



UN Newsletter

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Commemorating the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All



(Left) Demonstration of the Improved Cook Stove. (Right) Roundtable dialogue with all the delegates © UNEP, 2012

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Contact:

E-mail: un.tours@unon.org

Tel: +254-20-2762 22034

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The 2012 International Year for Sustainable Energy for All was marked in style in Kenya during the 12th Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF). The biogas plant at the Nyongara Slaughter House in Dagoretti was showcased alongside a demonstration of Improved Cook Stoves used by women in Kiawamagira in the same locality. These are major milestones for addressing sustainable development in Kenya, and are precursors to increased adoption of renewable energy and fuel efficiency technologies.

Marking the International Year for Sustainable Energy for All is the hallmark for creating enabling environments for the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy and technologies.

On Wednesday, 22 February 2012, Swedish Minister for Environment, Ms. Lena Ek; Kenya's Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Sally Kosgey and Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, Ms. Ann Dismor visited the biogas plant in Dagoretti to appreciate how such technology could be replicated and up-scaled in Kenya. They were accompanied by UNIDO's Country Representative for Kenya and Eritrea, Mr. Ola Altera; and UNEP's Deputy Director to the Division of Regional Cooperation, Mr. Jiri Hlavacek. UNEP's Africa representative for the Atmospheric Brown Cloud project Mr. Mylvakanam Iyngararasan gave a presentation on this subject and the need to promote Improved Cook stoves. UNEP-Kenya Country Programme Coordinator, Mr. Henry Ndede, presided over the whole ceremony.

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Upcoming Events

World Health Day: 7 April, 2012

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda: 7 April, 2012

World Book and Copyright Day: 23 April, 2012

The proprietor of Nyongara Slaughter House, Mr. Joe Kangari, led the delegates in a tour of the plant and gave an overview of its operations. The biogas plant turns slaughter house waste disposal into useful energy resource – methane gas – which runs a GENSET to supply electricity for lighting and powering water pumps and compressors for cold storage and processing of hides and skins. Apart from savings on the costs of energy from conventional sources, this project has mitigated the release of waste into the source of the Nairobi River.

During a brief roundtable dialogue with all the delegates, Hon. Dr. Kosgey established that the waste products from the biogas plant could also be used by farmers as fertilizer, especially in their quality as the source of humic acid. She stated that this project clearly demonstrated how to reduce pollution of water systems from industrial activities.

In her statement, Ms. Lena Ek suggested that the gas produced should be packaged into containers for commercial distribution to the local

community as part of micro-enterprise development. Experience shared at the meeting revealed that a kilogram of gas can be used for three days and is the energy potential the community should exploit. The project serves as a center of excellence for building capacity on the generation of energy and demonstrates public-private partnership. It is a showcase of the UN system organizations working towards “Delivering as One” on the technology front. Major implementing partners to the project are the Kenya Industrial Research Institute (KIRDI) and local communities.

Alongside the biogas plant presentation, was a demonstration of Project Surya-Improved Cook Stoves- which is a component of the black carbon initiative of the Atmospheric Brown Cloud Project, initiated by UNEP in 2002. The project aims to mitigate the regional impacts of global warming by reducing atmospheric concentrations of black carbon and methane through replacement of highly polluting cook stoves traditionally used in rural areas, with clean-cooking technologies.

In his presentation, Mr. Iyngararasan said that the stove requires less than half of biomass fuels and is designed with a solar-panel powered fan, which improves combustion by supplying a small volume of high velocity air. The air increases the mixing of oxygen, thus creating complete combustion, and hence hotter blue fire. An added bonus is the solar lamp, providing light through a renewable resource. This approach reduces the costs of paraffin, improves the health of upper respiratory systems and reduces the impact from firewood collection from nearby forests.

Project Surya is supporting the Improved Cook Stove through the Appropriate Wood and Solar Energy Network, a registered community based women’s organization in Dagoretti. Representatives of the group say they are relieved of blood-shot eyes filled with tears during cooking. It is also a relief that children no longer frequent hospitals for treatment of respiratory complications. The biogas plant and Project Surya demonstrate clear examples of sustainable energy for all awaiting up-scaling and replication.

Championing transparency and accountability in the public service



UNDP Governance Practitioners from East and Southern Africa alongside senior Government officers in Kenya gathered in Nairobi for a three-day capacity-building workshop on enhancing public administration. © UNDP, 2012

UNDP Governance Practitioners from East and Southern Africa, alongside senior Government officers in Kenya, gathered in Nairobi for an intensive three day capacity-building workshop on enhancing public administration. The overall objective of the workshop was to analyze, debate and share perspectives on how performance management can better support service delivery and accountability within key service delivery areas to optimize on inclusive development and effectiveness in the public service.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Aeneas Chuma, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, affirmed

that there was an increasing demand by citizens for improved performance by the public service in all countries. He stated, “Citizens now, more than ever before, are demanding for better service delivery, as well as accountable and transparent public service institutions. This is the undeniable right of all citizens, for Governments are the custodians of the people’s collective aspirations, and the organs entrusted with the taxes and other revenues generated from the citizens, directly and indirectly”.

Public sector reforms today demand efficiency, transparency and accountability. They are providing more opportunities for “choice” and “a voice” to service users by promoting efficiency in public service delivery. Accountability and improved efficiency are now the overriding aim of public sector reforms in most African countries and performance management is central to establishing benchmarks,

monitoring progress and rewarding both accountability and efficiency to individual officers and among public institutions.

Also in attendance at the opening of the workshop was the Permanent Secretary for Performance Contracting in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Richard Ndubai. Kenya adopted Performance Contracting in 2004 as the ideal system for enhancing efficiency in public service in Government Institutions. This system has transformed the civil service from its former bureaucratic stance to the current performance driven functionality.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ndubai emphasized on the adoption of performance management systems as the foundation of visionary public institutions that will remain on the cutting edge of global competitiveness. “The purpose of designing and implementing performance management systems is

to ensure that performance happens by design, and not by chance,” he stressed.

Mr. Chuma also expressed the relevance of the training to the current efforts to adopt the new devolution structure in the country. “This training on Performance Management and Accountability in Public Administration comes at the most opportune time. The newly formed counties are struggling with the new constitutional and economic reforms affecting the public sector, and the need for driving the ultimate objective of transforming the counties into middle income economies,” he added.

The Kenyan Government must be commended for the tremendous strides made in public service delivery and consequent global recognition through the coveted UN Public Service Award in 2007.

Advancing social justice for people living with HIV



From Left to Right, Prof Getui, Chairperson, NACC Board, Ambrose Rachier, Chairperson, HIV Equity Tribunal, Hon Esther Murugi, Minister of Special Programmes, Hon Mohammed Mohamed Ali, former Assistant Minister, Special Programmes and Prof Alloys Orago, Director, NACC during a swearing-in ceremony of the HIV Equity Tribunal © UNAIDS, 2012

At the June 2011 High Level Meeting on AIDS, world leaders pledged to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV by promoting

laws and policies that advance human rights and fundamental freedoms. The recent creation of an HIV Equity Tribunal in Kenya—the first of its kind globally—represents a bold step

towards achieving this goal.

The new seven-member Tribunal will also seek to advance the rights of women and girls who are disproportionately affected

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by the HIV epidemic in Kenya. UNAIDS spoke with Ambrose Rachier, Chair of the Tribunal, about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Below are excerpts of the interview:

What is the mandate of the Tribunal and how will it carry out it ?

The mandate of the Tribunal is outlined in the 2006 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Act. The Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear and determine complaints arising out of any breach of the Act and can also perform functions related to the Act, excluding criminal jurisdiction.

Court proceedings can take years in Kenya, so how can the Tribunal hasten access to justice for people living with HIV?

The Tribunal has the power of a court and can receive evidence, hear witness accounts, conduct full hearings and pass judgments on the above matters. With this in mind, it is expected that the Tribunal will focus on the protection

of human rights of people living with HIV.

What actions have been undertaken by the Tribunal so far?

Since its swearing in, the Tribunal has received, reviewed and categorized matters based on general complaints as follows:

- A majority of the complaints relate to workplace discrimination and stigmatization of employees on the basis of their real and/or perceived HIV status. These range from termination of employment, demotion and irregular transfer of employees.
- The second category relates to denial of and difficulty in access to HIV treatment, mainly arising from claims of persons being transferred to remote areas of the county where HIV treatment, prevention services and commodities cannot be readily accessed

- The last category involves violations within the family context and primarily women who, on the grounds of their HIV-positive status, may have suffered domestic violence, abandonment or the disinheritance of property.

The full interview can be accessed at <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2012/february/20120223akenya/>

The HIV Equity Tribunal provides an unprecedented opportunity to improve the lives of people living with HIV who face discrimination. The Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS in Kenya, through UNDP and UNAIDS, will support the Tribunal by building its capacity to operate effectively, providing technical support, and creating demand within communities through advocacy.

UNFPA donates Sh47 million goods to boost health in Kenya



Dr. Mark Bor, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and Mr. Fidelis Zama Chi, the UNFPA Country Representative inspect the vehicles and health materials donated to the Government by UNFPA.

© UNFPA, 2012

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, donated goods worth Sh 47 million to the Kenya Government for enhancing

quality health services.

The donations are part of a joint initiative between the Government and UNFPA towards improving health

services delivery in line with meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nineteen million shillings of the total donation will be channelled towards the fight against fistula at Kenyatta National and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospitals in Nairobi and Eldoret respectively.

Speaking in Nairobi while flagging off three ambulances and an assortment of medical appliances that will be dispatched to various parts of the country, Dr. Mark Bor, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, appreciated the donations and reiterated his Ministry's commitment towards attaining universal health care. "We want to ensure that women do not die during delivery," Dr. Bor said, adding that the equipment will be dispatched to identified centres of excellence to promote health activities.

While flagging off the vehicles and materials for dispatch to the regions, Mr. Fidelis Zama Chi, the UNFPA Country Representative complimented the Government for its initiative to

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accelerate the attainment of the MDGs, particularly Goal 5 on reduction of maternal mortality and the universal access to health services.

The Ministry has identified Mtwapa in Coast province, Migori in Nyanza, and Ndabibi in Rift Valley as the three pilot areas to roll-out health outreach programmes. Dr. Bor said the Ministry will continue to accord support to Kenyans through the already established health centres in every constituency: “This is part of continuous support

towards the provision of health care,” he said. Dr. Bor explained how the three areas were carefully selected in line with their needs, adding that the surging population, commercial sex activities and the economic life in the regions formed part of the criteria.

“The reasons why we chose these health centres is because they experience high population growth,” he said, acknowledging that due to rural-urban migration the areas were growing fast. “Despite commercial activities being

carried out in the areas, people still lack medical facilities,” he observed.

Other items that were donated included three mobile trailers, 30 delivery kits, one truck for condom distribution and condoms. The condoms will be distributed countrywide as a measure towards curbing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

Do not underrate youth power says the EAMUN Secretary-General

From 14 to 17 February 2012, about 950 high school-level students met at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) for their 30th annual East African Model United Nations (EAMUN) conference.

Addressing the participants, 16-year-old Shiro Wachira, the EAMUN Secretary-General, noted how East African youth are underrated and yet they can contribute positively to the development agenda. “Our conference is the proof that kids can do a lot, that they have so much potential. If you just walk out and talk to a few delegates you would be amazed at the projects they are involved in.” Ms. Wachira gave an example of a group of kids who had started a website promoting environmental awareness and social issues related to the youth, thereby taking an active role in current discussions on a sustainable future.

She also stressed that the theme of the EAMUN, **Promoting Cultural Diversity**, “makes the delegates aware of the cultural differences that exist between people and should be embraced and appreciated. Our strengths lie in our differences.”

Under the same theme, the participating students were challenged to adopt views and attitudes other than their own, breaking away from narrow self-interest to developing international cooperation, one of the core values of the United Nations.

Ambassador Solomon Maina, the Director of the International Organization and Conferences



Delegates follow proceedings at the EAMUN Conference © UNIC, 2012

Directorate in the Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged the students to engage their energies in “activities that would help make a difference in their environment and culture to enhance diversity in the world.” He underlined how the Government had pursued the youth agenda through the Ministry of Youth and Sports by establishing the Youth Enterprise Fund. The Fund has been instrumental in the creation of over 300,000 job opportunities and disbursement of KShs 5.9 billion to over 157, 000 youth enterprises across the country.

The EAMUN conference is one of three such conferences hosted by the UN in Nairobi. The others are for middle school and university levels.

The conference attracted students

from 61 schools from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sweden, Tanzania, and Uganda. Students from the DRC, Malawi and Sweden were participating in the conference for the first time.

Model UN conferences are authentic simulations of the UN General Assembly, Security Council or other multilateral bodies, which introduce students into the world of diplomacy and negotiations. They provide a forum for discussions on various topics of international concern.

FAO builds capacity for timely decisions in response to disasters



Members of the District Steering Groups who participated in the capacity-building workshop on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards. © FAO, 2012

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations with funding from the European Union (EU) has been rolling out training on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) with a view to building the capacity of the District Steering Groups (DSGs) for timely decisions and response in handling disasters affecting livestock.

The DSG comprising of humanitarian

actors that include the Government, NGOs and CBOs form a very crucial coordination organ at the local level. The Government is often represented by the various departments within the district. With the advent of the new constitution, the structure of this body will have to conform to the proposed county format and the LEGS training has been focusing on this adaptation.

The LEGS are a set of international

standards for improving the quality of livestock programmes in humanitarian disasters based on rights and has been accepted as a companion of the Sphere standards. The LEGS are focused on regions prone to repeated or large-scale disasters which may be characterized by either rapid onset, slow onset or complex phases.

Out of a targeted 23 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands counties, FAO has conducted the standard three-day LEGS training in nine counties, namely: Narok, Kajiado, Makueni, Isiolo, Marsabit, Laikipia, Lamu, Kilifi and Taita Taveta. A total of 183 participants comprising of 157 males and 26 females successfully completed the training and were awarded the LEGS certificate.

The participants are taken through an elaborate four-step LEGS approach that involves preliminary assessment, response identification, analysis of technical interventions and options, and finally monitoring and evaluation.

The training will go a long way in ensuring that the DSGs respond to emergencies in a timely manner to save lives and livelihoods of crises affected communities.

Dadaab- world's biggest refugee camp turns 20

This year is the 20th anniversary of the world's biggest refugee camp, Dadaab in north-eastern Kenya. UNHCR, which manages the Dadaab complex, set up the first camps there between October 1991 and June 1992. This followed a civil war in Somalia in 1991 that had culminated in the fall of Mogadishu and overthrow of the central government.

The original intention was for the three Dadaab camps to host up to 90,000 people. However, currently they host more than 463,000 refugees, including some 10,000 third-generation refugees born in Dadaab to refugee parents who were also born there.

During last year's famine in Somalia, arrival rates frequently exceeded 1,000 people a day. Around 30,000 arrived in June, 40,000 in July and 38,000 in August 2011. This has placed additional strain on existing resources. Together with the local authorities and humanitarian agencies, UNHCR managed to address the influx by establishing reception centres and rapid response assistance for new arrivals.

That Dadaab has been able to provide refuge for so many years and to so many people is thanks, first and foremost to the Government and people of Kenya. UNHCR, together with the Government of Kenya and working with other aid

agencies, has provided protection, shelter and humanitarian assistance, often under difficult and complex circumstances. Chronic overcrowding, risk of disease, and seasonal floods are among these challenges.

On the occasion of this anniversary UNHCR is renewing its appeal to the international community to ensure continued support to the approximately 1 million Somali refugees in the region, and to Kenya and the other countries that are hosting them. A third of this refugee population left Somalia in 2011 in the face of crippling conditions of drought, famine, and violence.

The 20 years that have passed

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also underline the need for peace in Somalia, an end to the violence there, and the possibility of refugees being able to return home. UNHCR hopes that deliberations during the past London Somalia Conference on 23 February 2012, will act as a catalyst for a permanent solution to the perennial issue of the Somali situation - something that UNHCR has long pressed for.

Currently, the situation at Dadaab is extremely challenging. The kidnapping of three aid workers last autumn and more recently, the killing of two refugee leaders and several Kenyan policemen, as well as threats against humanitarian staff have forced UNHCR and its partners to rethink the way that aid is delivered.

Since October and until recently, there were security restrictions on movement around the camp. However, life-saving assistance such as the provision of food, water and health care never stopped and has always been UNHCR's priority. In addition, schools run mostly by refugee teachers have been open and managed to conduct Kenyan national exams at the end of 2011 despite the insecure environment.

Since the end of last year, humanitarian actors have looked at various ways to resume activities, using different methodologies and most importantly, shifting more responsibilities to the refugee communities.

As such, the crisis also presents an opportunity to more actively empower refugees to manage the day-to-day aspects of camp life. This includes the engagement of youth in providing informal education to new arrivals in Kambioos, water committees



Refugees settle in their new tents at Dadaab refugee camp. © UNHCR, 2012

coordinating and ensuring sufficient water per household, refugee reporters publishing their own newspaper, and women forming groups for livelihood opportunities for mothers.

Services in the areas of health, water and sanitation have also been scaled up. On a typical day, some 1,800 refugees now get outpatient treatment in hospitals and health posts in the camps. Service provision in Kambioos has also improved. However, there are still new measles cases and focus is on vaccination for all new arrivals over 30 years of age.

UNHCR teams are involved in protection and community-services work including carrying out regular protection, monitoring and livelihoods projects. Refugee teachers are receiving training on child-centred approaches, classroom management and psycho-social support. Activities also focused

on youth, women and refugees with disabilities.

UNHCR has also resumed the relocation of refugees from the less secure outskirts of Dagahaley camp to Ifo 2, where they receive family tents and basic assistance and services. Some 2,000 refugees have been moved so far, with another 3,500 set to join them soon. By the end of the exercise, the entire camp of Ifo 2, with a capacity for 80,000 people, will be filled.

More than 968,000 Somalis live as refugees in countries neighbouring Somalia, primarily in Kenya (520,000), Yemen (203,000) and Ethiopia (186,000). A third of them fled Somalia in the course of 2011. Another 1.3 million people are internally displaced within Somalia.

