



UN Newsletter

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Leading the way for the next UNDAF

UNON VISITORS' SERVICE

The newly established UNON Visitors' Service has opened its doors to the general public visiting the complex at Gigiri.

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Participants at the annual UN Country Team Retreat © RCO, 2012

Representatives from twenty-one United Nations agencies and entities in Kenya came together for their annual retreat to agree on priorities and plan strategically for 2012 and beyond. Collectively, they decided on the way forward for the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2018.

The new UNDAF guidelines were discussed through a combination of presentations and group work, in light of the "Delivering as One" reform drive,

particularly drawing on the Tanzania experience, which was presented by Mr. Alberic Kacou, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tanzania.

Looking at the immediate future, invited partners from Government and independent commissions shared their expectations for the organization of the upcoming general elections in Kenya, including strategies for conflict prevention, and gave an overview of the devolution process. Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya,

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Upcoming Events

UNEP Governing Council Meeting- UNON : 20-22 February 2012

International Mother Language Day : 21 February 2012

Discussions on the Global Sustainability Panel Report - "Resilient People, Resilient Panel: A Future Worth Choosing" - UNON : 22 February 2012

Kenya Model UN- UNON : 5-9 March 2012

International Women's Day : 8 March 2012

UN Communications Group Retreat : 15 March 2012

reminded participants “it is imperative that the first general elections after the promulgation of the new, rights-based constitution are free, fair and credible.”

Under the guiding theme of “**Umoja ni Nguvu – Strength in Unity**,” participants also undertook a number of teambuilding exercises. A session on

the “One80” competency tool served as an inspiration for the team to face challenges from a position of shared and agreed leadership.

The retreat also served as an occasion to bid farewell to a senior member of the United Nations Country Team in Kenya, Dr. Olivia Yambi, UNICEF Country Representative, who has moved

on after the completion of her term of service in the country.

Spread out over three days from 18 to 20 January 2012, the retreat was structured in eight sessions. A total of 48 participants attended. One representative concluded that “an air of collegiality and cooperation” marked the event.

Norway announces major boost for gender equality in Kenya



The UN Resident and Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas Chuma with the Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Per Ludvig Magnus © UNDP, 2012

The Norwegian Embassy and the United Nations in Kenya announced the signing of an agreement in support of a Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, developed in partnership with the Government of Kenya.

Norway will contribute 13,175,000 Norwegian kroner (approx. 200 million Kenya shillings) over the next two years. The contribution will support Government and United Nations efforts to review and enact gender responsive

laws under the new constitution, to increase women’s participation in decision-making, to improve tabulation of gender statistics as well as services and opportunities for victims of sexual and gender based violence, and to support business development and vocational training for women.

The Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Per Ludvig Magnus, underlined that “Norway is committed to improving opportunities for women and girls in Kenya. Sustainable progress towards the achievement of Kenya’s Vision

2030 and the Millennium Development Goals will depend on greater gender equality. Our contribution should help achieve this goal and deliver real results in improving the lives of women and girls.”

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma, expressed appreciation to Norway for the continued confidence in the work of the United Nations, both globally and in Kenya.

Mr. Chuma stated: “The agreement comes at an important time, considering the national commitment to advancing the status of women in Kenya, as enshrined in the new constitution. It is also in line with recent international agreements at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, which have put gender equality at the centre of international policy level debates around aid and development effectiveness.”

“Under this Joint Programme, fourteen UN agencies, coordinated by UN Women, work together to deepen their support for gender equality in Kenya,” said Mr. Chuma. “The funds will allow the organization to further its commitment to the global UN reform process of ‘Delivering as One,’ which aims to ensure the UN’s funds are allocated more efficiently and effectively in support of national development priorities.”

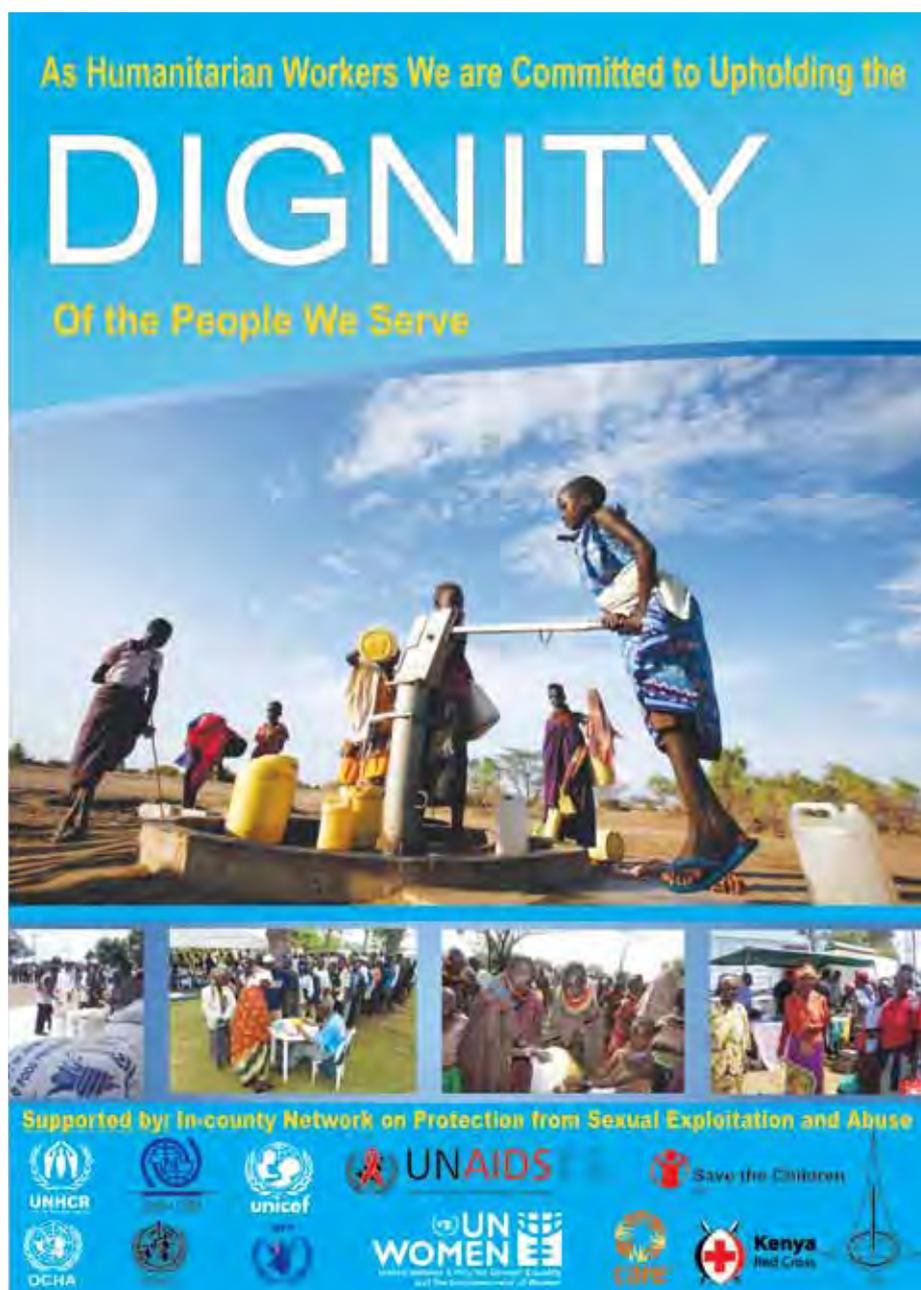
The UN supports the Government of Kenya to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian services

The United Nations through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Kenya is working with the Government of Kenya, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organization (CSOs) and UN Agencies to scale up and mainstream structures for the protection of affected populations from sexual abuse and exploitation across its humanitarian programmes and interventions in the country.

An Inter-agency rapid assessment on Gender-Based-Violence done following the post-election disturbances in Kenya, highlighted the potential for sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian aid workers and volunteers. This was further supported by other anecdotal evidence that incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) had been widespread among the displaced population from the post election violence (PEV). At that time no SEA structures existed and it was clear there was need for a more sustained approach and scale up of SEA interventions. Humanitarian organizations responding to the PEV crisis were purely unprepared, the displaced population did not understand their entitlements and there was a lack of a complaint response system.

In response, the UN Country Team (UNCT) and partner organizations in Kenya in 2008 adopted a zero tolerance policy to SEA and established the In-Country Network (ICN) on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) as the formal SEA focal point for Kenya. The In-Country Network serves as the primary body for coordination and oversight on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse of members of the beneficiary population by humanitarian workers. Among its core tasks is to facilitate training, sensitization and community information campaigns on prevention and best practices.

Following the establishment of the



In-Country Network the Secretary General of the Kenya Red Cross Society and the UN Resident Coordinator signed a statement of commitment on elimination of SEA by personnel. This led to a joint chairing of the In-Country Network on PSEA by UNOCHA and Kenya Red Cross Society who are the frontline emergency responders on behalf of the Government. Through working with 29 affiliate organizations (government, private, NGOs and

CSOs) the ICN has developed a 2-year-work plan that has been approved by the UNCT.

Within six months of the establishment of the ICN in 2009, 17 agencies of the UN in Kenya signed the statement of commitment on the protection of affected populations from sexual exploitation and abuse- a commendable achievement. The next phase and priority for the ICN is to work with these agencies to implement

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the commitment they have signed onto.

In 2011, the ICN organized 4 trainings on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to senior Government officials and the head of humanitarian and development agencies; both the UN and NGOs. The ICN also facilitated awareness sessions to the human resource sector and the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team.

In an attempt to better understand and analyze the measures in place for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, the ICN conducted an Inter-Agency nation-wide baseline study in November 2011, to identify the existing gaps and areas for further improvement. Phase I of the review focussed on Turkana Central (Lodwar) and West (Kakuma) all in drought and conflict affected regions of Kenya.

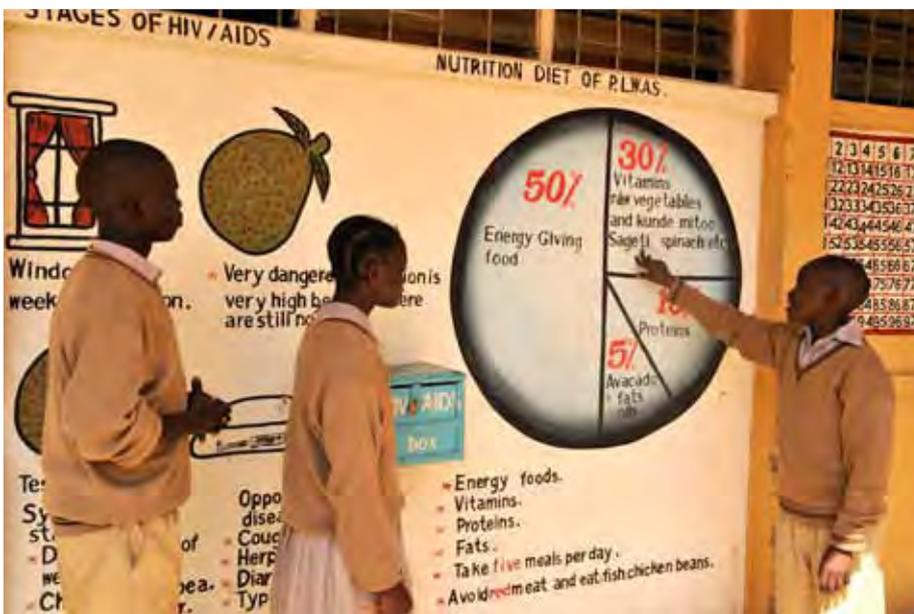
Preliminary findings indicate that PSEA has only been centred in Kenyan refugee camps and has not filtered across agency or informed the work of other humanitarian and development aid. Only 30% of respondents in both Kakuma and Lodwar locations believed staff knew how to apply complaints procedures and there was completely lack of knowledge of SEA by the local populations. At the headquarter level very few organizations have shown full commitment, yet, 2011 saw a number of partners responding to the humanitarian situation, describing how insufficiency of aid coupled with poorly planned distribution lead to increased vulnerability hence an increased risk of SEA.

These findings have led to the ICN prioritizing prevention and response

in its PSEA programmes for 2012. Through its affiliate partners, it has developed outreach materials to raise understanding among local populations about their rights and entitlements (such as beneficiaries' entitlement to aid without any requirement for sexual favours).

Re-affirmation of determination to prevent future acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel through signing the statement of commitment in 2009 by UN Agencies is a notable step in the implementation of PSEA structures. All UN Agencies are advised to be active members by identifying committed focal points to represent their organizations. For further information please email okoroc@un.org / uyoga@un.org

What a difference Child-Friendly Schools make!



Students from Ayany Primary School in Nairobi learn through the school's wall murals (talking walls). This child-centred approach to learning promotes participation and interaction amongst students © UNICEF Kenya/2009/D'Elbe

Just three years ago, the low enrolment of girls at Gilwadzi Friends Primary School in Western Kenya was worrying, with only four girls out of every 10 students. Girls' education was not a priority for the

community and many out-of-school girls chose to marry early or work as casual labourers.

It was then that the school's head teacher, Josephat Otiende, took a Child Friendly School (CFS) course,

conducted by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education. Mr. Otiende was taken through the Child-Friendly School concept, with the training focusing on how to make classes inclusive and child-friendly, how to establish a safe and protective school, promoting equity and equality, health and nutrition and how to create linkages with the community and forge partnerships.

When he returned to the Western Province, the head teacher decided to put what he had learnt in theory into practice. He trained the school's teachers on the Child-Friendly School concept and together they began transforming the school.

"I have seen a great change in our school ever since we adopted child-friendly practices," he says. "We have greatly improved on gender parity because in the past the ratio was six boys to four girls but now we have 235 boys in the school and 228 girls. This is something I am very proud of. Our academic performance too reflects our positive changes."

The number of students joining secondary schools has since increased

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from a measly 35 per cent to 78 per cent. In addition, the students and teachers have worked together to create a clean and safe environment for study, one of the core elements of the Child-Friendly School Concept.

Mr. Otiende was among head teachers who shared their success stories of the impact of Child-Friendly Schools during a recent forum convened by the Kenya Primary School Head teachers Association (KEPSHA). Impressive reports were presented from all corners of the country, from North-Eastern Province to Western and Coast provinces. The head teachers also talked about the challenges they have faced in implementing the concept.

Kyaume Primary School in Machakos County saw its mean score in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) examination improve steadily from 229.34 in 2009 to 235.62 in 2010 and 248.34 last year.

The Child-Friendly School concept was introduced in Kenya in 2002 and implemented on a pilot basis by the Ministry of Education, with the support of UNICEF, in 11 districts: Nairobi, Turkana, West Pokot, Kwale, Isiolo, Marsabit, Moyale, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Ijara. In 2010, the Ministry rolled out the programme on a national scale.

The concept aims at encouraging

child-centred learning by addressing all facets of education, including the environment, issues of equity and equality, and the wholesome development of the child.

“To make our schools truly child-friendly we need to address the child in a holistic manner,” says Elias Noor, UNICEF Education Specialist. “We must go beyond academics and even recognize head teachers not only for producing impressive KCPE results, but for improving on the thematic areas of CFS, such as creating equity and equality and promoting hygiene and sanitation in schools”.

In Githioro Primary School in Central Kenya, for instance, students and teachers have focused on improving the school’s environment. They have set up a tree nursery and planted trees in the compound, where each student adopts a tree and cares for it. From the sale of seedlings from the tree nursery, the school has been able to sponsor three students to secondary school. In addition, pupils are taking the lessons home by planting trees in their compounds.

Nonetheless there have been some challenges faced in taking on the spirit of a Child Friendly School. Some schools have not been able to create strong linkages with the community and partners, especially in areas where

poverty is high. Others are struggling with trying to enhance equity and equality, particularly in trying to attain gender parity and to establish disability-friendly schools. The head teachers have however vowed to tackle the challenges head-on.

Disaster Risk Reduction is also a critical area that needs to be included when implementing CFS standards in the country. Early response and management of risks and hazards in schools were addressed in the training as head teachers reflected on how to mitigate disasters in their schools.

“In the last two decades, Kenya has been facing rising vulnerability to risks which turn into disasters and hazards,” said Secretary of the Teachers Service Commission, Gabriel Lengoiboni, as the training came to an end. “Schools are predisposed to disasters due to factors such as poor discipline and management, bad structures, poor hygiene and natural disasters like floods and drought. As head teachers you have to be at the forefront in averting disasters.”

As the training drew to a close, the head teachers were motivated anew to keep the Child-Friendly Schools mantle burning and put in place measures to ensure schools provide a safe and friendly learning environment for the child.

Nations urged to protect the most vulnerable as the world remembers the 6 million victims of the Holocaust

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) Nairobi observed the sixth International Day for the Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust at the Green Garden School in Kikuyu, a town at the outskirts of Nairobi.

This year the theme was “Children and the Holocaust” in memory of the 1.5 million children who perished and suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators.

With 500 guests in attendance, the day started with UNIC and officials from the Embassy of the State of Israel conducting a briefing on the meaning of the Holocaust. An animated documentary entitled, “The Last Flight



*Students from Green Garden School reciting a poem on children and the holocaust
© UNIC, 2012*

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of Petr Ginz” was also screened.

In a message presented on his behalf by the Director General of UNON, Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on all nations to protect the most vulnerable, including children, regardless of race, colour, gender or religious beliefs.

The Ambassador of the Embassy of the State of Israel, Mr. Gil Haskel said that many of the lingering questions that come up from the events of the holocaust are complex and partly unexplainable. He however is lucky to have had a father who managed to escape the horrific fate of the brutal murder and massacre as a child, and later shared the whole story with him before his death two years ago.

On behalf of the Hebrew congregation of Nairobi, the Chairman, Mr. Albert

Atias, noted how, in spite of their acute vulnerability, many children discovered ways to survive. He also added that of the millions of children who suffered persecution at the hands of the Nazis, only a small number wrote diaries and journals that still exist.

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Margit Hellwig-Boete, explained how the 1.5 million children who perished could have made a difference in the world. She added that the atrocities committed by Germans would remain part and parcel of their lives and called on the children of victims and those of perpetrators to live together for a better future.

Ambassador Solomon Maina, representing the Government of Kenya noted that while this year’s theme reminded everyone of the millions of

children who perished in the holocaust, it also highlighted the vulnerability of children when violence occurred. It is in this spirit that the Kenya Parliament enacted the necessary legislation in Chapter 4 of the Bill of Rights of the new constitution which calls upon the protection of children from violence as a basic human right.

Six candles were lit in remembrance of the six million victims of the holocaust, followed by an observance of a minute of silence in their memory.

The observance was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, students from various schools, parents, and the media.

A week-long exhibition on the holocaust was mounted at the United Nations Office complex in Nairobi.

Young ones called upon to embrace diversity during the annual MSMUN Conference in Nairobi



The UNON Director General, Ms Sahle-Work Zewde addressing the MSMUN conference in Nairobi © UNEP, 2012

About 800 middle school students from 36 schools in East Africa converged at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) for the annual Middle School Model United Nations (MSMUN) Conference which started on 24 to 27 January 2012.

Ms Sahle-Work Zewde, the Director General of UNON, officially opened the conference and welcomed the

participants to the United Nations Headquarters in Nairobi, the only one in Africa. Ms Zewde noted how the conferences theme “Promoting Cultural Diversity” was timely, given that a number of conflicts in the world were as a result of intolerance and failure to embrace and appreciate diversity.

The Director General was delighted by the diversity of gender

in the composition of the participants, underlining how it promoted the spirit of community and social cohesion.

Ms Zewde appreciated the activities of the MSMUN on the development of a sustainable future by embarking on a number of programmes including tree-planting and paper recycling

Model United Nations conferences began around the world as early as 1923, with simulated sessions of what was then called the League of Nations. These sessions are now held in numerous countries at all levels, ranging from middle and high schools to universities and adult MUN sessions. The conferences are authentic simulations of the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council or other multilateral bodies, which introduce students into the world of diplomacy and negotiation. They provide space for discussions on different topics of international concern mainly on issues such as the environment, economic, political and social among many others.

FAO supports sensitization of policy makers on the contribution of forests to the Kenyan economy

In an effort to raise the profile of forestry in Kenya, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported a three days workshop in Mombasa to sensitize key policy makers on the contribution of forests to the Kenyan economy. Participants included members of the parliamentary committee on land and natural resources and other key stakeholders both from the public and private sectors. The FAO Representative in Kenya, Mr. Dan Rugabira, presented a paper on **Potential Sources of Financial Support to Sustainable Forestry Development**.

The contribution of forestry and forests to economic growth and human well being has continued to be underestimated worldwide. This has resulted in low ranking of the sector in the context of national priorities leading to decreasing resource allocation for forestry development. In Kenya, this happens despite the fact that natural resources and its rich and biological diversity are the country's natural capital and wealth that support social and economic systems. The value of the forests extends to the regional and global levels supporting major production sectors such as agricultural development, industrial and pharmaceutical activities, climate regulation, construction and tourism among many other sectors.

The workshop concluded that:

- Contribution of forest and biodiversity to development, poverty reduction and well-being in Kenya is real but not well understood due to the challenge of valuing and measuring these assets. For the most part, natural capital, which is what is valued has bypassed markets and escaped pricing.
- The lack of appropriate metrics for measuring forests as well as the supporting role of biodiversity contribute to lack of internalization of environmental issues and promote adoption



The Chairperson of the Lands and Natural Resources Management parliamentary committee Mr Mutava Musyimi (left) with other participants at the workshop
© FAO, 2012

of economic policies that encourage over-consumption of natural assets.

- In Kenya the forestry sector plays a key role in the economy, with wood fuel and charcoal representing more than 75% of domestic energy. The sector provides the non-monetary economy with at least Ksh6,988 million per year worth of raw materials, while the charcoal manufacturing sector attributes an estimated Ksh12,460 million per year to GDP, employs about 700,000 people who in turn support about 2.5 million family members. These transactions are not accounted for in the national accounts.
- BUT: According to official national accounts, the forestry sector contributes only 1% to the overall GDP of Kenya which amounts to severe undervaluation of the role of forests for the Kenyan economy.

This means that the national GDP of Kenya is understated by approximately 1.4%.

In conclusion, the workshop recognized that if adopted, a Forestry Resources Account (FRA) would capture the full value of the forestry sector, and provide official evidence on whether the forestry asset is being utilized sustainably. It would assist in understanding the complex relationships between development and the environment and support informed decision and policy making.

There is critical need for increased investment in tree-planting and conservation of existing forests in order to promote the impacts which positively affect other key productive sectors of the economy.

The workshop provided an appropriate opportunity to equip the policy makers with knowledge and facts that would enhance their capacity to lobby for greater recognition of the forestry sector's role in the economy.

Government of Kenya to continue protecting refugees



Prof. Saitoti receives security vehicles donated by UNHCR. Looking on is the UNHCR Country Representative Mr. Elike Segbor and the then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Internal Security Mr. Francis Kimemia
© UNHCR, 2012

The Minister for Provincial Administration and Internal Security Prof. George Saitoti last month reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to honour and respect its international obligations including protection and assistance of refugees. The Minister said this while receiving 30 land cruisers from UNHCR for use by security personnel in Dadaab.

Accompanied by the then Permanent Secretary in the same Ministry, Mr. Francis Kimemia, the Minister

assured UNHCR and the international community that Kenya would continue to assist refugees and reinforce their security. He thanked UNHCR for continued support and called for more partnership. He particularly referred to his meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Antonio Guterres last year when he assured him of the Government's commitment to continue supporting refugees.

The handing over ceremony was held

in the vicinity of Harambee house which is the Headquarters of the Ministry of Provincial Administration and Internal Security. It also houses the Office of the President.

The UNHCR Country Representative Mr. Elike Segbor officially handed over the vehicles and in his remarks thanked the people of Kenya for hosting the refugees and the Government of Kenya for providing support to the refugee operation over the years.

"I sincerely thank the people and Government of Kenya for the generosity that has seen them offer asylum to thousand of refugees over the years" said Mr. Segbor.

Prof. Saitoti expressed his gratitude and pleasure in receiving the vehicles. He reiterated during his official remarks that Kenya had accepted and implemented its international obligations towards Somalia refugees. The Minister however pointed out that the challenge of Somalia remained an international problem and not merely a Kenyan, regional or African one. He called for the speedy stabilization of Somalia.

IOM Director General visits Kenya

The Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing was in Kenya on 31 January 2012, for a one-day official visit. His arrival in Kenya was part of a tour that saw him visit countries in the Horn of Africa including Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan

The Director General held a series

of bilateral meetings with Government officials, various representatives of the United Nations in Kenya and foreign envoys, with an aim to strengthen partnerships and re-affirm the organization's commitment to work with and support the Government of Kenya in its development agenda on issues relating to migration.

IOM's programming has grown

over the years to reach out to mobile and vulnerable populations in areas affected by conflict and natural disasters including Eldoret, Dadaab, Kakuma, Garissa and Kapenguria. IOM's support in Dadaab has gone beyond the Horn of Africa Drought emergency response and focuses on long term intervention measures including supporting and

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reviving livelihood systems among pastoralist and refugee host communities to respond to climate change and the refugee influx in Northern Kenya for the benefit of all.

The Republic of Kenya was the first African country to become a member of the IOM on 24 May 1985 although the original cooperation agreement between the country and IOM was signed on 26 March 1982.

Since then, IOM has witnessed an exceptional growth, reflecting the increasing importance of migration on the national and international policy agenda.



IOM Director General William Lacy Swing (right, front row) and the Minister of State for Immigration and Registration of Persons Hon. Otiemo Kajwang (middle, front row) © IOM, 2012

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