Celebrating a young woman breaking barriers in Kenya
International Women’s Day, a global day celebrated every year on 8 March, brings the world together to not only celebrate the achievements of women but to also collectively strive for gender parity. This year’s theme was ‘Press for Progress,’ a strong call for action to improve the lives of women and girls. UNICEF Kenya and the Australian High Commission came together to mark the day in a unique way by...
celebrating Kenyan women and girls who break barriers that society puts in their way. One such woman is Sarafina Mumbi, popularly known as Tsarah ‘Arts’ who works as a graffiti designer for matatus [public transport vans].

Matatus, which are the choice mode of transport for most Kenyans, fill the streets of Nairobi adorned with custom artwork and lights that represent urban youth culture. The matatu industry is male-dominated but this didn’t stop Tsarah, who has a passion for design and brings a unique style and bold artwork to matatu culture.

UNICEF Kenya and the Australian High Commission partnered with Tsarah to design a special matatu celebrating women in Kenya.

Ahead of creating the design, Tsarah engaged with 14 girls in a one-day workshop to discuss the challenges they face growing up female in Kenya, and also their hopes for the future. Their voices are reflected in the matatu artwork, which also features prominent, Kenyan female figures that champion girls’ rights.

13 year old Vanessa Fumbula who took part in the Girls’ Workshop says, “After this workshop and after meeting Tsarah, I have found that women can do anything.”

Matatu art is a form of self-expression for Tsarah who has faced many barriers to enter the industry and continues to meet daily challenges due to being a woman. However, Tsarah has a passion for design and hopes to pave the way for other young women venturing into any male-dominated fields.

The special matatu was unveiled during a pre-event for International Women’s Day on 7 March 2018. The event brought together development partners and organizations working towards gender parity in Kenya, especially for the most vulnerable girls and women from poor communities.

Speaking during the launch event the Australian Deputy High Commissioner Jonathan Ball said, “International Women’s Day is a chance to motivate our friends, families, colleagues and communities to think, act and be gender inclusive.”

Across the world women like Tsarah are making positive gains day by day, but many continue to meet daily challenges due to being a woman. In Kenya, nearly a third of girls suffer some form of sexual violence before they reach 18; and almost one in four girls becomes a child bride. Harmful practices affecting girls and women cause multiple deprivations to their rights to health, education, employment and participation in decision-making.

UNICEF Kenya Deputy Representative, Patrizia DiGiovanni said, “The challenges for girls living in Kenya are indisputable; today is a great opportunity to focus on the positive strides young women are making across the world.”

This exceptional project for International Women’s Day was an opportunity to showcase and celebrate what girls and women can achieve, despite the challenges they face. We hope that it influences action to empower girls, such as equipping them with the skills needed to secure jobs, to reduce early and forced marriage and teenage pregnancy, and granting greater access to culturally sensitive reproductive and menstrual health services.

Tsarah says, “It has been good to create something that I hope lifts up girls and women across Nairobi. I encourage all females to be confident, passionate in what they do and to believe in themselves.”
For the first time ever, the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) opened its doors to staff and family of all UN agencies, Member States and the Host Country for a family fun day where they showcased the work of the UN in Kenya.

The event which was opened by Director-General of UNON, Sahle-Work Zewde had various activities which included entertainment by Mwai Lawrence’s jazz band, The Truth, Food stalls in a carnival-themed “village”, children’s fun area with bouncy castle and face-painting; all
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those who needed tours of the New Office Facility, the conference area and a bike tour of the complex were offered.

“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. And we can master it only if we face it TOGETHER,” said Director-General Zewde.

Most of the UN agencies had exhibited their work at the Upper Concourse. The Burundian Drummers entertained the participants throughout the day. All the 17 Sustainable Development
The European Union has pledged EURO 34.2 million over a 5-year period to the Kenya Judiciary to support access to justice, especially in historically marginalized communities. Through the Program for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery (PLEAD), the program will create awareness...
on legal aid, help the Judiciary to strengthen court administration and case management through an effective case flow management system reduce prison overcrowding and reduce backlog of cases. These interventions will ultimately deepen the realization of constitutional guarantees to the right to equality and justice for all citizens.

"The European Union is founded on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law and we believe these principles are inextricably connected and one cannot exist without the other. It’s only through democracy that individuals can fully claim and realize their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights. Therefore, when the rule of law is respected democracy flourishes," said Chief Justice David Maraga.

"It is only when justice reaches the weak, and the rule of law protects the needy, that we, as a country, can say that our constitution is living up to its juridical and developmental promise of equality and equity," said Chief Justice David Maraga.

"A recent tour by the UN, Donor agencies and the government saw firsthand the need to support communities with the worst human development indicators first, in the spirit of leaving no one behind. Access to justice is a human right" added Siddharth Chatterjee, the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident representative.

The program, which is the largest project of the EU in the justice sector in sub-Saharan Africa will be implemented through the Judiciary, UNDP’s Civil Society Facility of Amkeni Wakenya program and UN office on Drugs and Crime. Amkeni Wakenya will mainly focus on enhancing access to legal aid and assistance to the poor and vulnerable; and ensure civil societies continue to provide legal aid services to those in need.
Setting the pace of Pan African Education starts with African People, and African Ministers of Education gathered in Nairobi, Kenya to take the ownership and work in collaboration and synergy to fulfil the Africa 2063 Agenda of the African Union for a prosperous, inclusive and peaceful Africa. The gathering kicked off with two-days of technical meetings on inclusion and gender equality, leveraging 21st century technologies for the advancement of educational systems, fostering a peaceful Africa with focus on research, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), technical and vocational trainings, skills for life and access to quality education and training for all.

The conference was attended by AU representatives, NGOs, UN Organizations and education representatives from African countries, aimed at aligning the United Nations global sustainable development goals, in particular SDG 4 and Education 2030 Agenda, with the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

Deliberations during the final day of the Ministerial meeting focused on financing education, monitoring and reporting, policies and strategies to strengthen mechanisms for effective partnerships and coordination at national and continental levels. A Nairobi Declaration and a Call for Action on Education was endorsed by the Ministers of Education, committing to strengthen partnerships, collaboration and commitment of international development partners in supporting African education development around national priorities, including in low-income, fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and in promoting innovative approaches to education and training.

“We need Solutions, We need Partnerships, we need more Africa, not repeating the same concepts, but listening to Youth and Investing in them, who are the Future and the embodiment of Education, Science and Technology for the Transformation of Africa. We need cross-border collaboration to share experiences and knowledge for the advancement of the continent in science, technology and innovation. Together, with passion and motivation, we can” - Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa
Kenya and Ethiopia Heads of State Give Vote of Confidence to Cross Border Programme

During his recent state visit to Kenya, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali and his host President Uhuru Kenyatta expressed confidence that the Ethiopia-Kenya Cross-Border Programme will promote sustainable peace and inclusive economic growth along the border areas of Marsabit County, Kenya and Borana/Dawa zones of Ethiopia.

The leaders issued a communique that acknowledged the cross-border challenges faced by the two countries because of violent conflicts among communities that have for long been at the periphery of key social services.

In response, the UN in Kenya and Ethiopia are working with the two governments and IGAD in what is known as the Cross-Border Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socio-Economic Transformation in Marsabit, Kenya and the Borana/Dawa Zones in Ethiopia.

The initiative, which was launched in 2015 by the two countries, aims to equip the citizens along the common border, especially the youth and women, with skills and tools that enable them to make meaningful choices to improve the lives of their families.

The European Union provided initial financial support for the conflict prevention and peace building component of the project, while the Government of Japan is supporting the component on prevention of conflict and violent extremism in Marsabit and Mandera counties.

In Kenya, as in many other countries, the regions acknowledged to be flashpoints for radicalisation and violent extremism are synonymous with extreme poverty, high illiteracy levels, historical marginalization and under-investment in basic services. The majority of those living in these regions have for years believed to be excluded from the national development agenda.

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The project adopts an integrated approach to this challenge by combatting conflict and fostering sustainable peace by adopting comprehensive strategies for building resilience and improve the livelihoods of the border communities.

Activities will be focusing on economically empowering these communities by strengthening market access, cross-border trade and financial services; enhancing disaster and risk reduction and management in the climate vulnerable areas; and improving access to basic social services such as water and health.

The project is in line with Kenya’s policy under the Third Medium-Term Plan of the Sector Working Group of Security, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, which emphasizes the importance of addressing cross-border conflicts and regional instabilities, as well as strengthening early warning systems.

Kenya Government, UN Endorse Next 4 Year Development Priorities

The Government of Kenya and the United Nations have validated the Development Assistance framework for UN support to Kenya for the next 4 years (2018-2022). The UNDAF aims to support the government towards realizing long term national development goals contained in the vision 2030 transformative agenda. It is aligned to the priorities identified in the third Medium Term Plan (MTPIII) and as
Continued from page 9

prioritized through the Government Big 4 agenda of manufacturing, universal healthcare, affordable housing, and food security.

The UNDAF is built around four Strategic Results Areas (SRAs) of Transformative Governance encompassing Policy and Institutional Frameworks; Democratic Participation and Human Rights; Devolution and Accountability; and Evidence-based Decision-making, in which UNDP is the lead UN Agency; Human Capital Development, Environmental Preservation, Food Availability and Nutrition; Multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS Response; and Social Protection); Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth (Business Environment; Strengthening Productive Sectors and Trade; and Promoting Job Creation, Skills Development and Improved Working Conditions) and Environmental Sustainability, Land Management and Human Security (Policy and Legal Framework Development; and Peace, Community Security and Resilience).

The National Steering Committee, co-chaired by Cabinet Secretary for Devolution and ASAL areas, Cabinet Secretary The National Treasury and the UN Resident Coordinator provides overall guidance to the UNDAF implementation, coordination and reporting. Speaking at the validation workshop, the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of devolution and ASAL lauded the support the United nations has given to the Government saying it has improved the quality of life of many Kenyans.

“My Ministry has been able to provide overall guidance to the UNDAF implementation, coordination and reporting in the area on Transformational Governance and mainly in the area on Devolution and Accountability. We envisage to have Devolved institutions that are legally and technically empowered, well managed, effective; accountable where resource management is transparent, equitable, effective and efficient at all levels” he said.

UN resident coordinator Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee said through this support, the previously marginalized communities are now accessing services closer to them. He said there is a deliberate and strategic efforts for programming and delivery of targeted initiatives aimed at addressing issues such as the demographic dividend and issues of inequality to ensure that no one is left behind by reaching the furthest first.

“The Work Plan Process will also identify the relevant working arrangement for the Government of Kenya, UN and partners, to forge coordination of competence and resources, towards the delivery of Kenya’s development priorities, with focus on the Big 4.”

UNDP leads in Strategic Result Area 1 on Transformative Governance. Each of the SRAs is managed by the Permanent Secretary of the relevant ministry and UN heads of agencies as co-chairs. The SRAs are responsible for programme implementation, and progress reporting and coordination of budget and monitoring. Implementation of the UNDAF is guided by a 2 year rolling work plans.

UN-Habitat Launches Model Street Design in Dandora

UN-Habitat Public Space Programme, Making Cities Together coalition of partners and Dandora Transformation League on Saturday launched a Model Street in Dandora Phase II, Nairobi. The Model Street has enabled easy access to the estate while allowing small scale road-side businesses to thrive. It is to serve as a benchmark to guide future interventions. It is an exemplar of how placemaking catalyses unlikely alliances among grassroots groups, the private sector, local government and other placemaking leaders to adapt, replicate and upscale good practices from domestic to neighbourhood level, and trigger an avalanche of community empowerment initiatives by various
stakeholders. In attendance, was the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Founder of Dandora Transformation League Mr. Robinson Esialimba, UN-Habitat colleagues, Making Cities Together team, visitors from various parts of the city and the Dandora community.

Dandora is a low income neighbourhood located 11km from the city center, with a population of 141,885. The initiative has succeeded in addressing issues such as high crime rate, criminal youth gangs, youth unemployment, urban decay, unregulated dumpsite and its deleterious effects on both environment and health for surrounding communities and beyond, waste covering most open spaces. One of the immediate positive impact of the Model Street has been the general improvement in the well-being of local residents. Below are some more specific results which can be attributed to the model street intervention

**Improved perceived safety and security** - Residents now feel safer walking along the model street. Anthony Kwach, a local resident explains, “These days even if I alight at midnight I have no worries. I know I will reach home safely without a problem. Because of lighting, I can see someone from 100m away”

**Improved livelihood opportunities** - The improved street enables street vendors to vend for longer hours and make more returns. Further, employment opportunities such as public space maintenance and security have been made possible for the youth. Charkes Gachanga, a local champion and the CEO of Dandora Transformation League explains, “Sometimes back, M-pesa and other businesses that make a fair amount of money would be closed by 7.00 pm due to fear of attacks. Today however, these and many other small businesses operate until 11 o’clock in the night”

**Improved relationship with authorities** - the relationship between the local youth and the chief, and the sub-county administrator has
greatly improved. This relationship has resulted into rare collaborations particularly with regard to reclaiming public spaces; better cohesion and good neighbourliness.

Improved play opportunities for children: As a result of the paving of the street block, children have now embraced skating as a sport, and to some, has become a possible career. Every Saturday, around 40 children and youth meet to skate on the model streets.

Improved drainage and environmental quality: The opened drainage lines have had a significant contribution to environmental health of the neighbourhood. This has solved the problem of overflowing sewer, flash floods and mud. The Dandora Transformation League also won the Dubai International Award for Best Practices for their initiative where they will walk away with USD 30,000 to be awarded later this year. This initiative titled Courtyard System for Management of Public Spaces is an innovative community-driven approach in rehabilitation and management of public and semi-public space implemented. The initiative entails a competition where youth groups are challenged to compete against each other in creating the cleanest, greenest and safest public space in the area. During the 3-month-long competition, the youth are assessed based on before and after photos. Most of the transformation initiated during the competition have today been maintained due to income-generating activities.

The Executive Director of UN-Habitat expressed her gratitude in the efforts of DTL and Dandora residents. She encouraged them to continue working for a safe, green and healthy Dandora. The Dandora residents also acknowledged that Dandora is not a slum but an estate. Area residents make monthly contributions of 100 Kenya Shillings that go towards paying the youth responsible for maintenance courtyards.

To officially mark the opening, the local community named the avenue Badilisha street which means change in Swahili. This was preceded by a democratic process which led to the selection of the street names by a vote. The event saw other activities like a kids’ skating competition and open-air yoga for all the attendees.

The implementation saw a total of 25 trees planted, a total of 800m of roadway paved, drainages cleared and opened, 13 waste receptacles creatively designed with an art work and a quote to provide inspiration installed and four Gateways constructed. The Gateways were designed to provide grand entrances into the neighbourhood and to give a new identity to the street block. The implementation of the model street was also part of the whole placemaking process, and was done in co-creation with the local community - with youth and women providing labour. Further, the process inspired the local Member of Parliament, Hon. James Gakuya to support the initiative by paving the whole street through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). This underscored the potential of co-production of public spaces. Given the elaborate process, including the statutory requirements, the construction of the street took about eighteen months. The detailed process was emphasised so as to facilitate learnings and to provide policy inputs for future interventions.
In an effort to highlight the thinning glaciers in the Himalayas and the future scenario of unpredictable dramatic changes in the yearly flows of the Indus River system, I set off with a small group of friends with the goal of tracing the Imja Khola river up to the very beginning of the famous Khumbu Glacier. The Glaciers in the Himalayas was expected to be more resistant to climate change that other glaciers around the world due to the very high altitude. Unfortunately, these massive glaciers have seen an accelerating thinning, the Kathmandu-based mountain research institute, ICIMOD, is reporting that the Khumbu Glacier is retreating at an average of 20m per year. The full length of the glacier has shrunk from 12,040m in the 1960s to 11,100m in 2001.

“Over the past 100 years, and particularly since the 1980s, there has been worldwide and dramatic shrinkage and thinning of glaciers. This shrinking is closely related to global warming. Projected increases in global air temperatures will ensure the continuing shrinkage of glaciers...”

Continued on page 14
and ice caps and may lead to the disappearance of glaciers from many mountain regions over the coming decades. “UNEP Global Outlook for Ice and Snow”

The poorest and most vulnerable population in the Indian Sub-continent has done the least to affect climate change and are now expected to bear the brunt of the expected exposure to climate impacts with more unpredictable floods and weather patterns affecting their live hoods. We need to support the Sustainable Development Goals Goal number 13 Climate Action before a continued loss of glacier cover leads to a crisis in water availability.

**The trek:** The Imja Khola river is a high-altitude trek between 3500 to 5600 meters and during the trek you will pass some of the most iconic mountains in the world and some spectacular scenery with deep lush valleys and snow peaked mountains. Standing next to some of these massive mountain formations makes you realize just how small a human is.

**Bio:** Bo Sorensen, UNON staff member serving as Chief of Document Control. Amateur mountaineer with a keen interest in science and climate change.

“Over the past 100 years, and particularly since the 1980s, there has been worldwide and dramatic shrinkage and thinning of glaciers”
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United Nations in Kenya Open Day - 11 May 2018

Cultural Diversity at the Open day. Photo by UNIC Nairobi

Joint Medical Service staff explains to a staff how blood is tested. Photo by UNIC Nairobi

UN Nairobi AIG Team recognized. Photo by UNIC Nairobi

Exhibition at the UNON Open Day. Photo by UNIC Nairobi

UN staff at one of the Exhibition booth.

UNON Director-General joins Burundian cultural dancer. Photo by UNIC Nairobi

Visitors’ Service tour guides display their work. Photo by UNIC Nairobi
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17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform our World by 2030

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