Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin was a global leader of public health, women’s empowerment and young people, particularly focused on promoting human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as population and development.

Since his appointment as UNFPA Executive Director, he had spearheaded efforts by the international community to advance the milestone consensus of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. During his second term in 2015, Dr. Osotimehin introduced new reforms that have increased the effectiveness and efficiency of UNFPA and outlined a more robust vision for improving the lives of women, adolescents and youth around the world.

Dr. Osotimehin completed his medical studies at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1972 and received a doctorate in medicine from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, in 1979. He was named Professor at the University of Ibadan in 1980 and headed the Department of Clinical Pathology before being elected Provost of the College of Medicine in 1990. He had served as chair and member of several academic and health organizations, including as Chair of the National Action Committee on AIDS, between 2002 and 2007.

He had served as the Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of HIV and AIDS in Nigeria between 2007 and 2008 and as Nigeria’s Minister of Health between 2008 and 2010. He had received the Nigerian national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger, in December 2005.

Dr. Osotimehin was married and had five children.
The Government of Kenya with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched the revised Immigration Border Procedures and Operations Manual to capture new immigration laws, policies and procedure on 26 April 2017. The manual was first developed in 2006 and later revised in 2010 to accommodate further changes.

Since then, the Government has enacted new immigration laws and policies, key among them; the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act 2011, the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act Regulations 2012 and the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol in 2010 and the EAC One Stop Border Posts Act2016. In 2014, the government amended the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, under the Section 75 of the Security Laws (Amendment) Act by adding Section 5A-5D to establish Border Control and Operations Co-ordination Committee (BCOCC) to enhance border efficiency and inter-agency coordination in border management.

Additionally, instability, radicalization and armed conflict in neighbouring countries have created an uncertain environment for immigration in Kenya which has been addressed in various policy documents including the revised manual.

Consequently, these new developments will help address various migration challenges facing Kenya in today’s ever mobile, complex and challenging world.

Speaking in Nairobi at the launch, the Director of Immigration Services, Maj. General (Rtd) Dr. Gordon Kihalangwa said that the revised manual will aid border officials tackle a myriad of migration challenges facing Kenya.

“Human trafficking, terrorism, and document fraud are some of the complex challenges we are currently facing at our border posts,” said Dr. Kihalangwa.

On his part, IOM Head of Kenya County Office, Mr. Mike Pillinger, noted that the manual is a result of re-assessing immigration and border management against a backdrop of evolving migration trends, policies, profiles, legislations and regulations.

“It pools pertinent up-to-date policies and procedures for the guidance of immigration officers in their daily work at the border posts across Kenya and headquarters in Nairobi,” said Mr. Pillinger.

Speaking at the event, the Minister-Counsellor, Mr. Yoshihiro Katayama from the Embassy of Japan said the revised manual is a significant step towards the enhancement of border management in Kenya.

“Enhancement of better border management in Kenya means it will help the country mitigate security risks and reduce anxiety,” pointed out Mr. Katayama.

The revision of the Immigration Border Procedures and Operations Manual is one of the activities under the Immigration and Border Management (IBM) project that IOM is implementing in partnership with the Department of Immigration Services of the Government of Kenya, and supported by funding from the Government of Japan.
UNESCO Regional Office of Eastern Africa organizes scientific Camps for Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

The Meru Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp at Kaaga Girls’ High School was the 5th since November 2014 when UNESCO initiated the STEM programme in Kenya, with an aim to unlock the potential in secondary school girls and inspire them to embrace STEM courses and careers. The 2017 camp was organized from 10 to 14 April 2017 at Kaaga Girls’ High School in Meru County and a total of 240 students and 30 accompanying teachers (mainly science teachers) from Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir and Isiolo Counties in North Eastern and Meru, Tharaka Nithi and Embu Counties in Upper Eastern regions participated in the camp.

So far, a total of 32 Counties out of the 47 have been covered by the UNESCO/Government of Kenya STEM programme with 971 secondary school girls mentored in Mathematics, Physics, Agricultural sciences, Marine and Ocean Sciences as well as in different fields of engineering - electronic and telecommunication engineering, Geospatial and Space Technology Engineering and Aeronautical Engineering.

During the camp, students also have the opportunity to be exposed to the available opportunities in Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions, such as technology oriented and engineering courses at diploma level among others. Students were also mentored on life and survival skills for women and girls. The Meru camp was organized in partnership with Meru University and Meru Polytechnic, that provided their institutional premises for exposure to the learning environment for the students.

To support the positive attitude created in students by the mentorship talks, the accompanying science teachers also had a session on gender responsive teaching of the sciences. While acknowledging the importance of the programme, the Meru County Director for Education, Dr. Maina requested UNESCO to incorporate science teachers from her county, particularly Physics and Mathematics teachers in the programme. This was accepted and the participation of the additional teachers was supported by their sub-counties.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
UNESCO organizes regional workshop for a more effective management of teacher deployment in the basic education sector of Central, Eastern and Southern Africa

UNESCO’s International Institute for Educational Planning, IIEP Pôle de Dakar, organized a regional workshop in Kenya on the management of teacher deployment in the basic education sector of Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, from 17 to 19 May 2017 in Nairobi. This workshop, the second of its kind after the workshop organized in Dakar in July 2016 for the countries of West Africa, brought together a hundred executives, teachers’ unions, researchers, international experts and technical and financial partners.

The issue of teacher deployment is fundamental to the success of the international community’s commitments to education. The recent Education 2030 framework for action refers explicitly to this issue by committing to “substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries.”

In African countries, challenges related to teachers are generally approached from the angle of recruitment, training and remuneration practices. While these aspects are more than essential, the way in which teachers are allocated, deployed and utilized has not been given the same attention to date. Yet, beyond the considerations related to equity and quality of education, better teacher allocation could significantly increase the efficiency of public expenditure on education.

The workshop reached its objective to have a fruitful debate among fifteen African countries on teacher deployment and to capitalize on best practices and innovative tools in the region.

UNESCO presented actions and legal frameworks for the protection of cultural heritage in armed conflict during a training course on International Humanitarian Law

UNESCO gave a presentation on the “Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict” during the 21st Course in International Humanitarian Law for Humanitarian Professionals and Policy Makers, which was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The week-long course, was held from 23 to 28 April 2017 in Naivasha, Kenya. It brought together over 20 participants from around the world ranging from Legal Officers, judges, representatives of UN agencies and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Refugee Officers, researchers and policy analysts from countries including: Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Russia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Uganda, and the United States of America.

This presentation equipped participants with a clearer understanding of the provisions of the 1954 Convention as well as the synergies of UNESCO instruments in the field of culture to protect cultural heritage. Moreover, the #UNITE FOR HERITAGE campaign was also presented, along with the Strategy for the Reinforcement of UNESCO’s Action for the Protection of Culture and the Promotion of Cultural Pluralism in the Event of Armed Conflict, the new UNESCO Military Training Manual for the protection of cultural property, the UN Security Council Resolution 2347 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the first ever G7 Culture Ministers’ meeting, which adopted the “Florence Declaration”, recognizing the distinctive role of culture as an instrument for dialogue, reconciliation and response to emergency situations, and calling for common and coordinated action to strengthen the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

Innovative HIV Prevention in Kenya: Launch of the Self - Test kits and Preps

There are around 1.5 million people living with HIV in Kenya, around 400,000 of whom are unaware of their HIV+ status. If people do not know their status, it is impossible for them to access life-saving treatment.

There are also high numbers of new HIV infections, particularly among young people and among key populations. In 2015, there were an estimated 78 000 new HIV infections in Kenya. And testing rates are low, especially among men, meaning they are not able to benefit from treatment.

On May 5, 2017, the Government of Kenya launched two innovative
technologies that it hopes will bring an end to the AIDS epidemic—self-testing for HIV and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV infection.

The Kenyan Ministry of Health launched the Be Self Sure campaign to encourage people to get tested for HIV. As part of the campaign, the government is making HIV self-test kits available through public and private health facilities and selected pharmacies for around US$ 8 each, a low price which was negotiated in a partnership between government of Kenya and the private sector. From July 2017 the government hopes to make the test kits available for free in public health facilities.

For people testing negative for HIV, the site urges them to talk to their health providers about HIV prevention options, including PrEP, a medicine that people at higher risk of HIV infection can take to prevent becoming infected with the virus. PrEP is being rolled out as part of the campaign, with the Government of Kenya offering it free of charge in selected public health facilities as part of a combination HIV prevention programme for people most at risk of HIV infection. The medicine will also be available for around US$ 36 dollars a month at private hospitals and pharmacies for anyone wishing to use it.

By launching these new initiatives, Kenya continues to affirm its position as a leader and innovator in efforts to end the AIDS by 2030.

UNESCO partners with key institutions to celebrate World Press Freedom Day in Eastern Africa

The 2017 World Press Freedom Day has offered a platform for fostering Safety of Journalists, Press Freedom and for addressing hate speech concerns in Eastern Africa, thus contributing to achievement of just and peaceful and inclusive societies as outlined in the SDG 16.

Under the global theme “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies”, the media partners in Eastern Africa, organized various events at the national level, to mark World Press Freedom Day.

Key focus in Kenya, Rwanda, Djibouti, Somalia and in South Sudan focussed on why it is vital to strengthen free and quality journalism, balancing between fundamental rights including freedom of expression, defense of human dignity, liberty and equality, how the media can effectively contribute to the achievement of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, by interrogating the interrelationships between freedom of expression, hate speech, justice for all and the rule of law.

“There is a need to strengthen free and
It is 11:00 AM and 33 degrees as we leave Lodwar Town in the heart of Turkana County headed to Nakata Pan approximately 7 KM away. I am accompanied by Mrs. Susan Aletia, the Gender Advisor to Turkana County. 20 minutes into our drive we take a detour into the vast bare land with no clear defined roads for another 45 minutes where we arrive at a small community. As we approach we spot little children seeking refuge from the scorching heat under scattered almost dry trees.

On the horizon of the dust of Turkana County, appears a faint figure balancing a water pot on her head. As the figure draws closer, you can make two more people walking alongside her. As she draws closer, the coloured beads on her neck are now visible hanging loosely around her neck. She enters her homestead and spots us, she beckons her older daughter to assist her unload the water pot from her head.

Welcome to Loturerei, she says extending her hand. I am Paulina Epung’u, and these is my home. I hope the sun wasn’t too harsh on you.

Turkana County is one of the arid areas of Kenya hard hit by the on-going drought in the Horn of Africa that affects 2.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Up to three consecutive years of poor rains have diminished food production and exhausted people’s coping capacities, while chronic and intensifying pasture and water related conflicts in the region have driven up displacement. With the latest forecasts indicating below- to near-average rains in the region, the number of people severely food insecure is expected to rise further to 4 million people.

“This is my routine three times a day,” she expunged. “I have to fetch water for our use and for the goats and sheep too as they are also weak to even move. On a good day we get water from a solar water pump about a kilometre from here. The pump serves the whole of this area so it is always crowded and you have to wait for more than 30 minutes and hope that the sun does not set while you wait as the water will go too. But whenever the pump breaks down, which happens often we now have to dig along the dry river beds for remnants of light showers… that is where am from now.”

Scarce water resource has severely undermined livestock production – a mainstay of livelihoods in Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands, which have been hardest hit by the drought. There is clear evidence of a link between decreasing forage availability for livestock and a rise in malnutrition among children, emphasizing the critical importance of keep breeding or milking animals alive and productive.

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She tells us that as a result of the drought the workload as women has increased. “We have to now walk longer distances to fetch water for domestic use and also for the livestock and also fetch wild fruits for the goats as they are weak now and cannot even move. It is hard as you have to shake the trees to gather the fruits which is tiresome and barely enough. I had to pull my daughter out of school to assist as I could not even afford the school fee.”

Approximately 10 kilometres from Loturerei is Nakata Pan where we meet Akidor Lopunga Nangiro, an elderly woman living with her two children, daughter-in-law and 4 grandchildren. The effects of the drought are clear as we approach her hut, where the carcass of a goat lies.

She can barely recall the last time they had meaningful rain. “We just have light showers that disappear immediately. This is worse as we rely on livestock which are now dying, if you had come yesterday you would have found two goats that just died. You can see the carcass outside there.”

It is now midday and I ask whether there is any food for the children, her response is heart-breaking. “We have had to develop coping mechanism if we are to stay alive. We don’t have anything for lunch and even in the evening it depends. If we get it fine if we don’t we will still sleep. Whenever we wake up, we do not anticipate any meal, on a good day we have single meal.” We are desperate and not sure of our survival. This drought will finish our livestock and eventually all of us if nothing is done.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that 42 percent of households in Turkana report skipping days without food.

On 10 Feb 2017, the National Government declared the drought a National Disaster prompting the United Nations in Kenya to launch the US$165.8 Million drought appeal. According to the UN OCHA US$54.5 Million of the US$165.8m funding requested for the appeal has been received so far from development partners and UN Agencies.

UN Women is working with National Drought Management Authority NDMA, to ensure that all the interventions take into considerations the levels of vulnerabilities of women and children through capacity building.

The funding appeal is meant to respond to the emergency situation through an inter-sectoral approach. Livelihood interventions are not only essential to prevent destitution, poverty and acute malnutrition, but also effectively improve long and short term nutrition and save lives. Rapid provision of animal feed and water, as well as animal health programmes, combined with timely purchase of animals for slaughter destocking will protect core breeding herds while providing a critical source of protein to communities’ most vulnerable members and injecting financial resources into local markets.

As the sun sets and we depart for Lodwar, my uttermost desire is that through these interventions, we are able to restore hope to the women and children of Nakata Pan. I leave with a much stronger dedication knowing that these women have bestowed their survival hopes on us.
Thank you very much for this opportunity, my name is Shiluni Shirim,” says the 12-year-old Amref Health Africa Alternative Rights of Passage Ambassador. She continues to articulate very passionately how she has been speaking to her peers in the village about Female Genital Mutilation shedding more light on the effects it will have on them if they continue practicing and how she has positive response.

National Gender and Equality Commission launched a book; Gender Based Violence in Kenya: The Economic Burden on Survivors on 25th April 2017 in Nairobi. The room is filled with approximately 300 guests who are very passionate about gender issues and on stage a panel discussion on FGM is going on.

According to 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 45% of women between 15 – 49 years have experienced physical or sexual violence in Kenya. UN Women Kenya as part of its mandate in partnership with organizations like National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), fights Gender Based Violence in the country through support for an enabling environment to address gender based violence, in particular ensuring legislation and policies in national and target counties are adopted, known and implemented and are informed by voices of women survivors of violence.

In Kenya, particularly in the Maasai community the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which falls in the bracket of Gender Based Violence is still a reality. The practice is grounded on believes and myths in the community which are passed over to generations.

Among the panelists is a young girl dresses in traditional Maasai attire with her neck fully covered in beads. She has the rooms’ attention, everybody is very eager to hear what a very young girl would have to contribute towards the issue being discussed. Her confidence is visible as she stretches her hand for the microphone when it’s her turn to contribute.

“In a few years’ time, I envision a country that observes child rights and no longer practices FGM,” 12-year-old Shiluni Shirim explains highlighting her source of motivation. Shiluni who hails from Loitoktok Kajiado County took it upon herself to speak about the effects of FGM to her peers and villagers after attending a training on Alternative Rights of Passage (ARP) organized by Amref Health Africa in 2015.

“Female Genital Mutilation is very wrong and has major side effects especially during birth,” she explains.

At her age she has been to many forums to speak about FGM courtesy of Amref Heath Africa. She clarifies that since she began speaking to her peers who she meets at school, church and in the village about the effects of FGM she has seen a reduction of the levels of girls who agree to have the cut. “I have been fighting the myth that we were told growing up that, if you do not agree to undergo FGM you will struggle when giving birth which can result to death,” she explains.

Shiluni owes her success to her father who being a former politician has been her mentor. Being a very influential man he has opened avenues for her to meet senior people in the country. “My father accompanies me everywhere I go and protects me when the elderly women come to attack me for fighting the practice they have had for many years,” She clarifies.

The young girl looks forward to go

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
far and wide to share about the positive changes she has seen in her community regarding Female Genital Mutilation including speaking in the UN General Assembly. With a lot of optimism, she explains that Female Genital Mutilation being a real Gender Based Violence issue will one day be history not only within the Maasai Community but in Kenya.

“Children should not be taken for granted because they are the leaders of tomorrow,” she concludes before rushing to have a chat with the National Gender and Equality Commission Chairperson Madam Winfred Lichuma.

Gender Based Violence is mostly embedded on cultural beliefs which are in most cases impacted through socialization. Tapping into young leaders like Shiluni will help change the narrative of Kenya where young girls and boys will be agents of change contributing to the shift of mindset on socialization especially on harmful practices in the country.

Media Editors Prepare For Elections Reporting

The Training of Trainers served as a platform to expose the editors to the content in the Media Council of Kenya Guidelines for Elections coverage manual with the aim of providing guidance to the methodologies to use in adult training and review reportage. Un Women Kenya in partnership with Media Council of Kenya under the Strengthening Electoral Processes in Kenya Project, is running subsequent trainings for journalists in all the counties in support of efforts at entrenching a culture of balanced and fair reporting in line with the guidelines in 2017 elections.


Dr. Nancy Booker former journalist and currently a Journalism Lecturer at Multimedia University, contributing to discussions during the Media Council of Kenya Training of Chief and Sub-editors on Elections Reporting held on 6th and 7th May 2017 in Machakos. (Photo by UN Women)

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Social Media Training for UN Communication Group (17-18 May 2017)

- Esther Kamande, UN Visitors Service explaining what she has learnt. © UNIC Nairobi
- Philip Ogola (Middle) with some of the UN Communication Group staff from UNIC © UNIC Nairobi
- Some of the member staff in a group discussion. © UNIC Nairobi
- Staff in a training session. © UNIC Nairobi
- UN Communication staff in a group discussion. © UNIC Nairobi
- Mr. Philip Ogola and the UN Communication staff in training session. © UNIC Nairobi
- Training session going on at UNON. © UNIC Nairobi
- Member staff concentrating on the lesson taught on social media. © UNIC Nairobi
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