UN-Habitat Executive Director joins the youth clean up in Kibera

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif participating in the first ever monthly clean-up with Kibra green youth group in Nairobi, Kenya 2019 © Julius Mwelu /UN-Habitat

Story on Page 2
The UN-Habitat Executive Director and Acting Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, joined diplomats, politicians and young people in a community clean-up of the main river in the Kibera informal settlement, Kenya.

The clean-up was organized by The Kibra Green Youth Group, a community-based organization which seeks to expand employment through the proper collection and management of rubbish. The UN-Habitat Executive Director

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif with Serbian Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Dragan Zupanjevac and Costa Rican Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Marta E. Juarez during the first-ever monthly clean-up with Kibra green youth group in Nairobi, Kenya 2019 © Julius Mwelu /UN-Habitat

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was accompanied by Serbia’s Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac and Costa Rica’s Permanent Representative to UN-Habitat, Ambassador Marta Juavez Ruiz as well as the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Ken Okoth. Other participants jointed from Strathmore Foundation, Co-Willing Organization and UN-Habitat.

The cleanup builds on UN-Habitat’s Waste-wise Cities Campaign launched during World Habitat Day 2018 that promotes effective management of rubbish generated in cities and urban areas.

During the event, the Kibra Green Youth Group showcased its work on recycling glass, transformation of organic waste into manure through semi-aerobic processes collection of waste and sorting methods.

UN-Habitat, Kibra Green Youth Group and the Embassy of Serbia are jointly developing a Solid Waste Management and Youth Livelihoods Support Project.
Advance vocational training empowers refugees and Kenyans in Kalobeyei Settlement, Turkana County.

Vocational skills training equips refugees and Kenyans with market-oriented skills that empower them to make choices.

Thirty-eight-year-old Beatrice Silas Kasimba’s face glows with hope. She smiles as she powers her sewing machine with her feet, a stitch at a time, turning fabrics into beautifully made clothes. The strong gusty winds and soaring heat does not deter her from doing what she loves.

“I want to build a stall near my

Bamatutiza Mariya, a skilled plumber from Congo, shows off her prowess in plumbing at a graduation ceremony in Kalobeyei
Godfrey Okumu from South Sudan is now a skilled electrician after graduating with advanced vocational training skills as an electrician. He is living in Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County.

He is originally from South Sudan, a graduate electrician, says “I took part in the installation of an incubator in Kalobeyei. This required a lot of wiring skills to install and ensure that the incubator works perfectly.”

Kalobeyei settlement offers refugees and Kenyans an opportunity to be self-sufficient and an enabling environment to learn new skills and pursue economic activities. Vocational skills training equips refugees and Kenyans with vital market-oriented skills that enable them to be self-sufficient.

Kalobeyei settlement is home to over 38,000 refugees.

“With these skills, I want to go out and look for jobs.”
Godfrey Okumu who is originally from South Sudan is a skilled electrician living in Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County.

A new approach “the Choice Theory” was developed to allow refugees and the hosting communities maximize their potential in an enabling environment. The theory has two main building blocks; create an enabling environment and build people’s skills/capabilities.

Beatrice, from Burundi, recently graduated from advanced vocational skills training in Kalobeyei refugee settlement, located in North-Western Kenya located 15 kilometres away from Kakuma refugee camp. 300 other refugees and Kenyans have benefited from the UNHCR supported advanced training offered by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) with funding from European Union Trust Fund (EUTF).

Beatrice enrolled for advanced vocational training in June 2018 and has since mastered the art of tailoring. She is among the best in her class and is already carving a niche in the fashion business in Kalobeyei settlement.

She says, “I completed the tailoring course just before Christmas and I was lucky to get paying clients whom I made clothes for.”

“With these skills, I want to go out and look for jobs.”
Godfrey Okumu who is originally from South Sudan is a skilled electrician living in Kalobeyei settlement in Turkana County.
The theme of the conference was Blue Economy and the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, the conference focused on new technologies and innovation for oceans, seas, lakes and rivers as well as the challenges, potential opportunities, priorities and partnerships.

UNV Kenya through UNDP Kenya support and Ministry of Foreign Affairs recruited 240 youth as conference volunteers. These volunteers were engaged to support with logistics, communications and hospitality all through the conference. Having been well oriented and briefed,

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these volunteers gave out their best in assisting delegates from the airports, facilitating smooth registrations and guidance to them through the conference proceedings. Apart from offering their services, the volunteers had an opportunity to network among each other, got an opportunity to interact with the UN systems, network with UNDP Country Director- Ms. Amanda Serumaga, UNV- ESARO Regional Manager- Mr. Njoya Tikum and UNV-ESARO Portfolio Specialist -Mr. Vojtech Hledik.

Upon the completion of their assignments, UNDP Kenya and Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a luncheon at the Laico regency hotel to celebrate the conference volunteers. While at the luncheon the volunteers did not hide their joy and appreciation to the UNV Kenya office and UNDP Kenya for entrusting them with the opportunity to offer service to this global conference. Speaking during the celebrations Amanda Serumaga, the UNDP Kenya Country Director and Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs encouraged the youth to continue offering their skills and time as volunteers as they horn their experience to serve better in future endeavors.
Engaging juvenile offenders with education and skills-based training is an integral component of successful rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community.

Article 40(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) stipulates that reintegration should be the primary objective of the juvenile justice system. State Parties to the convention should therefore consider community-based approaches to crime that offer opportunities for the juvenile justice system to communicate censure of the crime while establishing in a young offender a sense of connectedness to the community. Failure to rehabilitate and effectively reintegrate child offenders predisposes them to criminality in adulthood and undermines the possibility of them leading productive lives. In Kenya, research has revealed that many adult offenders in prisons first began engaging in crime as juveniles. It must be a necessity for stakeholders involved in juvenile justice reforms to collaborate in efforts to stop the cycle of recidivism through engaging child offenders in meaningful activities and life skills programs. Youth empowerment is the most effective prevention against future participation in criminal activities.

On 16 November 2018, the...
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office in Eastern Africa (UNODC - ROEA) and the Department of Children Services (DCS) supported the graduation of 20 girls at the Dagoretti Rehabilitation Centre after a successful completion of a life-skills training conducted by Clean Start’s Spear education coaches for six weeks. The training, known as Spear introduces, embeds and sustains behavioural and attitudinal change, benefitting the girls at all life stages as well as better equipping them for life after their stay at the rehabilitation centre. As one of the components of the training, the girls benefited from a company visit and mentorships on business and talent development from the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) as well as youth mentors from UNODC ROEA. The girls also participated in family group discussions through which they received counselling jointly with their respective parents. Following this training, seven girls were assured of continuous sponsorship throughout their journey to rehabilitation and reintegration process. Four girls will receive sponsorship from Clean Start while 3 will receive it from KEPSA. The seven girls will therefore continue their education in January 2019.

At the graduation ceremony, each girl gave a speech on their personal progress upon completion of the Spear course. Here are a few of their remarks:

“before Spear I could not stand and talk with people; I was not even using eye contact but now I can. When I grow up, I want to be a pilot. Thank you Spear.”

“the important lesson I learned from Spear was about growth mindset. Spear has helped me to come out of my comfort zone. My hopes for [the] future [is] to become a journalist and build my own orphanage.”
“...now I can speak in front of people, make a team, and work together. Spear has changed my life, it has helped me, it will take me far. When I grow up, I want to become a judge and help those who cannot defend themselves.”

This training is a result of a collaborative partnership between UNODC ROEA, DCS, Clean Start, and KEPSA in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law. UNODC ROEA plans to build on this partnership to train more girls at the beginning of 2019.

The graduation ceremony was attended by representatives from DCS, UNODC - ROEA, Clean Start, KEPSA, as well as other invited guests.

This initiative contributes to the UNODC project on Preventing Violent Extremism through Rehabilitation, Vocational Training and Social Reintegration in correctional facilities in Kenya which is funded by the Government of Canada.
UNIC Nairobi in partnership with the Israeli Embassy in Kenya brought together over 300 students from more than 10 Kenyan Universities and over 50 diplomats accredited to UNEP and UN Habitat to commemorate the 2019 International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the United Nations Offices at Nairobi (UNON).

All attending received a white rose that were all laid at the dais representing a wreath in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.
Israel Ambassador H.E. Noah Gal leading other Diplomats in laying flowers in memory of Holocaust victims at UNON

Acting UNON Director-General and Executive Director UN-Habitat, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Shariff read the UN Secretary-General’s statement. Six candles were lit at the start of the event.

All attending received a white rose that were all laid at the dais representing a wreath in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

The German
Ambassador, H.E. Annett Günther, the Israeli Ambassador, H.E. Noah Gal Gendler and Dr. Isaac Rutenberg, Senior Lecturer and Director of Center for Intellectual Property and Information Technology (CIPIT) representing Kenya’s Jewish Community spoke at the event. The Kenyan Ambassador to UNON, Ms. Rose Makena spoke on behalf of the Kenyan Government to conclude the first phase of the event.

The second phase was led by the Israel Deputy Ambassador, Eyal David and moderated by UNIC Deputy Director, Mr. Newton Kanhema following screening of a 20 minutes documentary entitled “The Final Solution” that was followed by an hour of intense interactive session. Students from various campuses asked relevant questions that were competently and comprehensively answered by the three distinguished diplomats. UNIC mounted an exhibition entitled: The Butterfly Project which was on display for one week.
Funding shortfall leaves South Sudanese refugees at risk

Aid agencies call for urgent support to meet the needs of over 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees – including women overcoming trauma and children missing out on an education.

Three months after she was raped by armed men while fleeing violence in South Sudan, Vicky* realized that she was pregnant. Even now, in the safety of Kyaka refugee settlement in Uganda, the memories are raw.

“We cannot afford to ignore the tremendous needs of these refugee families who have been forced to flee the situation in South Sudan,”

Arnauld Akodjenou, UNHCR’s Special Advisor

Refugee athlete Rose Nathike calls for more support for South Sudanese children at during the launch for the South Sudan Situation appeal in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo by UNHCR -IOM Modesta Ndubi
“This dictionary is my bible,” she says. “When I want to shun the bad thoughts, I read through it and try to learn new words. I hope one day I will be able to restart my education.”

Vicky is one of over 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees who have sought safety in six neighbouring countries - Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic - since the onset of civil war five years ago. Another 1.9 million remain internally displaced inside South Sudan. Now, amidst severe underfunding, many are suffering.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with UN and NGO partners have launched an appeal for US$2.7 billion to address the life-saving humanitarian needs of South Sudanese refugees in 2019 and 2020.

“We cannot afford to ignore the tremendous needs of these refugee families who have been forced to flee the situation in South Sudan,” said Arnauld Akodjenou, UNHCR’s Special Advisor to the High Commissioner and Regional Refugee Coordinator for the South Sudan situation during the launch of the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2019-2020 at UNON, Gigiri. “There is enormous potential that can be realized if donors can support the countries that have generously opened their borders and provide all partners in the humanitarian response with the necessary means to respond.”

In 2018, UNHCR and its partners received just 38 percent of the required US$1.4 billion requested to support South Sudanese refugees. Education, health and food supplies are all severely underfunded, exacting a heavy toll on women and children, who account for 83 percent of the refugees.

“The food and nutrition needs of South Sudanese refugees are very real,” said Allison Oman Lawi, the World Food Programme’s Senior Regional Nutrition and Protection Advisor.

Education is also one of the acute concerns. Schools lack enough teachers, classrooms are overcrowded and textbooks are in short supply, leaving half of South Sudan’s refugee children out of school.
Groundwater management in Africa can be an essential component of climate change adaptation strategies. Because of rapid population growth and the need for water in various economic sectors across the world, the role of groundwater is steadily expanding. Particularly in Africa, groundwater acts as a vital source for vast rural population. 400 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa source their domestic water supply from groundwater. Yet, this often-abundant resource only accounts for 20 percent of total irrigation. More widespread irrigation could help reduce rural poverty, improve food security and counter droughts. The key point is understanding groundwater...
and characterizing the availability and distribution of groundwater resources for measuring the likely development potentials.

Thanks to recent research, UNESCO and its partners identified seventy-two transboundary groundwater zones in Africa, shared by two or more countries. They underlie 40 percent of the continent, where 33 percent of the population lives, often in arid or semi-arid regions.

For this, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, UNESCO Category 2 Regional Centre for Groundwater Resources Education, Training and Research- Kenya, with the support from Kenya Water Institute, the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)- Germany, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), The Netherlands, African Network for River Basin Organizations (ANBO), organized a Regional Training workshop on Integrating Groundwater management with River Basins, at the Kenya Water Institute, from 15 to 17 January 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The training stressed the importance of having adequate data and information on groundwater to enable decision makers prepare appropriate policies to regulate the use of natural resources. Groundwater and meteorological monitoring systems should be established or expanded at country and basin scales to assess how groundwater responds to abstraction and climate variability. Cross-sharing country experiences can also facilitate new projects and cooperation.

The delivery of the training course was based on the manual of Integrating Groundwater in River Basin Organizations, developed by Africa Groundwater Network (AGWNET) through the sponsorship of BGR. Participating countries presented the status of their groundwater management, specifically in the Republic of Djibouti, Republic of South Sudan, Sudan, in the Nile Basin, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and in Lake Victoria.

To view all the presentations, you can click here

At UNESCO, for the month of January/February- covering Kenya, here our contribution, along with the image we wish to see, the Groundwater Resources of Africa map, by clicking here: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Nairobi/groundwaterresources-min_01.jpg

“...The training stressed the importance of having adequate data and information on groundwater to enable decision makers prepare appropriate policies to regulate the use of natural resources. Groundwater and meteorological monitoring systems should be established or expanded at country and basin scales to assess how groundwater responds to abstraction and climate variability. Cross-sharing country experiences can also facilitate new projects and cooperation...”
Human rights workshops filled with children have taken over the Visitors Service offices throughout the past weeks.

In their photo workshop, a youth group visiting the UN illustrates Article 2 of the Human Rights Declaration: “Everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion”. By lifting the girl, the group depicts empowerment of women.

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On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Visitors Service Office started organizing these workshops for school children aged 7-18.

During these sessions, students get the opportunity to listen to a brief presentation about the history and topics of the UDHR. As children get a better understanding of human rights, their importance, and the UN’s mandate to promote and protect these rights, they also have the opportunity to express their interpretation of the topic via various arts activities. Group activities range from writing a poem or creating a play to taking photos and painting.

One of the workshop groups usually develops their own Human Rights Declaration and presents it to the other participants. This girl demanded job opportunities and the right to a say as basic rights for youth.

When asked to write about Article 5 (“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”), the children’s creativity truly shined through this poem:

**His Voice is Wayne**

This little Wayne,
Going through so much pain.
From this, what is his gain?
Purpose wise, is this the main?

He tried to approach you, ain’t I a person like you?
But even before you I had no voice.
He wants his voice to be heard.
Chained whispers.

“They’re still coming,
Ungag me, do it now -
Let's dare to die,
We need to survive.”

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The paintings will be displayed as part of a permanent Human Rights exhibition in the central area. A printout of all Articles of the UDHR will be accompanied by a painting - each representing our youth's perspectives on people's fundamental rights and freedoms.

“Everyone has the right to freedom of movement”, states Article 13 of the UDHR. Makogeni Church Group youth found their own way of interpretation.

A group painting is the center of all Human Rights Workshop. The paintings remain in the Visitors Service and will form a colorful exhibition on Human Rights, as youth understands them.
International Volunteers Day Celebrations in Kenya

UNV Kenya in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and the Volunteers Involving Network launched the National Volunteer Week in Kenya on 30th November 2018 at the UN Complex. The launch activity came prior to the International Volunteers Day on 5th December 2018 whose theme was “Volunteers Build Resilient Communities”, was officially

The key topics and speakers of the sessions included:

- The State of World Volunteerism 2018 to realizing the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda through the engagement of volunteers by Tapiwa Kamuruko, from the United Nations Volunteers Program Eastern and Southern Africa;

- The Economic case for a National volunteering infrastructure in Kenya and the initial findings by Dr. Tuesday Gichuki - consultant State Department for Social Protection; The impact of volunteerism and how to measure what matters in development planning by Dr. Johnson Ireri - Director of University Advancement University of Nairobi and the Statement from the Government of Kenya delivered by (Hon) Ambassador Ukur Yatani Kanacho, Cabinet Secretary Ministry for Labor and Social Protection, who officially launched the National Volunteer Week.

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opened by the UNDP Resident Coordinator Siddharth Chatterjee.

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Later in the day we held discussions with key corporate partners as Deloitte - Kenya

Mathews Marwa - one of the Blue economy conference volunteers thanking UNV Kenya and UNDP Kenya for granting them (Youth) a chance to volunteer for the conference.

Vojtech Hledik - UNV-ESARO Portfolio Specialist addressing participants during the Volunteer of the year awards at Laica regency.

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Commercial Bank Foundation and the Rotary Club of Kenya that were moderated by Dimitry Lermytte—UNV Kenya Programme Officer. These discussions were centered at the role and commitment of the private sector in advancing volunteerism in the country. This symposium was officially closed by an inspiring personal volunteer experience and remarks from Joyce Musuya -the Acting Executive Director for UNEP.

**Celebrating the Blue Economy Conference Volunteers**

UNV Kenya office celebrated the two hundred and fifty conference volunteers engaged in the just ended Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi on IVD day. These volunteers were awarded certificates of commendation by Amanda Seumanga, the UNDP Kenya Country Director and Ambassador Simon Nabukwesi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While addressing the volunteers, Ambassador Nabukwesi encouraged the youth to continue offering their skills and time as volunteers as they horn their experience to serve better in future endeavors.

UN Volunteers in Kenya at agencies celebrated IVD 2018 by sharing IVD T-shirts with their supervisors in appreciation for their commitment to Volunteerism. Later in the evening UN Volunteers joined the Volunteer Involving Organizations in Kenya for the Volunteer of the Year Award dinner at Laico Regency Hotel. See more pictures and on social media via #IVD2018, #ResilientCommunities #VOYA2018 and @UNVKenya.
UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 2019**

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First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta received at UNON by Victor Kissob, UNHabitat Deputy Executive
Photo by Tirus/UNIC Nairobi

UNIC Nairobi Deputy Director, Mr. Newton Kanhema greets Hon. Amina Mohammed, CS Kenya Sports Minister

UNIC Nairobi Director, Mr. Nasser Ega-Musa welcomes Hon. Amina Mohammed, CS Kenya Sports Minister

Students voting during their conference proceedings at UNON

First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta with organisers of the Model Conference on a group photo

First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta received a gift from one of the students

First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta receiving a bouquet of flowers from one of the students

First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta receiving a gift from one of the students

Students follow up the proceedings during the EAMUN at UNON

UNIC Nairobi Director, Mr. Nasser Ega-Musa welcomes Hon. Amina Mohammed, CS Kenya Sports Minister

Students voting during their conference proceedings at UNON

First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta with organisers of the Model Conference on a group photo

First Lady of Kenya H.E. Margaret Kenyatta receiving a bouquet of flowers from one of the students

East African Model UN Conference
22 January 2019
Delegates on their cultural dress during the conference at UNON. Photo by Tirus/UNIC Nairobi

Delegates on their cultural dress during the conference at UNON. Photo by Tirus/UNIC Nairobi

Delegates on their cultural dress during the conference at UNON. Photo by Tirus/UNIC Nairobi

Delegates on their cultural dress during the conference at UNON. Photo by Tirus/UNIC Nairobi

Participants follow the proceedings during the conference at UNON.

Deputy Ambassador, Israel Embassy in Kenya addressing the delegates

Some of the invited guests from UN with the coordinators of the conference on a group photo

One of the Delegates on her cultural dress during the conference at UNON. Photo by Tirus/UNIC Nairobi
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Mondays to Thursdays
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Fridays
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
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.

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