IOM Organizes Training Workshop for Border Management Committee

The Deputy Head of the Kenyan Border Management Secretariat (BMS), John Ondego has made an urgent plea to border officials manning border points in Western Kenya, Migori County, to embrace information sharing in order not to compromise border security.

Mr. Ondego was speaking at a two day training workshop that brought together 25 officers from various agencies including the Kenya Police, Department of Immigration Services and the Kenya Revenue Authority, based in Isebania, Muhuru Bay and Mbita border posts in Western Kenya.

“Information sharing is indispensable to a Government’s ability to maintain national security. Timely information sharing to all partners is critical in order to achieve a common goal. It is important that all the entities in the Border Management Committee work together,” he said.

The officers were trained on how to enhance synergies and information sharing among border agencies at respective border posts.

Among the challenges pointed out that afflict the agencies included suspicion, hoarding of information, overlapping mandates and superiority complex.

The participants were also trained on various aspects of illegal migration, one stop border posts, cross border community engagement, human trafficking, role of border officers in combating corruption, among other topical issues.
The training is designed to aid Government officials to develop an effective border management strategy for Kenya in today’s ever mobile, complex and challenging world.

The workshop held from 9 to 10 February was organized by IOM through the project “Improving Capacities to Manage Borders in Kenya” and funded by the Government of Japan.

The main components of this project include improving coordination between immigration, law enforcement and security agencies and improving the capacity of immigration border management agencies to effectively manage borders.

IOM will continue working with Government of Kenya in enhancing border and migration management in the country.

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Science and Women go hand in hand. Over the past 15 years, the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in science.

Unfortunately, due to gender stereotypes, social and cultural restrictions, girls’ education continue to be limited, and inadequate funding for research does not allow women to thrive and expand their horizons in the scientific and engineering world.


The conference, brought together members of the academic community, women scientists, chemistry, physics and biology teachers, engineering and mathematics, lecturers from Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, University of Johannesburg among others, the Forum for Women Educationalists (FAWE) and the private sector including Safaricom and Kenya Airways. It was an extraordinary opportunity for participants to share experiences and discuss ideas on how to promote science among women, and encourage girls to pursue careers in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The highlight of the round-table discussions was the official launch of the UNESCO/Government of Kenya Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Mentorship Tracking Tool and Website - an online system to keep track of the progress of the UNESCO Mentoring Girls in STEM Programme, now with 731 students mentored, in 80 schools from 25 of the covered countries (Twitter @ STEMKenya, Facebook: KenyaSTEM).

At the end of the conference, Dr. Alice Ochanda, UNESCO Programme Officer for Sciences and Gender stated that ‘If we are able to cascade knowledge, we can create strong networks of smart women willing to make a difference in the world.’
Turkana county delegates meet with UN-Habitat representatives

Four delegates from the Turkana county executive recently had a consultative meeting with representatives from UN-Habitat over three projects being implemented in Kalobeyei Town in Turkana west Sub-County. Kalobeyei is the ward hosting the new refugee settlement which is projected to host approximately 60,000 refugees fleeing from war from South Sudan and other neighboring nations.

The meeting was attended by the representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Transport and Public Works.

The support of the county officers is very important in planning and conducting the demonstration projects, while the Ministry of Trade support will be cross-cutting and they will work with the other ministries to provide business skills development, business registration, and licensing and value chain management. UN-Habitat was urged to make consultations from the agribusiness officers because they work closely with the ministry of trade in value chain management.

UN-Habitat partners with UNHCR and the county government in developing the settlement plan, while a number of county governments support sustainable Urban Development through the Kenya Municipal Program and implicitly urban development at local level.

UN-Habitat promotes a sustainable spatial planning function for the new refugee settlement, by partnering with Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) and Community Road Empowerment (CORE) Kenya to demonstrate sustainable infrastructure technologies for road construction, water retention and sustainable horticultural farming in the refugee and the host community.

Do-Nou (Japanese term meaning gunny-bags) technology is a conventional method of road and water pan construction and highly recommended by the Kenyan government in the Vision 2030. The two projects are highly labour intensive and a total of 45 youths were trained and later would form two companies for water works and Road construction, while the registration for the two companies is underway.
An intergovernmental immunization forum ended in Machakos, Kenya last week with a great promise for collaboration between the national health ministry and counties and with the support from partners.

The two-day meeting brought together about 200 health personnel from all 47 counties, the national office and partners who included WHO, UNICEF, Clinton Foundation, Maternal and Child Integrated Program, MCHIP, Health NGO’s Network, Hennet, Population Services Kenya, Kenya Aids NGOs Consortium, KANCO and others.

The discussions revolved around immunization planning, challenges in administration and financing of immunization, barriers to immunization, roles and responsibilities of the national and county governments in health and coverage and performance of immunization.

The conversations evidently demonstrated a high level of willingness to engage openly, to share challenges and lessons learnt in the different contexts and a renewed need for collaboration between national and counties for solutions.

The health teams have in the past three years experienced thorny issues in managing and sustaining immunization and health after the country devolved health following a new constitution which necessitated that county governments take responsibility for their health affairs. The transition from managing health at national level to counties has led to limited financial support and political will from within county governments, lack of clarity of roles between national and counties, inadequate service delivery, among others.

These challenges also led to various issues including data inconsistencies, untrained immunization service providers, inconsistent supply of commodities, minimal supervision, minimal M&E systems, inadequate budgets for immunization activities, Low facility/catchment population ratio, frequent breakdown of CCE, no backup energy, geographical barriers with limited outreach services, sociocultural influences and weak community participation.

Speaking at the Forum, Health Secretary Minister Dr Cleopa Maillu acknowledged the challenges and efforts being made by the country to sustain immunization. But he also outlined the need for improvement.

"Let us critically re-examine and interrogate our immunization performance, with a view to improving our immunization coverage that has stagnated at around 80% over the last few years," Dr Cleopa Maillu told the participants.

He said every year, 400,000 children out of the 1.5 million that are born in the county, do not receive lifesaving vaccines.

"Let us mobilize our communities to utilize available immunization services that the Government continues to offer free of charge," he added.

"It is a shared responsibility so let us join hands in protecting our children from vaccine preventable diseases."

Dr Jackson Kioko, DMS, called on partners to support the county find the best way of driving immunization to a successful end while some participants called for joint plans between the national government and county ones to ensure efficiency in budgeting and harmony in activities.

"We need constant consultations so we are clear about what aspects of health (and to what extent) are being handled by the national..."
Elgeyo Marakwet director William Kendago receives best award for county immunization performance from Dr Jackson. (Photo by WHO)

John Paul Omollo of Health NGOs, Hennet, receives an award from Dr Jackson Kioko, Director Medical Services, MOH. (Photo by WHO)

government and what is to be done by counties,” Dr Jack Magara of Nyamira county said.

The teams agreed on various strategic commitments to help improve immunization. These include:

• Sharing of immunization score card quarterly by the national level;
• Publishing county immunization performance in newspapers bi-annually
• Annual national and County forums to review progress on agreed action items (County and national leadership)
• Prioritize immunization services as a high impact-low cost intervention
• Advocacy to increase visibility and support for immunization by Governors and county assembly
• Improve data quality and use to inform immunization programming
• National program to negotiate with Kenya Medical Supplies Authority, Kemsa, to stock immunization devices and enable access by counties to sustain immunization services
• Counties to allocate funds for WHO prequalified cold chain equipment procurement
• Counties to forecast, plan, budget and track immunization expenditure with support from the national
• County managers to strengthen ACSM activities, community engagement and linkage to health services.
• National government to support documentation of advocacy and communication activities

These efforts will be complemented by a GAVI grant for supporting Health System Strengthening which will be implemented in the next five years. The grant is expected to deliver better immunization outcomes, including coverage and equity in a sustainable manner, through addressing system bottlenecks.

“To my ministry and my county colleagues, I do expect that this will act as catalytic funding that will spur further investments in Immunization service delivery,” Dr Maillu added.

Dr Collins Tabu, head of the National Vaccination and Immunization Programme, NVIP, called for accountability and responsibility adding: “we are held to account for whatever we receive, so we shall be expected to give our contribution to match what we get”.

The grant will benefit the whole country but also be used in focused counties with especially low coverage and unimmunized children.

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UN Secretary-General visit to Kenya (08 March 2017)
UN Secretary-General visit to Kenya (08 March 2017)
17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform our World by 2030

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2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE ACTION
14. LIFE BELOW WATER
15. LIFE ON LAND
16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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