



UN and Kenya Police host Forum towards Peaceful 2022 Elections

UN Women and OHCHR, in partnership with Kenya’s National Police Service (NPS), bring state and non-state actors together to map out key measures needed to prevent violence against women ahead of the 2022 general election cycle.



The two-day forum in Nakuru brought together a host of state and non-state actors, who collectively, are mandated to ensure Kenya’s elections will be safe and free from violence.

Photo: UN Women/Luke Horswell

Continue on Page 2



During the two-day forum in Nakuru County, the NPS presented the Election Security Arrangement Plan (ESAP) 2022, which was developed with Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The strategy is a one-year plan to guide multi-agency work and articulate collective strategy, commitments and actions in support of election security issues such as violence, intimidation, and corruption.

Christine Okeno, UN Women Ending Violence against Women Specialist, explains that 2022 preparations are a cause for optimism *“as in previous elections, coordinating so many key players who have a collective mandate to keep elections in Kenya safe from violence, has been challenging. All actors are looking to enhance their monitoring and early warning mechanisms to best prevent outbreaks of conflict and violence.”*

As the ESAP is finalised,

Hate speech and political incitement of violence was identified as one of the primary drivers of conflict.

discussions centred on measures most needed to prevent and respond to human rights violations, and in particular, violence against women in elections (VAWiE). Both state and non-state actors with participants expressed deep concern over serious human rights violations, specifically sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during elections that has become a recurrent feature of elections in Kenya and identified key drivers of these violations.

Hate speech and political incitement of violence was identified as one of the primary drivers of conflict. Lillian Mbilo,

data analyst for Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) states: *“We are already seeing situations of political intolerance. Political parties - or their supporters - will not allow a conducive environment for supporters of other parties to carry out activities in certain territories. We are also seeing some utterances from politicians which can be divisive and polarizing. These should not be coming from leaders who [effectively] command large numbers of followers.”*

The stakeholders present agreed to forge a collective, unified approach in prevention and response to serious human rights violations and GBV during elections in 2022 general elections. Important next steps include consultative meetings around political parties' primaries, forums on elections security for female aspirants, and police sensitisation and training.

UNOPS supports digitization with Kenyan criminal justice Government Entities

Technology is a big strategic investment, especially for government agencies that provide services to the public. The Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology;

through the Information Communication and Technology Authority (ICTA) of Kenya Strategic Plan, 2013-2018 acknowledged that currently, government data and information is created and

stored in disparate data formats and media, with the bulk being paper-based.

In 2019, UNOPS partnered with The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement



UNOPS staff and Kenya government officials on training

Affairs (INL) of the US Department of State to strengthen criminal justice sector institutions and to promote good governance and respect for human rights. INL is actively engaged in Kenya's efforts to professionalize its criminal justice sector supporting five Kenyan entities whose mandate is to pursue criminal justice and bolster accountability, through operational and technical assistance to the National Police Internal Affairs Unit (IAU), the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), and the Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission (EACC).

UNOPS was requested by INL to provide project management advisory services to enhance operationalization of IAU and IPOAs case management tracking

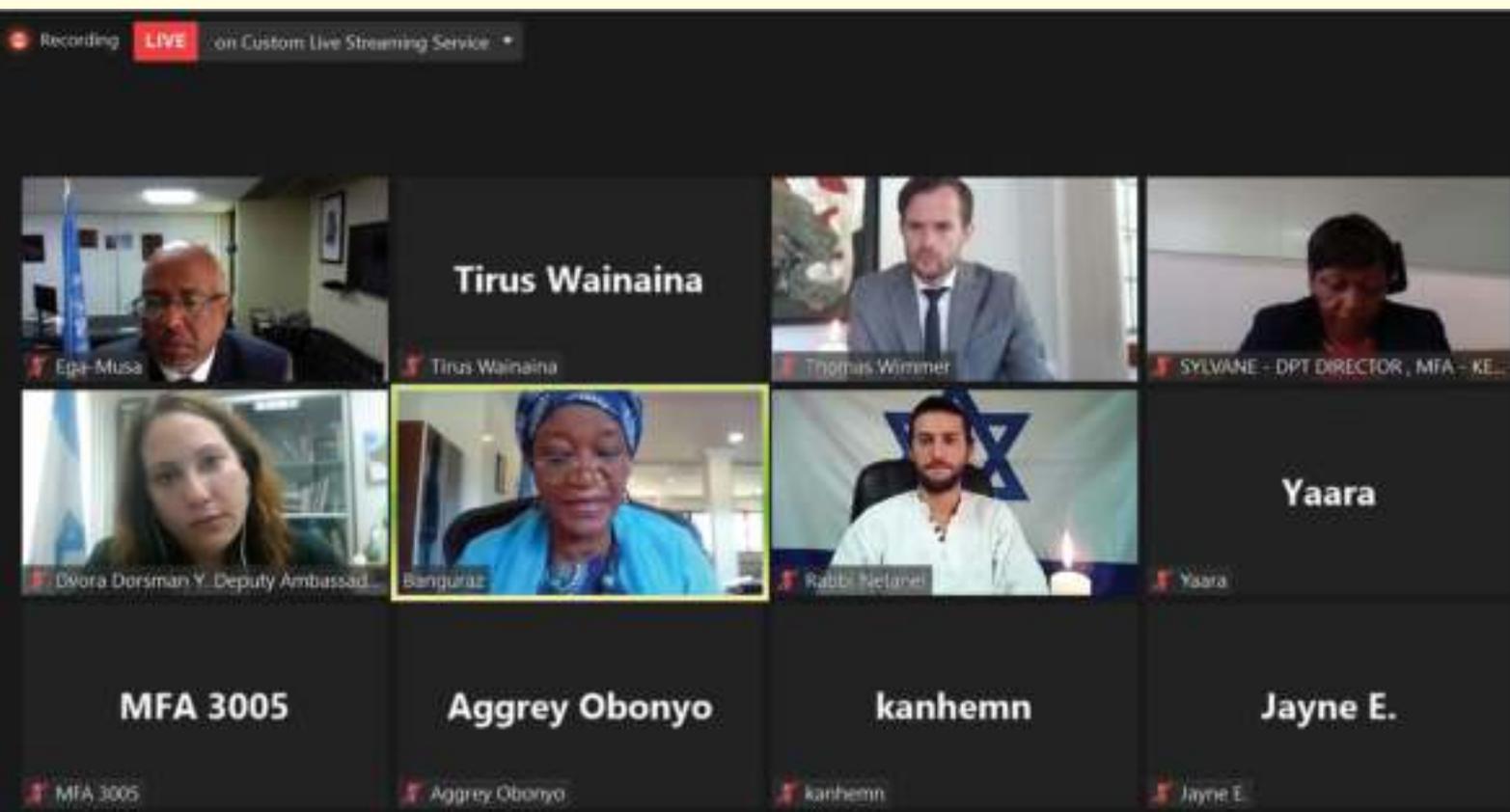
system and to conduct a gap analysis of the ICT environment in the above-mentioned agencies, assessing the disparity of knowledge between the Government and private sector ICT teams.

UNOPS supported IPOA and IAU to eliminate redundant data entry, poor reports and analytics capabilities, optimize the system for mobile devices access; in a bid to support field staff and implement integration capabilities among different modules as well as external stakeholders. After the gap analysis, UNOPS conducted capacity building of ICT management centers to appreciate the need to plan for long-term ICT service deployment, and take into consideration all aspects of ICT management such

as long-term planning, budgeting, staff development, and retention.

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Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration in Nairobi



Participants at the Virtual Holocaust event 2022

UNIC Nairobi in collaboration with the Israel Embassy in Kenya hosted the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust on 27 January 2022 virtually. Theme for this year was *“Memory, Dignity and Justice”*.

The event was presided over by UNON Director-General, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura. *“We all have a duty to teach our children about the events and the*

relevance of the holocaust. We have a responsibility to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity”. She said.

A short film on *“Final Solution”* was screened. A minute of silence was observed and Lighting of 6 candles in memory of the victims of the holocaust were lit. Ms. Zainab Bangura read the UN Secretary-Generals’ message. Deputy Ambassador Dvora Yarkoni of Israel Embassy gave her remarks on behalf of the

Ambassador. All other speakers who included Thomas Wimmer of German Embassy and Mrs. Sylane Chongwony Deputy Director, Kenya Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave their remarks respectively.

UNIC Director Mr. Nasser Ega-Musa was the master of ceremony. UNIC disseminated a media advisory and a press release to the media.

The virtual event reached more than 500 Students from local universities. Others who followed

remotely were Representatives of the State of Israel, Federal Republic of Germany, Hebrew Congregation and members of the diplomatic community in Kenya. The recorded proceedings can be watched via: <https://www.facebook.com/UNIC.NairobiKenya/videos/268704805368943>

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A climate smart approach to drought in Kenya's arid lands



Farmers in Laikipia County constructing vertical gardens - a climate smart approach that reduces labour input, creates diversity in crops and increases water preservation. Credit: UN Women/James Ochweri.

The climate in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) is changing, as prolonged droughts reduce the region's agriculture and livestock production. Climate smart adaptations to farming are now building women's resilience to climate shocks in the region, a precursor for protecting food security, water security and livelihoods.

"Before I returned [home], my mother was farming the ordinary way, growing maize and beans. In



Julia has invested in a new species of poultry, with higher egg production and faster growth rates. Credit: UN Women/James Ochweri

2020, the drought dried out all the crops,” explains Julia Nyambura. In 2020 she returned to her family farm in Laikipia, in Kenya’s North Rift Valley region. “In 2021, the same thing happened, we got nothing. We planted and everything dried up. Before crops dry, elephants can also come and destroy everything and you’re back to zero.”

Laikipia is one of 23 counties considered prone to drought, according to Kenya’s National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). Its ASALs makes up over 80 per cent of the country’s land mass, equating to over [2 million severely food-insecure people in 2021](#). Moses Njagi has been working for the Ministry of

Agriculture for more than 30 years and has seen significant changes in Laikipia.

“From 1983, when I started this work, the seasons were quite stable, now they are not. The rains have reduced or come at different times. It comes within a short time, leading to a prolonged dry spell. When you look at communities in ASALs, they are limited with resources and there is less funding. When we look at funds for water harvest and distribution, they are quite expensive. Literacy levels and knowledge of these techniques are also quite low. Capacity building should be given a high priority.”

Nyambura, chair of a local self-help group for farmers in her

community, is not wasting time in taking the quarter-acre farm in a new direction. She has installed a water harvesting system, diversified her crops including the addition of non-edible crops - a type of geranium used in commercial cosmetic production - that are not sought after by elephants. She has also invested in new poultry species to boost profit for the farm.

“I want to learn more about feeding and vaccines. I’m currently doing it from my own knowledge but there are ways to increase production. It can be difficult to raise them. Next steps for me are to add more chickens. I want to get up to 300. The geraniums can support the feed for the chickens

and the egg production will support our family.”

Anne Waweru, 65, is another Laikipia farmer excelling in climate smart agriculture adaptations. The farm she and her husband own now includes more than four acres, containing an abundance of fruits, vegetables, maize and legumes produced all year round.

“The reason I have such a variety of crops is because this area is arid. Some crops are resistant and will survive, some die. Whenever I go for an education visit to a farm, my secret is to always take some ideas, try new crops or new techniques. People have come from Mumias [Western Kenya], Kilifi [Kenya’s coastal region]

even India, seeking my advice.”

Despite gaining a reputation for her success, local attitudes are hard to change. Waweru explains, “usually the neighbours don’t like it. They don’t come for the education. They only want to come to meetings for money or free lunch. They have a negative way of thinking.”

With the support of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UN Women is working in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation in three of Kenya’s ASAL counties. By 2023, the project aims to reach over 2,400 women farmers with

modern techniques to handle drought and strengthen value chain addition in the country’s agriculture industry.

Anne does not consider herself a commercial farmer, but she and her fellow community members’ motto is “have more than enough.” Despite being the main producers of food, women in Kenya’s agriculture sector own fewer assets and have less access to land, inputs, financial services than men. Anne and Julia demonstrate the successes that can be achieved when women are empowered to adapt in the face of increasing pressures brought by climate change.



Anne Waweru is working to show communities how to overcome pressures brought by extreme climate shocks. Photo: UN Women/James Ochweri

Kilifi County Spatial Plan Demo Project



Boats along the Kilifi Coast in Kenya © Riccardo Zennaro

Kilifi County has become a [magnet](#) for developers, farmers, new city-dwellers, and [tourists](#) alike—and it's not hard to see why. The county is home to Watamu beach, recently [ranked](#) as the 2nd best beach in all of Africa, where one can catch a glance of the endangered green turtle and critically endangered hawksbill turtle. And as the largest

coastal county in Kenya, its waters also play host to a wide variety and quantity of fish, attracting both fishers and tourists. Such economic opportunities have caused human settlements and new [infrastructure](#) developments to skyrocket, rapidly changing the face of the county.

As the Kilifi County Government (KCG) itself acknowledges,

however, so many changes can have negative consequences as more people compete over dwindling natural resources like land, fisheries, and water. Not only can this competition spark conflicts among the many users of these resources, but the environment may also suffer, from degradation of critical habitats to water pollution to coastal

Continued on page 9

erosion. Managing the interests and demands of so many different actors—while also protecting the environment—therefore requires strong management and planning.

In order to ensure that Kilifi's coastal and marine resources are sustainably managed, World Wide Fund for Nature-Kenya (WWF-Kenya) is partnering with the KCG in a project to complete the county's spatial plan. In addition to ensuring that a framework is provided for the optimal use of these resources, the project will map out Critical Ecologically Significant Areas (CESA) and ensure they are captured within

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the spatial plan.

To date, the project has created a draft plan that will soon be shared with a KCG committee for review. Maps have been created that document ecologically sensitive areas and land use

zones in Kilifi. The creation of a Geographic Information System Lab is also underway, which will capture, store, and display geographic areas of Kilifi County to assist in the implementation of the spatial plan.

The initiative is being funded by the Global Environment Facility through the Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-Based Sources and Activities project (WIOSAP), executed by the Nairobi Convention. The Convention forms part of UNEP's Regional Seas programme. For more details, [click here](#).

Youth from Mathare engage in UN-Habitat's The City We Need Now! Campaign

Youth leaders and researchers from Mathare, one of the biggest informal settlements in Nairobi, last month marked the Africa launch of the World Urban Campaign The City We Need Now!

The advocacy campaign is led by UN-Habitat and the 200 partner organisations of the World Urban Campaign. For 2022, the campaign is calling for urgent action to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa, the Middle East, Asia Pacific Europe the Commonwealth of Independent

"Africa will have the world's fastest growing urban and youth population over the next 30 years and like all other regions, it is off-track to achieve the SDGs by 2030. By putting cities, and more importantly secondary cities, at the heart of national urban strategies, national and local leaders will give a second chance to Africa, leaving no one and no place behind,"

States (CIS), Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif said the campaign is particularly important because many Africa countries are not on course in meeting the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and New urban Agendas needed to receive more emphasis.

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YOUTH CENTRE

Continued from page 9



The City We Need Now Youth Volunteers from Mathare pose for a photo at the Mathare One Stop Youth Centre during the launch of TCWN Africa campaign

importantly secondary cities, at the heart of national urban strategies, national and local leaders will give a second chance to Africa, leaving no one and no place behind," she said.

"To get the cities we need, we need research by and for the community," said George Gachie, UN-Habitat Community Coordinator for the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme said in the opening of the event. "Research such as this is key to creating more sustainable and equitable communities that leaves no one behind."

Carolyn Mbithe, 26, Gender Specialist for Mathare Roots, said

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the workshops taught her need skills.

"At the research workshops I've learned different research methodologies and different approaches and methods of tackling research questions. It made me further realise that after research is conducted I need feedback from the community to validate it," she said.

Meanwhile, African partners of UN-Habitat have come together to focus on intermediary cities, the theme of the upcoming 9th edition of the Africities Summit, to be held in Kisumu, Kenya, from 17 to 21 May 2022.

Blue Economy Assessment

For years, it was believed that environmental degradation - destroyed habitats, extinction of species, pollution, etc. - were an inevitable consequence of economic growth. But a newer concept, known as the Blue Economy - or the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic livelihoods and jobs, and ecosystem health - challenges the notion that socio-economic development has to come at the price of environmental degradation. Rather, by capitalizing on the potential of sectors like fisheries, tourism, renewable energy, marine transport, etc. in a sustainable manner, Kenya and other countries can not only quicken their economic growth, but also protect ocean ecosystems, bolster food security, improve human health, and more.

But to truly unlock this potential in Kenya, a better understanding of these maritime sectors' current contributions, value, and potential is necessary. For this reason, the University of Nairobi Maritime Center, supported by UNEP - Nairobi Convention's SAPPHERE and SWIOFC/Nairobi Convention Partnership projects, has created a series of sector reports and a draft Synthesis Report on an



BLUE ECONOMY

assessment of the status of blue economy sectors in Kenya.

The assessment will provide recommendations and policy options on the sectors with

the highest potential for the Government of Kenya to pursue in the development of its strategy for the development of a Sustainable Blue Economy. It is expected

Continued on page 12

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that the process followed in this assessment will provide guidance to other countries seeking to tap into their own Blue Economy potential.

The reports contributing to this

assessment are yet to be completed and will be finalized after further fieldwork and interviews with key experts, researchers and other stakeholders. A Validation Workshop, which will include a

wide spectrum of stakeholders, is planned for April 2022, after which the assessment will be used to prepare policy briefs for submission to the Kenyan Government for consideration.

UNOPS KEMCO in partnership with JICA delivers border control equipment to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA)



UNOPS 8-- Japan Ambassador Horie Ryoichi during the handover of the border control equipment at KRA Times Tower ©UNOPS

UNOPS Kenya Multi-Country Office (KEMCO) in partnership with JICA handed over border control and surveillance equipment to The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) to support trade facilitation and supply chain security. The equipment was procured by UNOPS KEMCO with funding worth more than USD 378,000 from the Government of Japan in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and World Customs Organization (WCO) for customs capacity building. The equipment included an X-ray baggage scanner, 1 patrol boat, 3 patrol vehicles, 3 raman spectrometers, and 10 field

test kits which were installed in various points of operations such as: the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Lake Victoria Sea Port, Inland Container Depot Nairobi (ICDN), Kilindini Port and other critical border points.

The project titled *“Enhancing Trade Facilitation and Border Control Capacity in East Africa”* was designed to enhance the capacities of customs departments of revenue authorities in trade facilitation and supply chain security through the provision of border control and surveillance equipment. The equipment delivered will be used to detect any dangerous or contraband items within luggage, parcels and/

or cargo as well as support in monitoring and detection of the 14 precursor chemicals and other components used to manufacture improvised explosive devices (IEDs). With increasing threats to security in the region, there is a need to invest in the security supply chain to support customs authorities at border points not only on the revenue collection but also on trade facilitation.

KRA Commissioner General Mr. Githii Mburu while acknowledging the receipt of the equipment, said *“The equipment will enhance operations of the authority’s Customs and Border Control department. These tools will improve border security and*



UNOPS 8.1-KRA Commissioner for Corporate Support Services David Kinuu receives a spectrometer from Japan Ambassador to Kenya H.E. Mr. Horie Ryoichi at KRA Times Tower ©UNOPS

boost customer service at the ports of entry due to their non-intrusive nature". Mr. Mburu acknowledged JICA and thanked UNOPS and the Government of Japan for their support in boosting customs and tax administration in Kenya and noted that the baggage scanner for instance, will significantly reduce physical verification of passenger baggage at JKIA. "The non-intrusive baggage scanning technology will ensure that our customers are served more efficiently and expeditiously", said the Commissioner General.

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In attendance was the KRA Commissioner General Mr. Githii Mburu, Japanese Ambassador HE Horie Ryoichi, JICA Kenya Office Chief Representative Mr. Iwama Hajime, and UNOPS Kenya Multi-Country Office Head of Programmes Ms. Sonja Varga who participated in the handover ceremony in Nairobi.



Photo News: International Women's Day 2022 - 8th March 2022



Ms Shivona Tavares, Chief UNON Department of Conference Services



UNON Director General Ms. Zainab Bangura, French Embassy Amb. H. E. Mrs Aline Kuste - Menager & Former UNHCR Representative in Kenya



UN Security Gender Focal Point Representatives



French Amb. H. E. Mrs Aline Kuste addressing participants



Photo Veil Exhibition at UN Office in Nairobi



Participants during the International Womens Day



Some of the participants showcasing at the UN Office in Nairobi during International Womens Day



We support Gender Equality - UNON Gender Focal Point during International Womens Day



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Information from the UN System

Everyone is talking about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Be sure to get your facts from reliable sources. The UN offices, field missions, agencies, funds and programmes are providing new information as it becomes available.

For more information visit:

<https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/information-un-system>

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY



Wash your
hands



Wear a
mask



Keep a safe
distance



Keep spaces
well ventilated



Vaccinate when
it's your turn

17 Sustainable Development Goals to Transform our World by 2030



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