UN-Habitat hosted various government officials and experts in Turkana County in a workshop to discuss the content of the draft plan for Kalobeyei Refugee Resettlement. The plan included potential issues and development projects needed for the implementation of the settlement scheme.

Mr. Mark Ewoi Ewesit, Chief Officer from Kenya’s Ministry of Lands, Shelter and Urban Development, and Mr. Yo Ito, representative from the Government of Japan opened the workshop, highlighting the collaborative efforts between UN-Habitat, the County Government and refugees and host communities. The workshop highlighted the importance of urban strategies requesting specific regulations to allow for a comprehensive, comprehensive, comprehensive.
integrated and sustainable settlement development.

UN-Habitat became part of the implementation team of Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Program (KISEDIP) in 2016. This is a Turkana-based initiative chaired by UNHCR, facilitates collaboration and coordination between the Government of Kenya, UN agencies, development actors, the private sector and the civil society to build sustainable services and economic opportunities in Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement.

Given the circumstances of a continuous influx of refugees, Turkana County sought an alternative approach to hosting refugees that can leverage the opportunities related to refugee settlements ability to stimulate sustainable growth. UN-Habitat in partnership with UNHCR, the County Government of Turkana and other partners prepared an integrated spatial plan for the Kalobeyei Settlement, aimed at demonstrating sustainable approaches to human settlements development. The Spatial Plan, which has been formulated through a participatory process over a period of one year, is to be submitted to the County Government of Turkana, both as part of the collaboration process and also as part of the requisite plan approval process.

The Spatial Plan is setting a spatial framework for coordinating programmes and projects for the other components towards the coordinated implementation under development and humanitarian interventions. The plan has been developed based on a comprehensive socio-economic and mapping analysis conducted by UN-Habitat, as well as on a deeply participatory process involving refugee and host communities, local experts as well as international humanitarian and development organizations based on the ground. It also gets continuous support and contribution from expert officers from the County Government of Turkana.

UNDP Annual Report 2016 is out!

UNDP Kenya has released the 2016 Annual Report for the country office. The report reflects on UNDP’s contribution to the development agenda in Kenya, in line with United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF and the delivery of Sustainable Development Goals SDGs.

The 2016 report further shares the development in impact of UN’s collective effort in partnership with the national and sub-national government in the areas of transformative governance and accountability; community security, social cohesion and resilience; environmental sustainability, renewable energy and land management; productive sectors and trade as well as mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals

You may view and download the report from the webpage: http://bit.ly/2tGTODD or on ISSUU or you may read the attached document.

TIP: The annual report is best viewed from a 2page perspective.

For comments and feedback contact: communication.ken@undp.org

Kenya commits to pre-elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2021

Kenya is building on its achievements to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In the space of four years, new HIV infections among children 0–14 dropped from 13 000 in 2013 to 6 100 in 2016. This success was motivated by the Global Plan towards the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive and has been attributed to concerted political and technical actions within all 47 counties of Kenya. To sustain this momentum,
Kenya has introduced an ambitious new framework for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The Kenya Framework, launched by Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of Kenya, at a recent leadership summit, contains a declaration to seek validation of pre-elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis by 2021. The framework aims to ensure that children start free of HIV, stay free of new HIV infections and remain AIDS free.

Recognizing that validation needs to be undertaken at national and county level, all 47 counties met before the summit, to translate the seven strategic directions of the framework into a context-specific business plan.

The summit was also held to celebrate the achievements of the First Lady’s “Beyond Zero Campaign” to control HIV and promote maternal and child health. Participants praised the campaign for creating sustained momentum for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission response through the donation of mobile clinics to all counties, reinforcing community outreach and public awareness to ensure that a child is born free of HIV and mother stay alive and healthy.

The summit saw the graduation of 250 mother-baby pairs who successfully completed the 18 months prevention of mother-to-child transmission interventions cascade. These graduation ceremonies encourage mothers to attend the full range of post-delivery visits and thus reduce loss to follow up. Some of the “graduated” mothers openly living with HIV continue to serve as model mothers in their communities, to encourage other mothers to join the programme.
UNESCO organized a 3-day training workshop for community radio presenters from 29 to 31 May 2017 on editorial programming, monitoring matters, gender mainstreaming and investigative journalism in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacity of community radio presenters and equipping them with requisite journalism skills to enable them to hold local County Governments accountable and to keep their local audiences well informed.

During the workshop, participants were taken through the topics including; editorial principles and guidelines for broadcasting, radio formats, ethical content generation, gender and radio programming, media ethics for the practice of journalism in Kenya, media programming code for broadcasting in Kenya among others.

The workshop involved 14 radio presenters comprising of 8 men and 6 women drawn from 4 community radios namely; Baliti FM (Isiolo county), Bulala FM (Busia county), Koch FM (Nairobi county) and Kwale Ranet FM (Kwale county).

This workshop was organized as part of UNESCOs continuing media development initiatives in the region under its ongoing Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) funded projects themed: “Empowering Local Radio stations with ICTs” in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

“It is important that radio managers should consider the target audience when formulating in-house editorial principles and guidelines. Successful enforcement of the editorial principles and guidelines only depends on how well they are understood by all staff at each radio stations.”

Victor Bwire, Deputy Director at Media Council of Kenya

“I am very happy to have attended this training workshop on editorial programming, gender mainstreaming and investigative journalism. This workshop has enabled me appreciate the importance of working within editorial principles and guidelines as a journalist practicing in Kenya.”

Ms Nasibo Abduba, News Editor and Reporter at Baliti FM
UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa hosted the sub-regional workshop on mobilizing higher education and distance learning assets, capabilities and networks. This workshop was held to help accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) and Agenda 2063 literacy targets. The UNESCO Institute jointly organized the workshop for Lifelong Learning (UIL) in collaboration with the University of Nairobi and the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja.

It was discussed that one way to improve illiteracy levels (SDG9) is to make use of the resources that exist across the region, including in higher education and distance learning.

The workshop brought together some of the most distinguished African minds, enthusiastic to drive the literacy agenda of the continent forward in and beyond their respective countries. After three days of intense deliberations, the participants formulated indicative strategies for mobilizing higher education and distance learning assets and capabilities to help accelerate progress towards quality education in their respective countries. The key strategic actions outlined in the Workshop’s outcome document included the following:

- Tertiary institutions of learning can design flexible programmes, which can help train facilitators of literacy teaching in areas where literacy levels are lowest.
- Universities can support the development of implementation capacities of government bodies in charge of adult learning and education;
- Universities can provide the much-needed data essential for planning relevant lifelong learning and adult and continuing education.
- Higher education institutions can conduct action research on key issues and challenges, for example reasons for the deep and persistent gender disparities.
- Universities can lobby and advocate for increased funding for youth and adult literacy.
- Universities and distance learning centers could promote and facilitate the use of appropriate information and communications technology (ICTs), especially mobile technology, in expanding literacy opportunities.
Kenya marks World Refugee Day 2017

On 20th June, Kenyans marked World Refugee Day at the University of Nairobi Graduation Square. The event was attended by hundreds of refugees, the country’s Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government, senior government officials, UN representatives, diplomats, donors, and the UN Refugee Agency’s partners.

The day was marked days after UNCHR released its annual Global Trends Report, which stated that at the end of 2016 there were 65.6 million people forcibly displaced worldwide – some 300,000 more than a year earlier.

Nyachuol Ruai, a refugee for 20 years addressed the crowd. She was born in Gambela, Ethiopia and raised in Kakuma refugee camp in North-Western Region of Kenya.

“It has not been easy living here knowing that I have a country. Despite all that, I am not giving up on life because the status of being refugees is not permanent. Peace will prevail in my country and other countries where my fellow refugees come from.”

UNHCR Kenya Representative Mr. Raouf Mazou delivered the World Refugee Day statement by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. The message emphasized on the resilience of refugees and the need to find solutions for them.

“We honour the resilience and courage of more than 65 million people who have been forced to flee war, persecution and violence. It’s also a moment to recognise those communities and people around the world who receive refugees and the internally displaced in their midst, offering them a safe place, and welcoming them in their schools, their workplaces and their societies” Read the message in part.

The Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government Hon. Rtd. Major Gen. Joseph Nkaiserry who graced the event also acknowledged Kenya for hosting refugees.

While making reference to the day’s theme, #WithRefugees, he said that the theme resonated well with the United Nations General Assembly’s declaration in September 2016, where world leaders agreed to work towards long term solutions for refugees. “This resonates well with the Government’s efforts as we have continued to protect refugees even in the face of social economic challenges.” He added that

The Cabinet Secretary and UNHCR Kenya Country Representative spoke about the IGAD Special Summit which was held in Nairobi in March this year. During the summit, Governments echoed the need to protect refugees as well as finding durable solutions for the protracted refugee situation within the region.

The Cabinet Secretary called on partners to support the Government of Kenya in four areas; addressing the root causes of conflict in the region, prioritizing development activities to address poverty eradication in the region,
actively supporting refugee hosting countries in order to lessen their burden, and offering support to countries in conflict to solve conflicts peacefully.

“As we support those returning, we will ensure that the process is carried out humanely and in a dignified manner.” He said about the ongoing voluntary returns of Somali refugees.

So far, more than 67,000 refugees have been supported to return home under the voluntary repatriation programme.

The speakers stressed the need for the international community to continue supporting the region in the management of refugees as well as finding durable solutions for them.

The Government of Kenya and it’s people were also thanked for the hospitality throughout the years.

The event was also commemorated with cultural dances from different nationalities as well as Kenyan citizens.

It served as an important reminder calling on everyone to stand with refugees who are ordinary individuals living in extraordinary circumstances.

As at the end of May 2017, Kenya was hosting 491,000 refugees and asylum seekers, half whom are women and children.

Brussels hosts expert group meeting on SDGs indicators

The “expert group meeting on geospatial definitions for human settlements indicators of the SDGs” organized by UN-Habitat brings together leading experts on the detection of built-up areas and on the identification and classification of what is urban and what is rural. A standard definition of the city for purposes of global reporting is a requirement for monitoring the SDGs and will assist to explore implications of the urban extents on land indicators including those based on rural definitions.

This key component of monitoring the SDGs forges a new spatial definition for cities and has been an issue of great interest for national statistical offices, civil society participants, academics and policy makers. Many of the SDG indicators are quite sensitive to where the boundary...
between rural and urban areas is drawn. To ensure comparability of reported results, a harmonized global definition is needed. This will facilitate exchanges and comparisons across national borders and within nations.

At this meeting, two methods have been proposed for defining what is rural and what is urban, and for identifying the area of the city. The first method, presented by the European Commission, is currently being used by all EU and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and has been endorsed by the World Bank. It has been applied globally. This method relies on population density and city size at a 1km grid level. The second method, presented by New York University, relies primarily on an assessment of the density of a built-up area, and applies various rules to create a unified urban boundary for cities. This method has been used to create a globally representative atlas of 200 cities in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. It is currently in use in four countries for the purpose of mapping change in urban land cover.

Tests conducted by the European Commission, in coordination with New York University, revealed a surprising degree of overlap between the two methods. Prior tests conducted by the European JRC revealed a high degree of overlap regardless of spatial resolution or temporality. This surprising result indicates that the two methodologies are rapidly converging and, indeed, represent the same universe of cities, detected in a similar way.

At the meeting, areas of convergence are being explored along with links to the relevant SDG indicators.

Endorsed in 2012, the outcome document of Rio +20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) recognizes that if cities and all human settlements are well planned, they can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. The recognition of a stand-alone Goal on cities and human settlements (Goal 11) and other urban related SDGs further reaffirms the role that cities/urban areas can play in national development and shared prosperity.

UN-Habitat is leading the coordination of the statistical work on collection, reporting, monitoring and implementation of the Human Settlements Indicators of the SDGs. National governments have sent numerous requests to the agency seeking assistance in preparing conditions to monitor indicators collected at the city level or those monitored at human settlements levels.

In addition to refining the definition of what constitutes a city or rural areas, the EGM will seek to develop tools and guidelines for the collection of spatial data while comparing the existing methodologies.

Why is defining a ‘city’ important?

In many countries today, city boundaries are set along administrative and legal lines which in turn reduce the accuracy and effectiveness of decisions made by policy makers. They simply rely on guidelines which vary by country. UN-Habitat’s chief of the Global Urban Observatory Unit, Mr. Robert Ndugwa acknowledged that lack of a universally accepted definition of a city poses a risk for measuring indicators in an area that is part of a city (example, municipality) and not the whole city extent.

European Commission Deputy Head of Unit Regional and Urban Policy, Lewis Dijkstra identified that many city leaders often compare their cities to those in other countries. Movement of people from the city may create an impression that the population is declining when in fact, the city is expanding. This inhibits proper urban planning.

A lead researcher from New York University, Patrick Lamson Hall noted that the urban extent approach used by the institution provides a uniform way to create hard edges of the city which allows many policy makers to monitor the inputs and outputs of their city’s interventions in a more systematic way.

In attendance, we have representatives from UN-Habitat, EC, New York University, USAID, US Census Bureau, National statistical agencies, KTH University-Sweden, University of Pennsylvania, GORA Corp, EU JRC, Civil Society, UNGGIM, and FAO.

For more information, contact: guo@unhabitat.org
UNESCO partners with local organizations in celebrating World Environment Day and World Oceans Day in Kenya

On the occasion of World Environment Day and World Oceans Day 2017, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and its partners, which included UNEP and UN Information Center (UNIC), partnered with Ocean-Sole, Local Ocean Trust, Regeneration Africa and several other community organizations in and around Malindi and Watamu Beach, in the coastal region of Kenya, creating an alliance, #CleanSeas, to sensitize those communities about the importance of behavior change as far as environmental protection and conservation are concerned.

The celebration, which took place over a 3-day period (3rd-5th June), included the organization of three specific events, namely; cleaning of the Watamu beach; a football match featuring school children (both boys and girls) from the communities; and sponsoring a visit of university students to a local industry, Regeneration Africa, to observe first-hand how trash can be turned into treasure, thus providing young people an opportunity to earn income. The events were also designed to coincide with the World Ocean Conference, which opened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 5 June, running through 9 June 2017.

The three activities were designed as part of a series of efforts that UNESCO and its partners in Kenya plan to embark on, as a contribution towards the implementation of SDG 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and in doing so, involving the youth.

Check the Flickr albums on:
• Clean-up initiative at Watamu Beach
• Turtle Release World Environment Day 2017
• Waste management and economic empowerment of youth

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Sub-Saharan International Model UN Conference (SAIMUN) - 19 June 2017

Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator addressing delegates at the SAIMUN conference. (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

Participants at SAIMUN Conference (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

SAIMUN Secretariat team with Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

Participants at SAIMUN Conference (Photo by UNIC Nairobi)

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