host Communities, funded by the Government of Japan. The activity was supported by the implementation partner Peace Winds Japan and the Ward administration offices of Kakuma and Kalobeyei towns.

UN-Habitat approach involves public participation in all stages of the project, from information, mapping and research to participatory planning for understanding the need and vision for development from both refugees and host communities. To complement ground analysis on human settlements in Turkana County, UN-Habitat organized the special workshop involving Turkana youth living in Kakuma Town and Kalobeyei Town.

The workshops had two main objectives: on one hand the youth groups were led to discover elements of being settled as a community, through exploring typologies of living space and livelihood, elements of sustainability and self-reliance but on the other hand, the workshop provided valuable skill training in the art of photography.

Following the two objectives, the workshops were divided in two components: (i) decoding the livelihood and (ii) the technical training on photography. Through an urban exploration exercise, UN-Habitat to understand the youth’s view on the livelihoods of their towns. The technical training in photography was conducted by UN-Habitat photographer Julius Mwelu. The youth groups were assigned to photograph their livelihoods following 5 aspects: shelter, water, transport, economy and public space. Kalobeyei Town youth group added a 6th element – environment.

The technical skill enabled students to learn photography and exercise photojournalism. The selection of images reflects important elements of Turkana towns, and proved a very fast learning from the students.

Media Forum held on Rights, Safety and Security of Journalists in Kenya

Over the last three years, there has been an increased cases of intimidation, attacks and threats to journalists in Kenya and this has mainly been exacerbated by powerful actors within government, security agencies, and politicians in Kenya. These incidences have significantly undermined press freedom and access to information in Kenya.” Says Mr. William Oloo Janak, Chairman of the Kenya Correspondents Association (KCA).

It is in this regard, that UNESCO provided support to the KCA to hold three media forums on rights, safety and security of journalists on 08 July 2016 in Machakos County, 15 July 2016 in Mombasa County, and on 21 July 2016 in Nakuru County in Kenya. The forums aimed at sensitizing journalists about their rights and the need for basic safety and security awareness at work, given the increasing patterns of conflicts and threats against journalists in Kenya.

According to a new study report commissioned by UNESCO titled: “Supporting Safety of Journalists in Kenya: An assessment based on UNESCO’s Journalist Safety Indicators”, more than 60 journalists, seven of them women, were assaulted, attacked, harassed and intimidated in the course of their work in the last one year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
As a continued measure to mitigate on the increased threats to the rights, safety and security of Journalists in Kenya, Mr. Janak, indicated that the Kenya Correspondence Association (KCA) will continue to monitor and intervene in cases where, any political or other actors, threatened journalists. He further cautioned journalists against forging alliances with various competing political camps as this will expose them to a lot of danger especially in the wake of the forthcoming elections in August 2017.”

The forums attracted participation of 75 journalists, working in print and broadcast media from in Machakos County, Mombasa County, and Nakuru County in Kenya. During forums, participants were taken through the following elements; policy and legal measures/instruments governing the media sector; emerging challenges faced by journalists in the 21st century; and safety and security measures to consider when reporting in volatile and conflict zones and situations during elections.

This activity was organized within the framework of UNESCO’s Main Line of Action to promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression, press freedom and journalistic safety, and to generate knowledge and awareness of freedom of expression and media development in Kenya.

Kenya Celebrates the 2016 World Breastfeeding Week

This breastfeeding awareness and promotion platform was launched in a colourful ceremony that was presided over by the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Jackson Kioko. In his statement, Dr. Kioko made a case for directly linking breastfeeding to Kenya’s development agenda.

He said, “In addition to preventing over 13 per cent of all under-5 mortality, breastfeeding contributes to poverty reduction and provides food security for millions of infants, particularly those in difficult situations thereby ensuring zero hunger, which is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” Dr. Kioko recognized that mothers still require considerable support to breastfeed optimally and accordingly saying, “The Ministry of Health is working with the private and public sectors to provide workplace support for working mothers by creating appropriate breastfeeding spaces and flexi-time to allow them to exclusively breastfeed on return to work from maternity leave.”

UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) promote
breastfeeding, especially within the first hour of life stating that 77 million newborns – or 1 in 2 – are not put to the breast within that time. This deprives them of the essential nutrients, antibodies and skin-to-skin contact with their mother that protects them from disease and death.

The UNICEF Kenya Representative, Dr. Werner Schultink, stressed the importance of immediate initiation of breastfeeding and said, “The fact is breastmilk is so personalized for the baby and is adapted to the immediate living surroundings. The milk helps to shape the immune system of the child in relation to its local environment. No one single industrially-prepared product will ever be able to do this for a mother and for a child.”

The Capacity Building Workshop for Turkana County Government Officers on Gender Mainstreaming was held on 10th to 12th August 2016 at Pearl Hotel in Eldoret. The three day workshop with 35 participants from Turkana County Government officials drawn from Trade, Energy and Infrastructure, Education, Health, Pastoral economy, Agriculture and Gender sectors had the overall objective of enhancing the skills of the officers in gender mainstreaming within the policy setting and planning stages of the budget cycle. The expected outcome was to have an action plan on measuring gender indicators. The workshop is part of the activities within the UN joint programme in Turkana.

UN Women Kenya Team leader-Democratic Governance Robert Simiyu in his opening remarks on behalf of UN Women Country Director stated that development can only be achieved faster if men and women are on the same table. “Opportunities to women would make a great difference in our economy,” he pointed out

Hon. Charles Lokiyoto, Turkana County Public Service, Decentralized Administration and Disaster Management CEC and also the Co-Chair of SRA 1 stated that Gender Mainstreaming needs to assess concerns of both men and women. He explained that Turkana County had been the first county to have 4 ladies and 6 men in the County Executive Committees level.

Discussions on alignment of the

Lydia Rono assisting Mercy to position baby Kipchumba to breastfeed optimally. Lydia is a Community Health Volunteer (CHV) who offers support to mothers like Mercy in the community on breastfeeding, good infant feeding and general health issues. (Photo by Oloo/UNICEFKenya 2016)
Turkana County Government sector programmes FY 2016/17 to MTP II GEWE flagships made it clear that capacity building was necessary for the county to do more on institutionalizing gender mainstreaming.

“Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets out an agenda for national action to end such discrimination,” UN Women Kenya Programme Specialist, Strategic Planning & UN Coordination Nyambura Ngugi, explained as she gave a presentation on CEDAW.

Nyambura Ngugi presented three major frameworks for gender analysis being; Gender roles framework (Harvard), Triple roles framework (Carolyn Moser) and Gender analysis matrix (GAM).

“Specific gender disaggregated statistics is some of the information provided by Gender Analysis,” She pointed out. From her presentation a discussion arose among the participants on the two main tools in Harvard Framework; The socio-economic activity profile and the access and control profile outlining who is responsible for the different duties between the men, women, boys and girls. This led to a conclusion that socially there are roles meant for women e.g. cooking and reproductive duties while there are those meant for men e.g. offering security and decision making.

“Disparity of opportunities is directly related to education levels, network connections, regional dispositions, exposure and economic status,” explained Joseph after a power walk exercise. On the final day Kenya Robert Simiyu led the participants in an exercise on using the art of effective advocacy and using soft skills to promote gender equality. The exercise involved role playing with social groups pitching their ideas before decision makers i.e. the Governor, Principal Secretary Treasury or a Member of County Assembly. From the exercise it was concluded that evidence and outline the impact of an action was essential when conducting advocacy.

At the end of the workshop all sectors came up with an individual action plan based on Institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The action plans were to be reviewed by their other sector members and agreed on in the next workshop scheduled for September 2016 on Gender Responsive Budgeting.
In East Africa, Kenya is a growing hub for start-ups and young entrepreneurs. At the heart of it all is Nairobi, the capital city that has been named as the most intelligent city in Africa for two years in a row, where scholars, researchers and innovators are making their mark on society.

The Second Annual Nairobi Innovation Week (NIW) was an opportunity to learn and showcase new innovations and inventions that benefit children, adolescents and young people. Thousands of participants filled the University of Nairobi grounds where the event took place.

For UNICEF, this was a chance to inspire young innovators to create solutions for those that need it the most, particularly children. In Kenya, 6 out of 10 people are children, and out of a total of 20 million children, almost 80 per cent are subjected to at least one level of deprivation in access to water, good nutrition, education, health, or child protection services (source: Kenya child deprivation index).

There is – therefore – an urgent need to address these deprivations in a more sustainable and holistic way through innovations. To this end, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Nairobi. As one of the strategic partners, UNICEF has committed itself to hosting the Nairobi Innovation Week annually.

The UNICEF Kenya Deputy Representative, Patrizia DiGiovanni says, “Partnerships are central to the development of a sustainable innovation ecosystem in Kenya. The Nairobi Innovation Week provides Kenya-based innovation hubs and UNICEF with a unique opportunity to explore home-grown solutions that have a positive impact on realizing the rights of all children in Kenya and beyond its borders.”

The Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Information Communication and Technology Mr. Joseph Mucheru, who is the former head of Google Sub Saharan Africa, visited the UNICEF Innovation Stall and interacted with the exhibitors. “We need to work together to build need focused innovation ecosystem for Kenya” he said. “Innovative ICT partnerships and infrastructures are key to deliver sustainable and affordable innovations in Kenya.”

The Government of Kenya also pledged to invest in young innovators and committed Kenya Shillings 100 Million the University of Nairobi to cater for the innovation week 2017. Speaking during the official opening ceremony of NIW, His Excellency the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, lauded the University of Nairobi for being a beacon of innovation.

“Innovation is the engine that drives entrepreneurship; and it is entrepreneurship that opens up opportunities for our young people, and creates the jobs that sustain and reward them,” H.E. Kenyatta said. “But our innovation and hard work mean little if it does not improve people’s lives.”
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- In Southern Asia, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 1990. By 2012, the enrolment ratios were the same for girls and for boys.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school.
- Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.
- In 46 countries, women now hold more than 30% of seats in national parliament in at least one chamber.

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- In 2015, 91% of the global population is using an improved drinking water source, compared to 76% in 1990. However, 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines.
- Each day, an average of 5,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases.
- Hydropower is the most important and widely used renewable source of energy and as of 2011, represented 16% of total electricity production worldwide.
- Approximately 70% of all available water is used for irrigation.
- Floods account for 15% of all deaths related to natural disasters.
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