Eliud Kipchoge honoured as UN Person of the Year 2018
World Marathon record holder Eliud Kipchoge was on 24 October honoured as the UN Person of the Year 2018, with the UN body paying tribute to his positive role modelling to the youth to embrace the values of hard work, discipline, focus and dedication to achieve the greatness they are capable of.

Widely acknowledged as arguably the greatest marathoner of all time, Mr. Kipchoge recently smashed the world record by 1 minute 18 seconds. It is his advocacy on issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and youth opportunities in addition to his perseverance and steadfast resolve to put in the hard work needed that moved the UN in Kenya to make him the 16th recipient of the Award.

“I congratulate you, Eliud Kipchoge, on this great achievement, and I have no doubt you will take advantage of this opportunity to show case the values that are indispensable to the kind of success that you now enjoy,” said Cabinet Secretary Amb. Monica Juma, who was the Chief Guest at the presentation ceremony held at the UN compound in Gigiri.

In celebration of the United Nations Day which has been observed on 24 October, the UN in Kenya has awarded and recognized individuals who best represent the ideals of the world body every year since 2002.

Amb. Juma said that young Kenyans form the largest segment of the population, and are eager to leverage technology for the betterment of mankind, to seize new and emerging opportunities and to venture into new fields of the economy.

Amb. Juma observed that mankind is truly one family, with the UN representing mankind’s continuing efforts to remain one. She paid tribute to the founding fathers of the UN, recalling their vision of a world without war, hunger, disease and ignorance.

Commending the UN for the work they do, from peace keeping to refugee protection, fighting human and drug trafficking and climate change, she singled out UN staff members for the role they played in creating a better world.

The UN Kenya Resident Coordinator Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee said that Eliud Kipchoge was chosen for bringing out in an inspirational way the UN’s commitment to exploiting the power of sport in achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“In a continent where young
people feel that opportunities for them are few and far between, this message of hope, backed by the testimony of a phenomenal rise through sheer grit, could not find stronger expression than through Mr. Eliud Kipchoge,” said Mr. Chatterjee.

Accepting the Award, Mr. Kipchoge warned the youth against the temptation of expecting a big break that will set them on the path of fame and fortune. “It takes extreme effort and many years to reduce one’s time even by five seconds when running. Lasting achievements are based on small increments in doing the right thing,” said the champion, who has won all but one of his races since he started running the marathon.

The Person of the Year Award was last year won by Ms. Umra Omar of Safari Doctors, who was recognized for her work in delivering primary healthcare to marginalized communities in her home County of Lamu.

Other past recipients include First Lady Margaret Kenyatta for her Beyond Zero Campaign and three-time World Half-Marathon champion Tegla Loroupe for peace-building programmes in conflict zones.

New UNON Director-General Graces the Airline and Hotel Open Day in Nairobi

The new Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) graced this year’s Airline and Hotel Open Day, which took place at the UN compound on 15 November. The weather was perfect for the 12 airlines and 20 hotels that participated in this colorful event. And equally new in town is Mr.
Victor Kisob, the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat who was among the attendees of the Open Day where all learned about the many services and amenities offered to UN travelers.

The bi-annual Airline and Hotel Open Day is organized by UNON’s Travel, Shipping and Visa Unit, giving staff the opportunity to see and hear about the various offerings from the participants, promoting awareness, providing options for official travel and meetings in Nairobi. The day also provided an opportunity for feedback on staff experiences.

This Open Day embodied the long-established and strong relationships that UNON has with its airline and hotel partners that provide services to the larger UN Community in Nairobi. This cooperation can also translate to savings to the Organization and a smoother travel experience for staff.

With high turnout from the UNON community, many staff members enjoyed the experience and interaction and look forward to the next Open Day.

By: Stephen Banea, Travel, Shipping and Visa Unit, UNON
UN-Habitat staff rolled up their sleeves to support the authorities to clean up Kenyan cities. This follows the launch of UN-Habitat’s campaign to reduce the amount of rubbish produced and improve its disposal.

UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director, Victor Kisob joined Kenya’s President, Uhuru Kenyatta, Nairobi’s Governor, Mike Mbuvi Sonko, the Executive Director of UNEP, Erik Solheim and hundreds of residents to pick up rubbish Uhuru Market in Hamza ward in the Kenyan capital.

This was the third such event in Nairobi City County which organizes and funds clean ups on the first Saturday of each month in all 85 wards. Over 15,200 people took part in Nairobi collecting a total of 1,000 tonnes of waste.

President Kenyatta called on residents to take care of the environment. "We can only achieve our goals if we are united," he told the crowd at Uhuru Market, where some 4,000 traders work.

Some 600 people took part in the clean up in Hamza ward including representatives from banks, residents associations, manufacturers, hospitals, churches and schools, collecting around 135 tonnes of mostly organic waste.

UN-Habitat’s Mr. Kisob, said the agency supported all efforts to clean up cities in Kenya.

Last month UN-Habitat Executive
Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, joined hundreds of residents in Kenya’s coastal city Mombasa to take part in World Cleanup Day along with national and county government officials.

The UN-Habitat Executive Director called for private sector and industries to make their operations more profitable by “re-thinking” waste. “We are promoting Waste-wise Cities and the idea that waste can be a resource rather than a problem,” she said.

On World Habitat Day, on 1 October, celebrated in Nairobi, UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif launched the ‘Waste Wise Cities’ campaign. Going forward, UN-Habitat will support cities in taking up the Waste Wise cities campaign through sharing knowledge and good practices in municipal waste management and by supporting them in developing sound and bankable projects.
UNOPS Tackles Maternal Health-Care Issues in Turkana County

Kenya has one of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the world, with approximately 510 women losing their lives out of every 100,000 live births. In Turkana County, where 87 percent of the population lives in poverty and access to healthcare is poor, women face a steep challenge reaching the healthcare professionals and facilities that can support them during their pregnancies. This challenge emerges from a lack of physical infrastructure, as well as cultural beliefs that eschew modern medicine in favour of traditional methods.

To address these issues, UNOPS is supporting the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to improve access to healthcare in Turkana, Garissa, Homabay, Kakamega, and Nairobi Counties. Though a $12 million project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), 57 health centres have been rehabilitated and upgraded with green energy technology.

“We have to deliver the baby when the baby wants to come even if it is dark with no power. [.] there has been cases that the birth attendant here had to hold a torch in her mouth while she delivers the baby,” Reuben, a support personnel in Kangatosa health center tells us.

Additionally, over 14,000 Community Health Volunteers and health workers have been provided with up to 500 days of training. More than 1.6 million people stand to...
benefit from these improvements. The activities undertaken by UNOPS and UNICEF have made it easier for women in Turkana to access quality healthcare at facilities close to them, while also making it possible for the health services to reach them in their homes, through the trained volunteers and health workers.

In Turkana, the impact of the project on the County’s population is already evident. Kangatosa Health Centre is already dealing with a greater number of patients, many of whom are pregnant women seeking pre-natal care. Most of the women decided to go to the centre after being approached by Community Health Volunteers who informed them on the benefits of seeking support from qualified professionals during their pregnancies.

Crucially, the women visiting the centre have the support of their husbands and partners, as they too come to appreciate the importance of seeking care from medical centres. By training both men and women as Community Health Volunteers, the project has ensured that the social stigma surrounding modern medicine is addressed from all perspectives. As the women in Turkana continue to seek the help of professional health workers, they can now be sure that they will have the support of the men in their communities.

“We have to deliver the baby when the baby wants to come even if it is dark with no power […] there has been cases that the birth attendant here had to hold a torch in her mouth while she delivers the baby,” Reuben, Support personnel - Kangatosa
Preparations for a cross-border programme between Kenya and Uganda that is expected to bring lasting peace in the Karamoja Cluster are gaining momentum, with the UN Country Teams meeting to craft the first steps in the process.

The meeting was held in Entebbe on 10 October 2018, with the UN agencies from both countries exploring their respective entry points and the overall value addition of the UN system in the proposed collaboration between the two countries.

The joint meeting was a follow-up of an inter-ministerial meeting held in Nairobi in August, where Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Devolution Eugene Wamalwa and Uganda’s Minister for Karamoja Affairs John Byabagambi agreed to work towards a signed MoU between the two countries by the end of this year.

The cross-border areas of the Horn of Africa, including the “Karamoja Cluster”, have historically suffered from underdevelopment. Political and economic exclusion, historical marginalization as well as growing inequalities, have added to grievances that fuel discontent and radicalisation.

The borderlands act as a transit point for considerable numbers of
displaced populations and migrants. They also provide fertile ground for criminal networks of traffickers and smugglers. The combination of these factors has led many of these areas to be stuck in recurrent or protracted crises.

UN’s historical response and our strategies have been both regional and bottom-up, but results have been fragmented and not aligned to the local governance fabric. The integrated Cross-Border Programme approach addresses for the first time all levels, with the locality, local analysis and local development priorities at the center, forging partnerships, roles and competences around.

The Kenya Uganda cross border programme for Karamoja cluster for sustainable peace and development is inspired by the Kenya-Ethiopia cross border programme which focuses on Marsabit-Moyale cluster. This programme aims at reducing vulnerability and increase the resilience of communities affected by conflict and climate-induced migration in target border region by building their capacity and resilience, and identification or implementation of sustainable livelihood projects and conflict management strategies.

The Kenya and Uganda UNCTs, in partnership with the governments of the two countries, have agreed to start a similar cross border programme in the Karamoja Cluster to reduce resource-driven conflicts, cattle rustling and spill-over effects of conflict from one country to another and improve the livelihoods of the communities of the Karamoja cluster through cross border trade, sustainable resource management and introduction of alternative livelihoods.

**UNESCO publishes a Kiswahili version of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression**

With support from Korean Funds-In-Trust, UNESCO published the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression in Kiswahili - East Africa’s lingua franca. The passport-size publication, which will enable further dissemination of the Convention text across the region as a working language of the African Union, and will benefit several countries where
Kiswahili is a national language including Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Union of Comoros in East Africa as well as Burundi, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo(DRC).

Culture and Creativity is a mainspring of development, and is increasingly recognised by governments and development blocs as essential for inclusive economic growth, reducing inequalities and achieving the goals set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the African Union's Agenda 2063's Aspiration 5 aims for “Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics’ with one of its priority areas being “cultural heritage, creative arts and business.”

To enable the achievement of these goals and aspirations, especially in the dynamic changing world, a sound policy environment for the culture and creative sector is imperative. UNESCO’s 2005 Convention is in the heart of the creative economy, and provides a framework for informed, transparent and participatory systems of governance for culture and the creative industries. 35 Sub-Saharan African countries have ratified the UNESCO 2005 Convention and 11 of the 13 countries in the Eastern Africa Region are also States Parties to the Convention.

The creative industries is among the most dynamic sectors in the world economy, providing new horizons for growth especially in developing countries. Through the adoption of this Convention, the global community formally recognised the cultural and economic nature of contemporary cultural expression produced by cultural professionals. It ensures that artists, professionals, practitioners and citizens worldwide can create, produce, disseminate and enjoy a broad range of cultural goods, services and activities, including their own.

Moreover, the African Union’s Agenda 2063’s Aspiration 5 aims for “Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics’ with one of its priority areas being “cultural heritage, creative arts and business.”
Desertification and land degradation are not new to the fragile Sahel ecosystem, a semi-arid strip of land south of the Sahara Desert. Climate change, which is expected to deeply modify the region’s climate, including by abruptly increasing rainfall, adds another layer of complexity to the daily lives of the people living in the Sahel.

Environmentally-friendly economic growth is one strategy for overcoming these challenges, and local entrepreneurs are increasingly looking towards sustainable industries to improve their livelihoods.

Shea butter, locally known as karité, is a key ingredient in many moisturizing creams. Burkina Faso is one of the top shea nut-producing countries, and export of shea products represents a major source of revenue.

Felicite Yameogo, who lives in Burkina Faso, is the director of New Karikis International and one of the women entrepreneurs who have benefited from this business, which she says is crucial for empowering women in the region. “With this project, thousands of women are being lifted out of poverty,” says Yameogo.

New Karikis International, one of the beneficiaries of the SWITCH Africa Green project, is a small company that deals with the production and export of shea nuts, organic shea butter and shea butter. “UN Environment and the European Union, through Switch
Africa Green project, are helping us to network with banks, donors and other players who can support us to grow our business in a more sustainable way”, said Yamaego.

Through initiatives such as Switch Africa Green, African women have been able to organize themselves in cooperatives to harvest, produce and export shea products. After a successful startup, many female entrepreneurs are now looking to expand their business to other countries in the region and beyond.

SWITCH Africa Green Programme, a project funded by the European Union in partnership with UN Environment, supports African countries in their transition to a green economy, and promotes sustainable consumption and production practices.

**Young People shape Kenya’s cultural heritage by digitizing Local Traditional Games**

Three days’ event #UNESCOGameJam2018 from 28 to 30 August 2018 at the Kenya Heritage Training Institute in Mombasa County, aimed at building capacities of young people by equipping them with practical skills to digitalize local traditional games- Hide and Seek (Brikicho), Stick Fight, Dodge Ball and Kora traditional - into mobile applications. It also encouraged adoption of innovative ways for preserving and disseminating local traditional games for promotion of
indigenous knowledge for learning and development in Kenya.

Forty-eight (48) young people comprising of 31 men and 17 women drawn from technology start-ups such as Swahili Pot Hub, Sote Hub, Swahili Box, Swahili Centre and universities such as Mount Kenya University, Kenyatta University and Pwani University in Mombasa County attended the training.

The Open Digital Library on Traditional Games (ODLTG) is a repository of freely available resources about traditional games. The creation of an openly accessible digital library as a repository of Traditional Games falls within UNESCO’s mission of promoting innovative use of ICTs by young people for digital preservation, as well as for the development of crowdsourced information for educational, scientific and cultural benefit in Kenya.

The training was organized within UNESCO’s Framework of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images to promote safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Games for enhancing intercultural dialogue and peace, reinforcing youth empowerment in Kenya.

This year’s Global Observance of the World Habitat day was hosted by Kenya and held at the UN-Habitat Headquarters in Gigiri under the theme “Municipal Solid Waste Management”. President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, speaking at the event, called for urgent action to address the ‘enormous and growing’ problem of solid waste. President Kenyatta urged every person to take personal responsibility for
managing waste, which includes rubbish and other waste produced by individuals, communities, institutions and businesses. He commended the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for her vigour, passion, and commitment to strengthening UN-Habitat as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and urged stakeholders present to take advantage of the presence of UN-Habitat headquarter location in Nairobi to obtain relevant expertise and advice on sustainable human settlement development.

UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, told the large audience that solid waste management was a theme close to her heart and an important priority for UN-Habitat, which was supporting cities to become cleaner and greener. She announced the launch of a call for action for Waste Wise Cities, which was discussed later that day by a panel of experts. “This calls for cities, towns and communities around the world to rethink, reduce, recycle, refuse and reuse waste and will provide the platform necessary to do so.

Following the launch of UN-Habitat’s new campaign to reduce the amount of global waste, President Uhuru Kenyatta joined Nairobi’s Governor Mr. Mike Mbuvi Sonko, the Executive Director of UN-Environment Mr. Erik Solheim and UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director Mr. Victor Kisob to clean up the mounds of rubbish at Uhuru Market in the Kenyan capital on 6th October 2018.

President Kenyatta called on residents to take care of the environment and thanked UN-Habitat and UN-Environment leadership for joining the cleanup stating that “We can only achieve our goals if we are united.”

UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Victor Kisob said the Agency supported all efforts to clean up cities in Kenya.

“...This calls for cities, towns and communities around the world to rethink, reduce, recycle, refuse and reuse waste...”

Community Radio Practitioners trained on Editorial Programming and News Protection to address early pregnancies, child marriages and female genital mutilation in Kenya

UNESCO organized, from 11 to 13 July 2018, a training workshop that brought together 25 community radio practitioners from across the country and aimed at building their capacity on how to develop community relevant messages to create awareness of early pregnancy, HIV, child marriages and female genital mutilation to enhance retention of girls in schools in Kenya. The training also sought to strengthen the capacity of radio practitioners in reporting issues around sexual and reproductive health among young people in Kenya.

The workshop was a blend of theory and practical exercises on how to plan, gather and use data to package stories on early pregnancies, female genital mutilation, HIV and child marriages for broadcast in Kenya. The Ministry of Health also provided technical support during the training on how to locate and use relevant government data, thanks to
Ms. Jeanne Patrick, the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Manager at Ministry of Health, Government of Kenya.

The media plays a critical role in highlighting issues faced by adolescent and young people. With growing technical advancement, the media is well positioned to reach out to the young people with correct information, for them to make informed and responsible choices. The community radios who participated were: Baliti FM (Isiolo county), Bulala FM (Busia county), Koch FM (Nairobi county), Kwale Ranet FM (Kwale county), Mtaani FM, Bus Radio FM, Sauti FM, Mwanedu FM, Owetu Radio and local universities such as Moi University, Multimedia University, and University of Nairobi in Kenya.

This activity was supported by SIDA- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, regional initiative on elimination of early and unintended pregnancy in the region.

The training also sought to strengthen the capacity of radio practitioners in reporting issues around sexual and reproductive health among young people in Kenya.
Refugee Students at MPESA Foundation Academy hone their skills in entrepreneurship, leadership and Sports.

6 year old Reech Deng Maketh originally from South Sudan, is one of the six refugee students admitted to the M-Pesa Foundation Academy that was officially opened by President of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta on November 18. The M-Pesa Foundation Academy which is owned by the telecommunications company, Safaricom, supports economically disadvantaged students with demonstrated leadership potential from all the 47 counties in Kenya. This year, the Academy accorded UNHCR the status of a county and for the first time admitted six refugees to the institution.

The feeling of inclusion and diversity is shared by all the six students, who are excited at the privilege of being in a technology savvy school where innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership form the core pillars of the institution.

Although Deng’s dream when he joined the school was to become a doctor, the first born in a family of four siblings admitted that he is an average student in academics, but is very good in entrepreneurship and basketball.

“I discovered that I am good at...
basketball and I would love to one day play for the American National Basketball League,” he says. “I have also engaged in an agricultural enterprise where I am growing broccoli and selling to the school.”

Deng hopes that at the end of his four years at the Academy, he will have made enough money to support another needy child in Kakuma refugee camp.

Cynthia Awamahoro from Burundi is grateful for the privilege to access secondary school education. According to the UNHCR’s report, “Turn the Tide: Refugee Education in Crisis”, nearly two thirds of refugee children who go to primary school do not make it to secondary school.

The soft spoken Cynthia has already been awarded with different gifts for her leadership skills at the school. She has also learnt how to swim and play hockey.

“I want to help young people like me to be leaders in their own communities and encourage them to start businesses and be self-reliant. It is the only way refugees can live dignified lives,” Cynthia remarks.

In his speech, the President thanked the Foundation for giving hope and a future to young people that come from less privileged backgrounds. And to the students Hon Kenyatta said, “You all have different talents. Some are gifted in academics and while others have different skills. Just do your best and be people of integrity. Study diligently and plan appropriately but more importantly, put God first.”

The UNHCR Kenya Representative, Raouf Mazou who also attended the function at the academy concludes, “MPESA Foundation Academy has excellent facilities and a superb philosophy of inclusion and respect for diversity.”

16 year old Reech Deng Maketh from South Sudan - “I have discovered that I am good at basketball and I would love to one day play for the American National Basketball League. I am also engaged in agricultural enterprise, I grow broccoli and sell to the school.” ©UNHCR/Caroline Opile

***
## UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>World AIDS Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 December</td>
<td>International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 December</td>
<td>International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 December</td>
<td>World Soil Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 December</td>
<td>International Civil Aviation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>International Anti-Corruption Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 December</td>
<td>Human Rights Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>International Mountain Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>International Day of Neutrality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>International Universal Health Coverage Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December</td>
<td>International Migrants Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December</td>
<td>Arabic Language Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>International Human Solidarity Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UN Day Commemoration at the UN Office in Nairobi – 24 October 2018

Invited guests take a group photo with the UN Award Winner. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

Former UNEP Executive Director addressing participants during the UN Day. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

Kenya Foreign Minister Amb. Monica Juma addressing the participants. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

UN Award Winner Eliud Kipchoge applauded by the delegates. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

UN Nairobi Sports team and Monica Juma with the Winner Kipchoge and his wife. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

UNON Staff choir entertains guests. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

UN Award Winner, Eliud Kipchoge with his wife follows the event. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.

Eliud Kipchoge’s wife at the event. Photo by UNIC Nairobi.
UN Nairobi Staff Union End of year party - 7 December 2018

Staff during the party. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko

Its party time for staff. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko

Some of the UNON staff after the party. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko

Staff at the party. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko

End of Year party time for Staff at UN in Nairobi. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko

Cake cutting: UNON Director General and President of Staff Union lead in cutting the cake. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko

Staff interacting during the party. Photo by Tuntu Mazibuko
2017

CERTIFICATE of
EXCELLENCE

tripadvisor®

UNITED NATIONS VISITOR’S SERVICE

FOR THE CONSISTENT ACHIEVEMENT OF HIGH RATINGS FROM TRAVELERS

Contact the Visitors’ Service:
Telephone: 020 762 2034
Email: un.tours@un.org

United Nations Visitors’ Service, Nairobi
@unvisitorsnbi

Mondays to Thursdays
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Fridays
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
THE ESSENTIAL UN

TAKE A MOMENT TO LEARN ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

History • Facts • Quizzes • Videos • FAQs

WWW.UN.ORG/ESSENTIAL-UN
17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform our World by 2030

This Newsletter is compiled by the UN Communications Group in Kenya (UNCG) designed and edited by the United Nations Information Centre, Nairobi.

For more information contact: UNCG Chair,
P. O. Box 67578-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: 020-76221102, E-mail: unon-nairobiunic@un.org
United Nations Information Centre Nairobi @unicnairobi