

The United Nations Development
Assistance Framework

Transforming Lives by Delivering as One



United Nations
KENYA
Umoja ni Nguvu

Foreword

THE UN Country Team in Kenya (UNCT) has successfully concluded the first year of the UNDAF (2014—2018) in keeping with the implementation plan that was formulated and agreed upon at the time of the launch. We are gratified that the Government and the UN have remained committed to Delivering as One (DaO) and this is exemplified in the results that have been articulated throughout the Annual report. The four Strategic Result Areas: **Transformational Governance; Human Capital; Sustainable Economic Growth;** and **Environmental Sustainability and Human Security** have provided clear navigation as we move towards Kenya's Vision 2030, the Medium Term Plan 2 (MTP2) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, it has been an invigorating and challenging year, with lessons learned and deeper partnerships formed.

This book is an attempt to paint a mosaic of the results of the partnership between the Government of Kenya, the UN System in Kenya and Development Partners as demonstrated in the lives of Kenyan citizens.

The book is divided into four parts in line with the four UNDAF Strategic Result Areas. Each part contains a few human interest stories that clearly link UNDAF intervention with benefit to individuals and community. The published stories were selected out of the very many that were documented in many parts of the country. The selection criteria included the level of impact, gender and geographical representativeness, among others.

Part one presents the milestones under Transformational Governance. The story on how the new Bail and Bond Policy Guidelines is helping decongest prisons is quite reassuring considering efforts that have recently been

put into developing an efficient justice system. Also, the theme of change is captured in the story of one county turning around service delivery by embracing Performance Management System.

Part two of the book is an eclectic mix of stories that represent the breadth of UNDAF's investment in Human Capital Development. Through the voices of children who have benefited from WASH programs, GBV survivors who have been walked to recovery, and members of HIV/AIDS high-risk groups embracing HIV testing, you will certainly feel the impact of the many programmes rolled out in the country under UNDAF. The story of a seventy-year-old lady delivered from fistula after fifty years of torment demonstrates that indeed the Framework leaves no one behind.

In part three of the book, it has been shown that UNDAF is alive to the fact that Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth can only be realized if the youth and the disadvantaged are brought on board. As shown by stories under SRA 3, development goals can be achieved through the right laws and policies, innovation and a change in mind-set.

On Environmental Sustainability, Land Management and Human Security, read about Climate Change and how communities are fighting it even as they adapt to the new environmental realities. Here you will find stories of community resilience as promoted by programs under UNDAF.

The one thread that connects all the stories collected from the different parts of the Kenya is proof that the wheels of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework are grinding and that the partnership is indeed steering the country's development agenda in the right direction.

Abbreviations

ACF	<i>Action Contre la Faim</i> (Action Against Hunger)
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
BCtA	Business Call to Action
BDS	Business Development Services
CBO	Community-based Organization
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
ENNDA	Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
IGA	Income Generating Activities
ILO	International Labour Organization
KDC	Kitui Development Center
KDHS	Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprises
MtCT	Mother to Child Transmission
MtMSG	Mother-to-Mother Support Group

NCAJ	National Council on the Administration of Justice
PMS	Performance Management System
PPOA	Public Procurement Oversight Authority
REDATAM	Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer
SLP	Solar Lanterns Project
SMSE	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UNCRD	United Nations Centre for Regional Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
YEF	Youth Entrepreneurship Fund

Partners

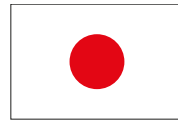


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SWEDEN



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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We are
inspiration
in action

Strategic Result 1

**Transformational
Governance**

New bail and bond policy guideline to decongest prisons

N Kawangware, a densely populated neighborhood in Nairobi, Joseph Orang'o meticulously smoothens the edges of a timber plank. A carpenter by profession, he is grateful to be free to continue with his trade. He just got back to work having spent six months in remand prison. He had been charged with aggravated assault, charges that were later dropped.

"I was given a cash bail of KSh. 50,000 which I could not raise", he says. "The paralegals negotiated on my behalf. The amount was reduced to 45,000 then 40,000 and all the way to 15,000. When asked how much I could raise, I said 10,000 and was released on that amount pending the hearing of my case."

Bail and bond are agreements or undertakings by accused persons or their sureties guaranteeing the attendance of the accused persons in court. They uphold the basic principle of innocent until proven guilty.

While Article 49(1) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 provides that an arrested person has the right "to be released on bail and bond, on reasonable conditions pending a charge or trial, unless there are compelling reasons not to be released" there have been differing interpretations as to what satisfies "compelling reasons" leading to disparities in bail and bond terms and conditions. The gap in the administration and supervision of bail terms has also led to many accused absconding court sessions.

However, on 22nd May 2014 things started changing for the better when the then Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, and chairperson of the National Council on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ), Dr Willy Mutunga, initiated an ambitious project that would help decongest Kenyan Prisons by appointing members to the Task Force on Bail and Bond.

The Task Force, chaired by the Hon. Lady Justice Lydia Achode, was a multi-sectoral team consisting of eight members drawn from the Judiciary, Directorate of Public Prosecution, National Police Service, Law Society of Kenya, Kenya Prison Service, Legal Resources Foundation, Probation Services and Prisons.

The Task Force engaged various stakeholders through

interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), workshops, consultative meetings, and field visits to prisons, where it elicited views from the relevant institutions and members of the public.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly provided the much needed technical and financial support that ensured the taskforce achieved its intended objectives.

"Many people didn't know that you can ask for bail. And when you have been given bail, you can even say a month or two later that I'm unable to meet those terms and ask that they be reviewed. Bail is not about punishing the accused. It's about giving them the ability to be on trial without being in remand", says Lady Justice Lydia Achode.

The Chief Justice laid out the background to the development of these guidelines by highlighting that 41 per cent of the entire prison population are people in remand.

Kenya's prisons hold twice the number of people they were planned for and the administration of bail and bond plays a big part in how these facilities can be managed to ensure that only those persons who should be detained are held within them.

Joseph is among many that have benefitted from these new guidelines. He could contribute to nation building while attending court. "By the time the case ended I had been able to develop my business, make money and take care of my family. This would not have been possible if I had been in remand," says Joseph.

The Guidelines have been developed pursuant to Section 35(2) of the Judicial Service Act which mandates NCAJ to formulate policies relating to the administration of justice and to implement, monitor, evaluate and review strategies for the administration of justice.

They are also made as part of the State's duty under Article 21 of the Constitution, and provisions of Articles 48 and 49 on the Right of Access to Justice, and the Right to Bail respectively. Through Gazette Notice Number 4010 of 5th June 2014, the Policy and Guidelines were officially presented to the public and stakeholders.



Bungoma County goes digital with service delivery

EFFECTIVE service delivery is at the centre of governance in all countries. It is for this reason that the Kenyan government, both at the national and county levels, has continued with the search for better and innovative ways of delivering services to the citizenry.

Bungoma County's installation of a Performance Management System (PMS) was done in September 2015 with UNDP's support.

For a government that provides service delivery through nine departments including education, devolution and health, this system has turned out to be a game changer. The county uses it to monitor systems, procedures and activities within its service delivery framework.

Dr. Sylvester Mutola who oversees the supervision of staff under the PMS project, says it helps in "monitoring performance of the workers using the implemented work plans so that they can also self-evaluate."

Dr. Mutola adds that before the system was put in place, they did not have any work plans apart from those made annually. Due to this some areas "lost out because they did not get the required attention and thus lagged behind in development". Having no structures meant that the county had no way of effectively implementing and measuring change.

While this revolutionary shift creates the impression of a system heavy on equipment, the truth is that the only visible addition to the office space is the happy faces of the county staff who say that work has become much easier.

The system solely relies on software, skills, and what Mr. Murumba Chuli, County Secretary and Head of Public Service, calls "the willingness to switch one's mind from analog to digital." "When

we started using it, the workers were not ready for this, but we made them understand that it would make them perform even better and improve service delivery in this county. Devolution is still new. When we started there were no structures so we are starting afresh. We want to thank UNDP for coming in and assisting us in this," he says.

Within one year of implementation, each of the nine departments has registered a leap in service delivery. The education sector has been one of the big gainers. "The system has allowed us to recruit more teachers. We have also ensured schools have proper infrastructure so that children are not learning under trees as well as providing a quality assurance component, in that the syllabus is implemented in the right way, so as to raise the quality of skills in young children," says Triza Wekesa, County Chief Officer for Education and Science.

"PMS has changed the working styles and attitude of our officers. We hope with the implementation of PMS, the county officers will be re-energised and it will foster an attitude of teamwork, because at the end of the day, they will be re-evaluated based on set targets. With the quarterly performance evaluation, we are happy that the service delivery has improved," she adds.

Even as the system moves in to monitor, review and improve implementation of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and to gauge the progress made in achieving the objectives, indicators and targets, there have been a few challenges including lacking adequate funds to keep the system running.

The challenges notwithstanding, Bungoma County government stands tall as a powerful testimony as to what innovation can do in improving service delivery to the citizenry.





UN volunteers enhance service delivery in counties

COUNTY governments have cited inadequate human resource as one of the main obstacles to service delivery within the devolved framework of governance. Owing to budgetary limitations, many counties have not hired enough people with the requisite skill sets, able to stir development in accordance to the counties' visions and aspirations.

Through the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), County governments will be equipped with vital skills thanks to UNDP and its development partners - DfID, USAID, Sweden, and Norway.

So far, there are 39 UNVs spread in 37 counties offering expertise in a wide range of areas including monitoring and evaluation, statistics, public finance management, governance, human resource, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

With a relatively modest amount of resources, UNDP has demonstrated that the right strategy, focus and collaboration can make major strides. Through this innovative approach to capacity strengthening, the UNVs have become key drivers of transformation and change at county level as reported by various county leadership.

Patrick Ngatia, a UNV Programme Assistant, M&E, from Embu County recalls his journey in UNV.

"While applying for the volunteer position, I was motivated by the desire to contribute to social need, build up skills and connect with others. My previous working experience was with various non-profit organizations in different capacities. Working with government was a new experience which made me understand that volunteering has an important economic impact. I have learnt that volunteering can make a difference to beneficiaries and the wider communities as well," he says.

When he arrived in Embu to take up his new position, M&E was previously viewed as an audit

exercise and a futile effort, but this quickly changed and five months later, Patrick and his team have done two quarterly M&E Reports of County Projects for the first and second quarters, ensuring that projects achieve their intended outcomes complete with photos taken on the ground. The reports have been presented to the Cabinet and, consequently, key decisions affecting County Projects have been made.

"Being involved in all these processes has made me realize that volunteering is relevant to all spheres of life and volunteers are making a positive impact on economic, social, cultural and environmental issues. Volunteering is about empowering people and communities to fulfil their potential and contributing to social change. More importantly, UNVs are contributing to and are ambassadors of devolution in Kenya," Patrick concludes.

Geraldine Bandari, serving in the same capacity but from Bomet County, also has a success story to share, "the experience has been positive beyond expectation."

Having studied Social Work and Social Administration she is currently on the final stages of her Master's degree in Development Studies and is interested in M&E.

"My first achievement was helping develop the first ever M&E policy for the County Government and an Indicator Handbook to help in rolling out the policy. I came to the County when the Department of M&E had been established but needed a new drive and motivation for it to have its necessary impact on the county infrastructure," Geraldine fondly recalls.

Through her initiative, the M&E Unit, for the first time in three years, has moved from desktop M&E to hands-on field-work.

"It's quite exciting to contribute to ensuring that the devolution story in Kenya makes real impact in our communities. This, to me, is the true spirit of service and volunteerism," Geraldine enthusiastically concludes.





UN
VOLUNTEERS



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Strategic Result 2

Human Capital Development

“Start living now, dream big and break the glass ceiling.” This is the phrase Madam Christine and Madam Alice left me with after the one-week STEM mentorship programme at school in May 2015. The UNESCO Scientific camp of excellence, STEM camp, has since then been a rich source of inspiration for my success. It has actually been a wakeup call every time I fall into a slumber of hopelessness. I am greatly humbled and thankful to have been given the opportunity to attend the camp.

I can now clearly state aspirations, career and goal, courtesy of the inspiring mentoring sessions that enriched the camp. A few weeks after the STEM mentorship camp, the leadership part of me began living and currently I am the Head of House –Sergoit, Head of the Delegates Protocol Department as well as Chairlady of Creative Writers Club. This is just an illustration of how UNESCO STEM camp has transformed me from a shy little girl to a courageous leader.

I would not have written this if the UNESCO STEM camp had not had an impact on my academic life. I now attain grade “A” or “A-” – an improvement from the “B” bracket where I previously belonged. However, the great mentors and role models in the camp taught me to always maintain an upward trend and I am not going to stop there. I have realized that I can do great things if I set my heart on them. I have also learnt to overlook the “small things” that pose as obstacles on my way to success. Thank you to UNESCO for awakening a great mind.

~ Victoria Ndidj, a Moi Girls Eldoret student, in an appreciation letter to UNESCO

Inspiring girls through Scientific Camps of Excellence

THE late South African iconic leader, Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

That is the inspiration behind an exciting educational programme set to increase the increase female enrolment into engineering and applied science courses in university, by the Government of Kenya together with UNESCO. The Scientific Camp of Excellence dubbed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) aim to increase female enrolment into engineering and applied science courses and taking up science-based professions. Kenya is among the countries that have embraced this concept with a focus on secondary school girls.

Faith Indekhwa from Ruai Secondary School who attended one of the camps said, “I used to say that physics is hard and not for women but now I have the idea how it’s helpful and I will do it. I think it has changed my mind and I am going to work hard. The event was awesome and what I wish is that it could be held every year.”

The concept was first applied in Nairobi in 2014

where a total of 98 girls were mentored in STEM courses. A further 343 secondary schools from six counties in the North Rift Region were mentored in May 2015. Then over 100 students were mentored at Kisumu Girls High School in November 2015. In April 2016, the fourth STEM Camp was organized for the Coast region. All the six counties participated in the camp together with Garissa County from North Eastern region. Over 650 secondary school girls from 25 counties have already been mentored in STEM in Kenya under the UNESCO/GoK STEM programme.

In the camps, students are introduced to women scientists and engineers who serve as role models across multiple science-based disciplines, including experts in ocean science, aerospace engineering, bio-chemistry, agro-forestry and telecommunications. By interacting with the role models, students received not only mentorship on STEM, but also on life skills and survival techniques affecting women and girls in schools and workplace. A total of 20 teachers were also mentored on gender equality issues and the teaching of STEM from a gender responsive perspective.



Pupils, teachers and parents learn together in innovative WASH campaign

IN 2015, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education developed behavioural change communication materials on health, hygiene and nutrition, targeting school children, teachers, parents and the surrounding community in Samburu County.

The actual roll-out of the project was undertaken in January-March 2016 with funding support from Unilever and other donors. The aim of the project was to disseminate nutrition information and hygiene promotion messages in schools and surrounding communities and urge them to adopt positive nutrition and hygiene behaviour.

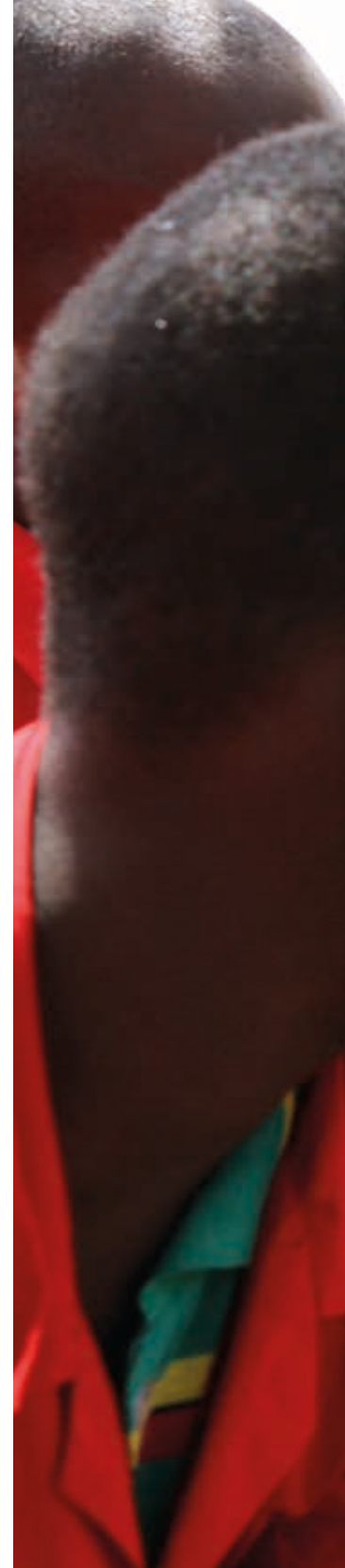
At the onset of the project, a baseline survey focusing on the knowledge, attitudes and practices towards hygiene and nutrition was carried out in six schools. Preliminary results showed massive gaps between the knowledge and the actual practices regarding handwashing with soap, proper use of latrines and the consumption of a variety of food.

With the above findings, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education embarked on the development of Education and Communication (IEC) materials to pass hygiene and nutrition messages. BCC materials to address identified needs were developed, pretested and reviewed. This was followed by training sessions for teachers, school children, parents/community members, cooks and government officials including the local chiefs. A total of 358,700 assorted nutrition and hygiene promotion materials were developed, printed and disseminated

to all the 158 primary schools in Samburu County and a total of 22,200 people trained on health, hygiene and nutrition.

In addition, a comic book series named Sungura Sam was developed to further spread messages on nutrition education and hygiene. On top of the IEC materials, WFP developed a radio spot and a children's radio jingle with hygiene and nutrition messages. The messages are intended to link the activities in school with the wider community where these children come from. These messages are aired in Samburu and Kiswahili languages. The radio spots target both the school going children, parents and the larger Samburu community. The radio spots reinforce the messages and behaviors at the family level.

The Samburu health, hygiene and nutrition BCC project was presented during the GNR launch on 16th June 2016 under the "role of education in Nutrition". The Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Secretary of health were impressed by the BCC project and in particular the IEC materials. They enquired whether it could be rolled out to all the other Counties since it was a collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. "These IEC materials to be published through the government publishers given the cost implications and the fact that the information could also be printed on the back of exercise books just like it was with multiplication tables and puzzles," the Principal Secretary proposed. He further suggested that a soft copy of the materials should be uploaded on the lap tops alongside the Laptop project in order to reach all the children in the Country.





Kitui Leveraging County Resources to achieve Open Defecation Free

It is well known that poor child survival, growth and development are closely related to poor hygiene and sanitation practices at household and community levels, which put children at increased risk of diarrhoea and death. Child stunting is a persistent problem facing many of Kenya's rural counties. Kitui County, in particular, has the highest stunting rate in the nation. Only 30% of population in Kenya having access to improved toilet. The World Bank estimates that poor sanitation costs Kenya approximately USD 324 million in health service costs and household out of pocket expenditure on health care. These costs are disproportionately borne by the poorest and women (and girls) as care givers. Furthermore, poor sanitation contributes to worm infestation, pneumonia.

Kenya has adopted Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Strategy as the core strategy nationally to promote sanitation and hygiene in order to achieve Open Defecation Free Kenya by end of 2020. Community Led Total Sanitation is a community Led activity wherein community (a village) is sensitized to take collective action in order to eliminate open defecation practices with their own resources and not depending any assistance from outside.

UNICEF in collaboration and the National Ministry of Health provided technical and financial assistance to the Kitui County Government to develop a County ODF plan based on CLTS strategy in order to accelerate the pace of achieving ODF County. Noteworthy to mention that Kitui is one of the biggest County in the country in terms of number of villages(4974 villages); being almost 20 times bigger than smaller counties e.g. Lamu or Laikipia.

The accelerated pace of implementation with joint effort of UNICEF and Kitui County Government led to one district, Loweryatta, (part of Kitui Rural Sub County) achieving ODF status. The community of this district are now on path of upgrading their toilet. The families are buying the toilet pans which helps to reduce

the smell; keeps the flies away and make it hygienic breaking the faecal oral transmission route causing diarrhoea. These pans are made available through private entrepreneur this opening opportunity for youths of Kenya to market these pans to the families who are sensitised for use of toilet and are ready to pay for the pans at the cost of Ksh 500. Families are provided with choice of pans that also caters to the need of elderly and disabled members of families in form of "stool" type toilet making it easy for them to use.

Mrs. Jane Vilita from Kathome village bought one the stool type toilets costing KSh 1500 and she proudly says, "*nina muyo nunduwakukwata kyoo kya kwikalila, nininakia akuthi kyoo niindikwambiia oyungaendaakyooni mala ala kwenda*" (I am delighted to have finally been saved from the agony of using the squatting toilet. This is so helpful for me. I have been living in fear of visiting the toilet, now I can visit as many times as I wish), she said during a visit to her home. Mrs Jane Vilita values the Stool type of toilet seat which has made her life much easier and cleaner.

Kitui County is on fast track to achieve County Open Defecation Free status as it has added a further 1170 villages as certified ODF during the first two years of UNDAF implementation, which is almost 10 times the number of certified ODF villages achieved by county during 2011—2014. Currently County is moving forward to add another 2500 villages by end of December, 2016 as ODF certified villages in which UNICEF is providing requisite technical and financial assistance. Noteworthy is the initiative of Kitui County to allocate County budget to accelerate CLTS implementation; a feature which not many counties in Kenya are doing as yet. Kitui County also included achievement of ODF as one of the part of performance contract of Public Health officials and has deployed Community Health Volunteers with paid stipend from County to strengthen community mobilization and awareness on sanitation and promotive health issues.





Evidence-based interventions answer chronic nutrition issues in West Pokot

WEST Pokot County has the highest levels of malnutrition in Kenya at 46% compared to the national average – 26%.

As per the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) of 2014, 45.9% of children in the county, or nearly one in every two children is stunted (also known as chronic malnutrition). This is easily seen with children being short (stunted) for their age. This form of malnutrition occurs over a long period due to inadequate intake of nutrients.

On the other hand, acute malnutrition, also known as wasting (children appear too thin –wasted) for their weight/body size and risk death due to medical complications. This occurs within a short period due to food shortage and is exacerbated by illness with the highest levels seen in very young children which places them at increased risk of death. Moderately malnourished children are at a four-times increased risk and severely malnourished children a nine-times increased risk of death compared to healthy children. Annually, there are approximately 21,000 acutely malnourished children in West Pokot, of which 5,000 are severely malnourished. From the KDHS, 14.3% of the children, or one in seven, are wasted and according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the county is almost sliding to emergency levels.

UNICEF in collaboration with the county's Ministry of Health (MoH) and ACF started a programme that is focused on the scale up of high-impact nutrition interventions delivered through the county health facilities. Acutely malnourished children brought to the health facility, are referred to the clinic by the doctor where the nurse screens them by measuring their height, weight, and circumference of the head and hand, then records the information for future reference.

The nurse then enrolls the child in one of the

three MoH programmes supported by UNICEF: the In-patient Therapeutic Program; the Out-Patient Therapeutic Program; or the Supplementary Feeding Program (also supported by WFP).

The In-Patient Therapeutic Program deals with the most severe malnutrition and medical complications where in-patient assistance is given.

The Supplementary Feeding Program deals with the least severe malnutrition cases and children are given supplements to take home with them.

"My child is very weak whereas my neighbor's child is strong enough to go to school. I decided to try what she's done so that my baby grows up equally strong. She advised me to take him to health facility." Eliza Lilyon shares.

Mothers with malnourished children enrolled in the therapeutic program are referred for further child care support at Mother to Mother Support Groups (MtMSG), where they help each other to prevent acute malnutrition at household level. Members also discuss breastfeeding, family planning, healthy eating and how to do them right.

"I joined this group in 2014. It has taught me how to space my children so that I can work in the farm and do my other businesses without having many children getting in the way," Miriam Plimo from the Kapertum MtMSG says.

"We also have other group activities such as chicken rearing, and planting vegetables and fruits. I don't have to buy eggs or sukuma wiki (kales). I save that money and use it to do other things. That's why my child is this healthy. I know when he goes to school he will perform well," Evalyne Akutet says holding her very healthy and playful baby.

A professional from the clinic is always at hand during these meetings to encourage them and ensure that they are using the best information



for child care and healthy eating for their young children.

Veronica Chepapas is a mother of ten children. Her last born is four-months-old. "I am happy I joined this group. When I compare my last two children with the others, these ones are very healthy. They aren't sickly. I am going to exclusively breastfeed this child for six months because I have seen it make them stronger."

After sharing their farm produce for their domestic needs, they sell the rest and the income earned is used to purchase other food items.

The need for these projects was necessitated by sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices, with exclusive breastfeeding rates at 37.9% and only 12.6% of children under two years receiving

foods from four or more food groups which is what is required for healthy growth and development and prevention of malnutrition.

The project is reducing the endemic rates of malnutrition in the county. Women feed their children appropriately and are able to control the size of their families making them easier to fend for. The income generating activities make it possible for the people in the community to afford to send their children to school thereby improving their prospects.

The Mother to Mother Support Groups have also supported the construction of toilets and hand washing facilities in the community which has reduced the transmission of communicable diseases which reduces both acute and chronic malnutrition`.



End of 50 agonizing years with fistula

AT the bloom of her youth, exactly 50 years ago, Jumwa Kabibu Kai, a Kidutani resident, a small village in Chonyi, Kilifi County, Kenya, was psychologically prepared for the birth of her second child.

As she went into labour, Jumwa was all alone in her hut crying her heart out but no-one was in earshot. Her nearest neighbor lived three kilometres away. Kidutani is generally a marginalised area with poor infrastructure, including accessibility to a health facility.

Jumwa found relief walking around her compound because in her heart she knew her neighbours would finally either hear her or come visiting. This went on for three days when her sister came visiting and immediately mobilized a few neighbours who rushed Jumwa to hospital.

Jumwa could not comprehend what her doctor was explaining to her hours after the delivery “but something was definitely wrong”, she recalls. She lost her baby in the process.

“I returned home after a day at the hospital, extremely disturbed by the loss of my child. Then almost immediately I began passing urine uncontrollably,” she narrates. “I didn’t take it very seriously because I thought it was something normal. In any case, there were other women in the village with the same condition,” she adds. This according to her was “the beginning of 50 years of a long nightmare.”

Unknown to Jumwa, she had developed obstetric fistula – a hole between the birth canal and bladder or rectum that is usually caused by prolonged obstructed labour. It is both preventable and treatable, but it plagues the lives of thousands of women in Kenya every year, leaving them incontinent for urine and/or stool.

“I knew a bad spell was cast on me,” she states. “How can this be happening to me? I remember the bad smell, the wetness, the shame and worst of all the disappointment I saw in my family.

The feeling was all too awful,” she adds.

After a while, and out of desperation, Jumwa began to seek help, any help, from traditional healers, local dispensaries and religious groups, but without success. In 2009, she heard of possible fistula treatment at the Coast General Hospital, Mombasa, but she was late and didn’t get help. This devastated her and she lost all hope.

Signed a new lease of life

“At some point, I convinced myself that my condition didn’t have a cure, and so I had to learn to live with it,” she says. She would later learn through Mwafungo, her 28-year-old granddaughter that she indeed was suffering from obstetric fistula and help was possible. Mwafungo, married and a mother of two, heard about the one-week fistula camp held at the Kilifi County Hospital in Kilifi County in May 2016.

The camp organized by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in partnership with Kilifi County Government, Flying Doctors Society of Africa (FSDA), Freedom from Fistula Foundation (FFFF), Them Mushrooms¹ and Maendeleo Ya Wanawake² gave a once in a lifetime opportunity to women and girls, like Jumwa to receive free fistula repair as well as create awareness in the community about fistula.

“The past 50 years was hell on earth for me,” Jumwa, now aged 77, narrates. “I was completely isolated by family, friends and my whole community due to my condition, with some attributing it to witchcraft. Sadly, my husband too, left after I began suffering. I used to live alone in a hut in the outskirts of the village, with extremely minimal contact with anyone,” she adds.

Fifty years later, Jumwa cannot

¹ Them Mushrooms is a musical group that partnered during the campaign to create awareness on fistula through music.

² Maendeleo Ya Wanawake is a non-profit voluntary women’s organization with a mission to improve the quality of life of the rural communities especially women and youth in Kenya.

hide her joy and sparkling smile after the surgery.

“To be honest, I feel like I have signed a new lease of life,” she states. “I feel great. I feel young. I feel beautiful and wanted,” says an excited Jumwa before jokingly adding that now with her groove back, she expects to bump into a hunky single old man like herself and taste love one more time.

“I appeal to all women suffering with this condition to seek medical help. Fistula indeed is treatable,” she poses rather seriously

During the one-week fistula camp, 65 women were screened, 32 patients admitted and 30 procedures done. Many of these women had faced discrimination and stigma with some being ostracized by their community.

Strengthening the health system

UNFPA has built the capacity of Kilifi County Hospital by procuring maternal health equipment for both basic and comprehensive obstetric care, including equipment for fistula repair. UNFPA has also invested in training 35 nurses on emergency obstetric and newborn care as well as pre-intra and post-operative care of fistula patients.

19 community health workers were also trained in identification of fistula patients and community sensitization. These community health workers also act as key architects in reintegration of the fistula survivors within the community. Furthermore, 35 nurses were trained in screening fistula patients and making the correct diagnosis as well as emergency obstetric care. This team will also act as mentors for their colleagues in the respective health facilities.

Kilifi County has one of the high teenage pregnancies, which together with poor access to emergency obstetric and newborn care may lead to increased risk for obstetric fistula. To this end UNFPA is working with other stakeholders including community leaders and the County Government to encourage girl-child education, prevention of child marriages and gender-based violence.

This partnership initiative by UNFPA contributes to the global Campaign to End Fistula launched in 2003 to eliminate fistula and support its survivors through prevention, treatment, social reintegration and advocacy. Globally, UNFPA has supported more than 70,000 fistula repair surgeries since 2003 for women and girls in need, and campaign partners have enabled many more to receive treatment.





Efforts to fight spread of HIV and stigmatization bear fruits

WE are children, we have rights, we have a future. Presidents, thank you for making the promise to end AIDS by 2030. Please keep your promise.” These are the words of Elijah Zachary Lemaiyan Simel, a 12-year-old junior advocate for children born and living with HIV/Aids in Kenya.

His address earned him a standing ovation when he attended the UN Conference on HIV/Aids in New York

The story of Elijah is that of a brave soldier who, despite his tender age, has taken it upon himself to fight stigma suffered by young HIV/Aids sufferers. Elijah first knew of his status when he was six-years-old. Since then he has embraced HIV/Aids therapy.

A beneficiary of the National Anti-Stigma Campaign, all has not been easy as Elijah and his friends have had to encounter stigma and discrimination in their social lives. Dr. Nduku Kilonzo, the NACC director, echoes his fears. “We live in a society where parents ask you not to play with someone else’s child because they are sick or they will infect you”, she says

She believes stigma is the biggest hurdle to the victims’ quest for life-prolonging HIV treatment and therapy. It is for this reason that the government, supported by the UN, launched the National Anti-Stigma Campaign.

The “Kick-out HIV Stigma” campaign intends to reach 10 million young people in Kenya with HIV messages; provide mentorship to three million young people through an innovative digital platform; and do HIV counseling and testing – including immediate linkages to HIV treatment, for those who test positive, by 1 December 2016.

The campaign is a partnership between government, the Football Kenya Federation, civil society, the UN and Kuza Biashara, a social

enterprise on innovative information technology.

Benefits in the fight against HIV/Aids have also been realized in the boda boda (motorcycle taxi) industry, a sector that has transformed public transportation across the country but brought elevated HIV/Aids infections’ risk. The boda boda operators have a regular income and offer rides in exchange for sex to girls and women.

It’s also believed the operators are likely to indulge in alcohol and drugs, increasing their chances of infection

It’s in this light that an HIV testing initiative was launched. Running from 1 to 10 May in Nairobi, it targeted the testing of 10,000 riders in nine sub counties.

Michael Wachira is the chairperson of the Kangemi Boda Boda Riders Association and has experienced the transformation of this program. “Initially we were not willing to be tested. But after counseling and testing we know our status now,” said Wachira.

Testing was also carried out on couples, and of the 22 couples tested, they all turned negative. Mr. Maina and his girlfriend who had just moved in together were elated at the news. “We can now start a family. We are both healthy,” said Maina. “We were scared of going to the hospital, but we are happy that today we got the courage to be tested,” Joyce, the girlfriend to Mr. Maina, said.

The initiative was part of a campaign titled “Integrated Health Promotion and Road Safety for Boda boda Riders to Enhance Knowledge of HIV Status”. It was supported by many organizations including NACC, COTU, ILO, NHIF, UNAIDS, AFYA JIJINI, LVCT Health, IOM and AHF Kenya. The slogan of the campaign was “Dandia na Mpango – G-Jue” which roughly translates to, “ride safely, know your status”.





Cash transfers to the vulnerable made easier at the click of a button

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.

~ Thomas Jefferson

SAW God's miracle. I knew the children would eat and go to school. I don't know what to say but I pray this programme continues," says 64-year-old Jane Ndule Nzyoki. She is a grandmother and caregiver to three orphaned children. She crushes and sells stones to buy food for the children. To her, the social protection cash transfer program is a God send that will boost her efforts to provide for her grandchildren.

The Kenyan Government has launched a new information management system called The Single Registry, to harmonize beneficiary data from across various ministries. The system consolidates data in one place, eradicating the inefficiencies of the old system where there was no clear way of knowing who was receiving help, what kind of help, where and under which program.

Some of the programs that have been linked so far under The Single Registry include: Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC), Older Persons Cash Transfer Program (OPCT), Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer (PwSD-CT) - which are under the Ministry of East African Community, Labour and Social Protection. Also included is the Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) under the National Drought Management Authority and the World Food Programme's Cash for Assets - *Jenga Jamii*.

Beatrice Kwamboka is a caregiver to her two children aged eight- and three-years-old. They both have cerebral palsy, a condition that makes it difficult for them to talk, walk, move, or do anything. "Raising these children is difficult. I have to wake up at 4 AM to wash their clothes, cook and do other chores before they wake up," she says. Beatrice receives KSh. 2,000 every month from the government's cash transfer program. "I use this money to buy food, diapers and sometimes medicine for the children."

Crispin, a ministry staff says, "by the click of a button, I can perform tasks like validate a beneficiary's ID number, generate a report, check the different service providers, check summary statistics and come up with a decision based on what I have seen."

Jane and Beatrice are just two out of over three million people in Kenya receiving cash transfers, who are set to benefit from the implementation of The Single Registry as it will enhance information sharing and lead to efficiency and timely disbursements.

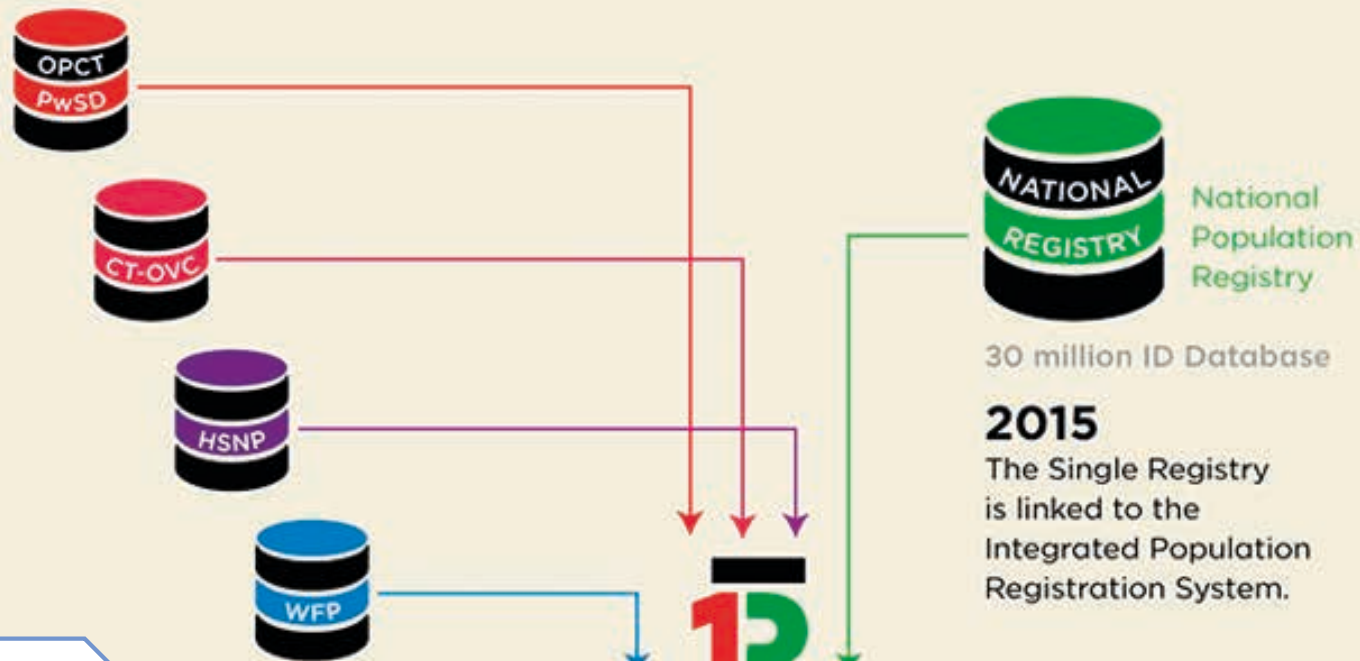
The system is a central repository of information, consolidating key information from social protection programs on beneficiary registration and enrollment, payments, complaints and grievances and change management for the beneficiaries and monitoring indicators for the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for National Safety Net (*Inua Jamii*) Program (NSNP). This System has been linked to the Integrated Population Service (IPRS) to authenticate and validate program beneficiaries using their national ID numbers.

"The Government is committed to ensuring that no vulnerable persons are excluded in the social protection interventions and that they are a part of the wider population that plays a key role in the development agenda of the country as envisaged in Vision 2030," says Ms. Phyllis Kandie, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and East African Affairs.

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Labour and East Africa Affairs, State Department of Social Security and Services, Ms. Susan Mochache, lauds the benefits of the new systems. "There is increased transparency and accountability through public access to information on Social Protection Programs which are linked to The Single Registry," explains Ms. Mochache. "The system will also enhance quality of operations and services for field officers pertaining to the cash transfer programs," she adds.

The UN has been at the forefront in supporting the government by providing resources, capacity-building to the implementers and strengthening governance systems. The Single Registry is therefore in line with the overall goal of Kenya's Vision 2030 which aims at creating a globally competitive and prosperous nation with high quality of life by 2030.

THE eSOLUTION



2015
The Single Registry is linked to the Integrated Population Registration System.

BEFORE

Are plans to expand programmes on track?
 Are complaints being resolved?
 Who is receiving what, where and under which programme?
 Are beneficiaries receiving their transfers on time?
 Are beneficiary IDs valid?

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES IN KENYA
 By 2012, 3 million people were receiving cash transfers in Kenya from separate programmes. A coordinated way of managing and viewing this information was needed.



Children and young people unite against child marriage in Kakuma refugee camp

CHILD marriage, defined as marriage before age 18, has devastated the lives of young girls, their families, and their communities. The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) observes that this harmful practice is most common in poor, rural communities, and its consequences only perpetuate the cycle of poverty. More often than not, child brides are pulled out of school, depriving them of an education and meaningful work prospects. They suffer health risks associated with early sexual activity and childbearing, leading to high rates of maternal and child mortality as well as sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and they are more likely to be victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and social isolation.

"I came here 15 years ago when I was eight. If I was still in Sudan I would be married with five children by now. Instead, I am educated and know about the harmful practice of child marriage. In Sudan there was no awareness about it but here at the camp we have learnt about child rights," says Rael who enrolled in a programme that offers protection to young girls at the Kakuma refugee camp against early marriage. She is also an active member of an anti-child marriage advocacy group that helps other vulnerable children in the camp.

Located in North West Kenya, Kakuma Refugee Camp is among the world's largest refugee camps and home to 186,000 refugees. Children make up 60% of its population. While many girls escape war at home, they are also confronted with harmful traditional practices transported to the refugee camps such as child marriage, blood revenge (the practice of killing someone to settle disputes) and Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C).

In 2015, a volunteer group supported by UNICEF through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) conducted camp-wide advocacy campaigns to educate the community on harmful effects of child marriage and other forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The young participants are from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. The groups also include young people from the host Turkana County.

Asoumani, a young man from DRC, who is part of this

advocacy programme says, "Alcohol and drug abuse are a great contributor to SGBV. We sensitise the community on substance abuse by performing plays, songs and music, as a starting point for discussion. The situation here in the camp gives a sense of despair, but the group has given me refuge and I forget my solitude. I am working with others and learning leadership skills."

The young people are trained on project development. The proposals are submitted to UNICEF (through LWF) and UNHCR where the best is selected and supported with small-scale funding. This way, the programme develops youth talents, identifies issues important to them and raises awareness on children rights.

Clarisse Ntampaka, Child Protection Officer (UNHCR) in Kakuma, says that child marriage is a huge issue in the camp, "Some child marriages are arranged in the country of origin and the husband's family come to the camp to claim the child. Marriages are also arranged at the camp, particularly among South Sudanese and Somalis. Where a dowry has been paid there is great trouble undoing the arrangement and a safe haven is provided in case the child is threatened with abduction". Dowries for South Sudanese are typically \$200-\$300 but can be as high as \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Patrick Wanyonyi, an LWF Assistant Child Protection Officer, observes, "There was a case where a dowry was paid in South Sudan for a 14-year-old girl. She is now 16 and at the camp. One day, her father overheard a conversation between the girl's mother and some men who had come to collect her. Her abduction was prevented when the father reported the case."

Duniar, from DRC and a community youth campaigner against child marriage, says that after conducting awareness raising, children can stand up for themselves and girls will now report such cases to the police or the LWF Child Protection Office. Boys who have been sensitized are also speaking out on behalf of their sisters.

UNICEF and its partners, support comprehensive child protection programmes in Kakuma, focusing on case management of unaccompanied and separated children, and others with protection concerns. Raising awareness about harmful cultural practices including combating child marriage is key in securing the basic rights of children and alleviating the poverty cycle.



Turkana Wellness Centre: Walking survivors of Gender-based Violence to recovery

JUST as in most parts of Kenya, Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases in Turkana County are usually not reported. This is because of the shame, fear, stigma and intimidation the victim gets from the family and community. GBV and child abuse too often remain an acceptable social norm and survivors, mostly women and children, encounter many obstacles if they seek protection support. Many a time the victims do not also know where to seek help.

This was the case until in Turkana County until 2014, when UNICEF, together with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Turkana County Government collaborated to set up the Turkana Wellness Centre within the Lodwar County Teaching and Referral Hospital to support reporting of GBV. The Centre, supported by UNICEF with some funding support from SIDA (Sweden) and the Government of Japan, was officially launched in May 2015 by the Deputy County Governor, Peter Ekai. "Gender inequality is not a women's issue, but a human rights issue that affects all of us," he said during the campaign launch.

It offers services such as clinical management which includes administration of Post-exposure Prophylaxis, treatment of physical injuries, collection and preservation of evidence to convict GBV offenders, and counselling to GBV survivors and their families. Previously, survivors reported at the outpatient department, which could not offer confidential and comprehensive care. It was extremely difficult for survivors to reveal personal information to medical officers at the front desk. Thus, having a designated safe space is a big improvement.

Esther, a GBV Psychosocial officer who works

for IRC and manages the Wellness Centre, says that the number of reported cases have almost tripled in 2015 because of survivors' increased knowledge of the center and its services. On average, four cases are reported each day. As at 10th December 2015, a total of 464 cases had been reported since January 2014 with 71% of these reported in 2015. Out of this, children account for 49% of the cases.

Men are also reporting cases of violence meted against them, with 32 cases reported since 2014. This is viewed as an achievement given the fear for disclosure, shame and consequent erosion of their social status. The improvement of the reporting is attributed to community sensitization in conjunction with the chiefs in various villages within Lodwar Township. Jenni, 12-years-old, (not her real name) was repeatedly defiled by a distant relative. "Alinishika hivi" (he held me like this), she says while cupping her mouth to demonstrate how the man grabbed her from behind while covering her mouth. "It was painful," she says amidst sobs. Her mother is the one who noticed her strange walking and on asking, Jenni told her everything. She was taken to the Wellness Centre and treated.

IRC in collaboration with UNICEF trained 290 police officers, 90 of them female, on handling GBV cases including the collection and preservation of evidence, the law in relation to GBV, as well as how to best provide friendly services to GBV survivors. This has led to improved response during referrals and prosecution of perpetrators. IRC also trained 20 Community Health Workers, teachers and Chiefs to support referrals. Since January 2015 they have supported the referral of 333 GBV cases to the Turkana Wellness Centre, including three child marriages and 103 defilement cases.



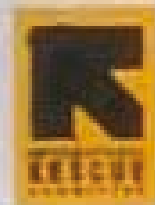


From
The people of Japan

TURKANA WELLNESS CENTRE

*Walking Survivors of Gender Based Violence
to Recovery*

Renovated By International Rescue Committee



Tel: 0704 854 141

unicef 

Eliminating child labour one child at a time

MANY children around the world are involved in activities that would normally constitute work. In many of these instances, it is not considered child labor when the work does not have detrimental effects to the physical, social, mental or educational development of the children.

However, it is child labor if the work done has detrimental effects to their development or when the children are too young. According to UNICEF statistics, an estimated 150 million children are involved in child labor with prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa where approximately 25% of children between the ages of 5 to 14 years involved in some sort of child labor.

To address this, the International Programme on Elimination of Child Labor, under the International Labour Organization started a project for combating child labor through skills training for older children. This project was implemented in Kitui County.

Kitui County is located about 160 km east of Nairobi and borders Machakos and Makueni counties. Here, they targeted the youth between 15 and 17 years, the age group which is vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor.

The youth, two-thirds of whom were girls, were provided with various vocational skills mainly in agriculture and the green economy sectors. These included new technologies and methods in crop and animal production, small scale irrigation and value addition of products from targeted areas.

"I learnt to farm vegetables and fruits. My mum and I now sell fresh sukuma wiki and tomatoes to my neighbors. We don't even buy this in the market any more. I am glad my mother didn't sell this land," an excited Mary Wanza says.

The programme also introduced the participants to entrepreneurship skills-building through the cooperation of the Youth Entrepreneurship Fund (YEF), another project supported by the ILO.

"With the additional income from my farming, I am able to help raise school fees for my siblings, which is a heavy burden lifted from my parents," Mary added.

A total of 415 working children aged between 16 and 17 years have gained from the project. Of these, two thirds have been girls.

Daniel and Kaleli work together at a furniture workshop. "When we close school, I always come to work in this shop. This is how I make my pocket money. My father is happy about my progress. I brought Daniel along," Kaleli says. Daniel on the other hand wishes he would have been enrolled in the program. Despite this, he has also benefited from the program, albeit indirectly. "Working with Kaleli has taught me a lot. I am now able to spend my holidays constructively."

This project was also supported by a Kitui Development Center (KDC), a Community-based Organization (CBO), in close collaboration with the Kitui County Government and local village polytechnics. Five polytechnics were involved in the project and their instructors trained the children who benefited from the equipment and facilities at their disposal.

For instance, they did a Do-nou rural roads maintenance training. Do-nou is a road maintenance technology embraced by the government of Kenya through the support of the government of Japan. Children who went through this training were awarded with certificates that enabled them to qualify for government contracts for road maintenance and repairs.

"I knew I always wanted to be an engineer, but I didn't know how to go about it. I was very happy when I was taken in for the road maintenance training. That way I learnt a lot and the certificate I got helps me get jobs right now. When I join campus next year I know exactly what I will pursue," Brian says.

It has been established that training of older children in useful skills for employment is essential to combat child labor especially in rural areas. Evaluation of the project established that the partnerships between local authorities and CBOs has made it possible to adapt to local contexts and therefore provide skills training in remote rural areas.

The ministries of Education, Labor, Agriculture, and Local Authorities have awareness of the need for similar programmes to support skills training to combat child labor.

The project, funded by the Netherlands, was active in five countries: Kenya, Mali, Bolivia, Indonesia and Uganda between 21 July, 2014 and 30 September, 2015.







Strategic Result 3
**Inclusive and
Sustainable
Economic Growth**

The rule of law and economic development: Public transport facelift

IN 2002, the 90th session of the International Labour Conference concluded that growth of the informal economy could be traced to inappropriate, ineffective policies coupled with the lack of conducive legal and institutional frameworks, and the lack of effective implementation of policies and laws.

There was need therefore to find solutions where enterprise growth and workers protection converge. Consequently, the ILO selected Kenya as one of the two countries in Africa to benefit from a project which would see the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in collaboration with its key constituents - Government, workers, and employers, formulate the Law Growth Nexus project.

“The Law Nexus II Project sought to promote labour law compliance in the country leading to better and fairer working conditions for those in the sector,” says Eunice Mathenge, the ILO National Project Coordinator, Kenya. “The ILO intends to promote a decent work environment in the matatu industry through uptake and compliance of labor laws. We want to ensure workers’ rights are protected,” she adds.

The project rolled out countrywide training workshops for members of the Matatu Owners Association, the Matatu Drivers and Conductors Welfare Association, and the Matatu Welfare Association.

Law Nexus II is aligned to the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) which, in Kenya identifies social protection, employment creation, and social dialogue as priority areas for consideration. It has promoted respect for the rule of law, built the capacity of social partners to engage in social dialogue, facilitated sector-specific regulatory reform, and strengthened the capacity of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMSE) to comply with labour laws.

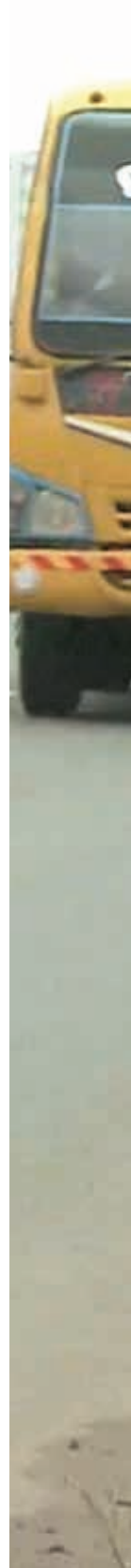
To come up with labour laws that were accepted by all, stakeholders subjected the consultant draft to an

interactive validation workshop which drew participation from a cross section of stakeholders and key actors in the public sector as well as labour law enforcement agencies. These included officials from the Ministries of Labour and Co-operative Development, the Nairobi City Inspectorate, the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE), the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU), the Matatu Welfare Association (MWA), the Matatu Owners Association (MOA), and the Matatu Drivers and Conductors Welfare Association (MADCOWA).

This has enabled both workers and employers in the matatu sub-sector understand the key provisions of the labour and labour-related laws that affect them and appreciate the benefits of compliance. This has so far been achieved through a backdrop of diminished government resources meant to facilitate full labour inspection and other compliance-monitoring measures.

Although the SMSE sector is responsible for generating many jobs, these are often of poor quality, unregulated, and unsustainable. Many workers in SMSEs have insecure incomes and experience a wide range of decent work deficits. These deficits are particularly extensive in developed countries like Kenya where most SMSEs operate below the scope of regulatory oversight. Thus, labour law is a key tool in the promotion of enterprise growth for equitable economic development and decent work. Compliance with labor laws by the sector players especially the employers, employees, and government has led to increased productivity and business growth and eventually to more investment in the sector.

Through the trainings that have been offered to all stakeholders in the sector in partnership with the government and ILO, workers are now under unions or SACCOs (Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies) where they get a monthly salary as opposed to a daily wage as was the case previously. Currently, many have





medical covers and retirement benefits from their savings and employer's remittances. Generally, the workers and employers have a better working relationship among other benefits.

"Initially, we didn't have good relationships with our workers but after the training, we have realized that we have to work together to succeed. Currently, both employers and employees know their rights, responsibilities, and privileges," says Gerald Chengo,

a matatu owner in Nairobi.

The management of Prestige shuttles, a transport company operating matatus in different parts of the country says that they have seen tremendous growth of their business largely due to motivated staff. A driver with the company says that, "with the contract I signed, I have been able to educate my children and cater for my personal needs. I work for eight hours a day and in a week I have two days off. I can plan my life better with the new work arrangements."

Farming on water: Seaweed culture enhances coastal livelihoods

A GREEN and brown plant that grows in water is gradually becoming a popular income generating activity to supplement fishing as a viable economic activity along Kenya's Coast in the county of Kwale. Fish levels have depleted in recent years making it difficult for fishing communities to make ends meet. Seaweed farming offers an alternative source of income.

At Kibuyuni in Kwale, a 52-member self-help group has been reaping the benefits of seaweed farming. They received training on Seaweed Best Business Management Practices and value addition from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The group supplies seaweed to buyers in its raw form, and earns additional income from value addition for products such as soaps, juices salads and cosmetic items. These activities have gradually improved the standards of living for some of the communities, with the majority beneficiaries being women. They have put food on the table, built new houses, educated their and purchased better building materials for their homes.

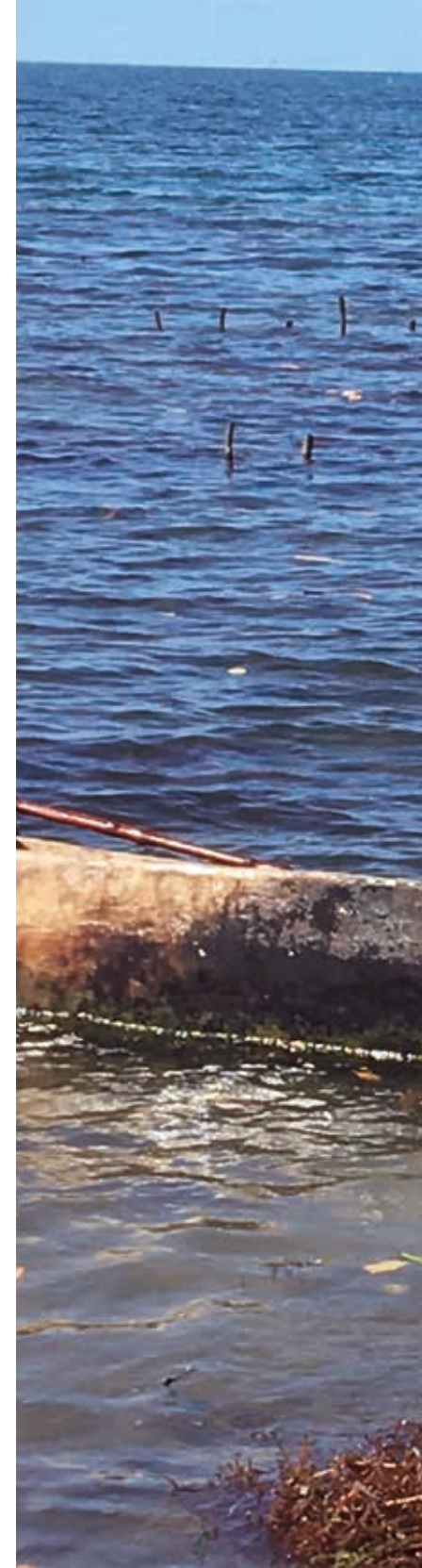
Tima Mwalimu Jasho is a Seaweed farmer who has used part of her savings from to put up a one-bedroomed house which she plans to lease out.

"We have been supported to sell 41 tons of Seaweed which gave us more than KSh. 1.3 million. We've been living in poverty unaware that we're sitting on something that could help us in future", says Tima Mwalimu.

Plans are currently underway to use a presser to compact the sea-weed which will reduce transport costs and fetch a higher price per kilo of Seaweed purchased (50 KSh. per kg, up from 30 KSh. per kg). The presser, which requires a substantial amount of electricity has been purchased and is awaiting the commissioning of three-phase electricity. The seaweed is mainly exported to America and Asia where demand has been rising. Two strains of seaweed known as *Kappaphycus alvarezii* (cottonii) and *Euchuma denticulatum* (spinosum) are grown on the South Coast. Extracts of dried seaweed are used as food thickeners and in the global pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. Seaweed has also been used as an additive to soils, mainly in coastal areas.. The high fibre and mineral content of the Seaweed acts as a soil conditioner and fertilizer.

The training the group members received enhanced their capacity to better produce and process the Seaweed, which has led to improved end-products. FAO has provided support through the Blue Growth Initiative by providing a drying shed, reduction of post-harvest waste and market linkages.

The Blue Growth Initiative is an FAO program for sustainable, inclusive growth in coastal areas around the world. The project was started in Kenya in July 2015 with a focus on mangrove protection and restoration, mariculture development (particularly Seaweed and crab production), installation of hatcheries, as well as and conservation of biodiversity and conflict management among resource users.





Tharaka Nithi farmers reap benefits of contract farming and good farming practices

FARMING entails more than just production – it is also a business. Stakeholders within civil society, the private sector and other organizations are stepping up to educate farmers on other opportunities within the agribusiness value chain.

In Tharaka Nithi County, farmers are reaping the benefits from a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the county government to open up markets and adopt conservation agriculture.

Conservation agriculture is based on three core principals which are minimal tillage, maintenance of soil cover, and crop rotation which leads to increased yields and reduction in costs of production. Under agribusiness, the main approach has been facilitation of linkages between farmers and end markets, while ensuring that farmers have access to financial services that make it possible for them to farm.

Under this programme, linkage to markets is mainly achieved through a contract farming framework. This is an pact between the farmers and marketing companies for the production and supply of specific agricultural products based on an agreement and at a price which is pre-determined by the farmers and the firms.

Peter Mutegi, a farmer from Marimanti in Tharaka Nithi says, “With contract farming, not only do the farmers have a ready market and buyer for their produce but they can manage their produce better. There are those who even get to export and they benefit even more from that. I would advise farmers to get into this initiative because you get the best seeds and fertilizers. The best farming methods have helped in maximizing land use and land production. Farmers are now more informed and empowered and are reaping the benefits of farming.”

Before this method was introduced, the farmers would suffer heavy and unnecessary losses especially harsh climatic conditions and inaccessibility to markets.

The produce would sometimes rot in the granaries while farmers often had to haggle prices with the middlemen and at the end of it all, the middlemen benefited more than the farmers.

Dealing with middlemen is now a thing of the past.

“This has been eliminated as the farmer and the buyer come up with the agreed price that is beneficial to both. Now, farmers in the region are able to comfortably support their families and, above all, invest in projects that they normally would not have been able to, like buying more land, which I have been able to do,” Mutegi says.

Other than conservation agriculture, the project emphasizes on other good agricultural practices such as the use of appropriate varieties of drought tolerant crops, the use of certified seed, timely planting, correct fertilizer application and improved post-harvest storage.

Some of the crops that the farmers have or are engaged in are sorghum, millet, sunflower, soya, green grams and snap peas.

The European Union funded project has been implemented in seven other counties including Makueni, Machakos, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Laikipia, Meru, Kilifi and Kwale. In all instances, the project has helped improve livelihoods of rural farming populations by increasing their incomes, made them more resilient to climate shocks and reduced their vulnerability to poverty and food deficits. Market opportunities of up to 24 million US dollars have so far been created through firms such as Bidco for the supply of seeds and green grams for export.

In addition, increased marketing activities and private sector participation in the selected counties have brought inputs and services closer to the farms, benefitting even farmers not in the program. In return, private sector actors have witnessed an increased demand for their goods and services while also enjoying the reduced transaction costs through bulked input orders and produce from the farmer groups.



Bungoma abandons tobacco for soya in quest for resilience

MOST farmers in Bungoma County had grown up seeing their grandparents farm tobacco, then their parents, so naturally, they also took it up as a viable cash crop. Tobacco farming had, in fact, veered off from being just a source of livelihood to being a cultural identity.

But this came at a cost. Tobacco depleted soil minerals thereby leaving the soils quite unproductive. With the residents' obsessed with this cash crop at the expense of food crops, the region was perennially hit by extreme food shortage which led to malnutrition.

The many years of perennial suffering paid off when, gradually, they started drifting away from the love of their forbearers. Their attachment to tobacco would soon be replaced by a more rewarding, more rational relationship with soya beans.

The big move has been so stark as not to escape the attention of outsiders. And whenever they come around to witness the change they never leave without seeking answers to why a community not given to self-destruction would boldly abandon the ways of their ancestors. The answers – all of them – have been in celebration of their new-found love.

While speaking to *Business Daily* Nelly Naliaka, a smallholder farmer said, "We had to wait for long before receiving payments for our tobacco, subjecting us to financial challenges. Furthermore, most farmers suffered from health hazards due to curing of tobacco." She spoke as she delivered soya beans to a processing plant in Malakisi.

Bungoma is betting on the Sh. 30 million factory, which was commissioned in July last year by Governor Kenneth Lusaka, to alleviate poverty and create employment.

Ms Naliaka said she used to earn an average of Sh. 20,000 from selling tobacco produce, which was not enough to support her family. "I have no regrets,"

she told *Business Daily*, "there is a ready market for soya beans and I earn more," adding that she spent Sh. 12,000 in land preparation and inputs for the acre of land where she grows soya beans and earns an average of Sh. 26,000 after every three months.

Naliaka is one of the many beneficiaries of a project designed to ensure the long-term human security of the region by introducing food crops that are not only drought resistant but also highly nutritious.

The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Industrialization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) with the financial help from the Government of Japan jointly came up with the Soybean Production project.

The funds helped in buying the machines and setting them up for the locals to easily access them at an affordable fee.

The locals go to there with their own produce from the farm, process, package the product and take it home for their own consumption. At times they sell the commodity and use the money to take care of their families.

Soya bean is rich in protein and is a globally recognized pre-packaged meal for humans and a source of protein animal feeds around the world. Soya bean is also the main component of some processed foods and supplements such as soya meat, soya flour, soya milk, soya oil and confectioneries. Its nutritious value makes it useful in improving health by supplementing regular diet.

Its cost of production is relatively cheap as it requires less land, water and fossil fuel by the factor of five or more, making it environmentally effective as compared to most other protein. Farmers are said to make a profit of up to 50% from soybean than any other food product.

Even as Bungoma residents wait to realize all the benefits that come with embracing Soya bean farming, one thing is clear – replacing tobacco with soya beans was a bold move in the right direction.



Helping the disadvantaged reap big from government procurement regulations

KENYA'S youth constitute more than half the entire population, and the female component of the youth's population is over half of this. Yet, they are the majority with no access to business resources.

The youth, women and people with disabilities are categorized as a disadvantaged group by the government and need to be given special attention on matters relating to access to resources.

It is on the basis of this that the Government of Kenya put in place the Public Procurement and Disposal Regulations in 2011 that promotes the participation of disadvantaged groups in government procurement. Under the regulation, 30% of all public procurement opportunities are reserved for youth, women and people with disabilities.

This evened the playing ground. However, there were still some issues with the group not taking advantage of this provision. Despite the affirmative action, participation in public procurement remains low as few of these people have the knowledge or resources to take up the opportunities.

In the year 2013—2014, the budget was estimated at 1.6 trillion Kenya shillings. Out of this, a whole 30-40% was spent on public procurement. However, these resources remained untapped by the disadvantaged group, and instead only a small group of individuals and companies benefitted.

The United Nations Women Kenya started a project to support training and skill development of women entrepreneurs on how to sell to the government.

Banu Khan, Program Analyst, Economic

Empowerment Program, UN Women Kenya talks of the activities that the program has carried out.

"We started with awareness raising and creating knowledge about what Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) program is all about and how one can access it, which led us to work with partners in helping them to build the capacity or strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs to access government tenders competitively," she says.

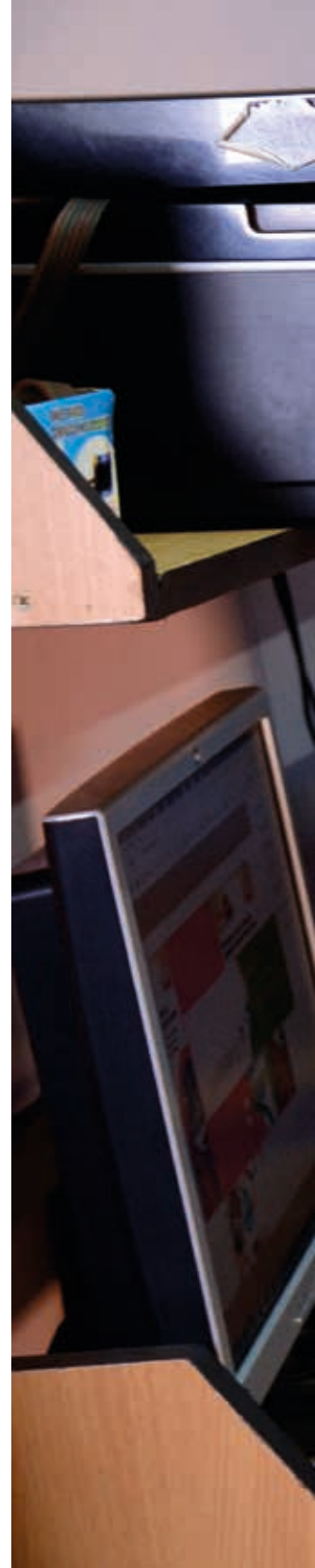
Meet Ruth Michoma, a Nairobi resident living with physical disability and a beneficiary of the training who is now the Managing Director of Rosebe Enterprises dealing with IT supplies and IT Support.

"Most of us persons living with disabilities shy away from dreaming big because of our condition. But unless you accept yourself and know that disability is not inability, you will never succeed. With the training, I have been able to own assets, which I would not have been able to own without the expertise I learned," she says.

Her testimony is no different from that of Sally Mibey's, a proprietor of Morning Sally General Supplies who considers the training an eye opener.

"These tenders are not for prominent people only, they are also for ordinary women like me. I used to stay at home, but now I have the courage to go to the government offices and ask for business because the government has made it possible, and it is our right," she says.

But even with these positive testimonies, the uptake has been low. There is hope that with more of such trainings, members of this group will fully utilize the minimum 30% of government spending allocated to them.





More business than usual as “Biashara Centres” open in counties

WITH a high unemployment rate turning out as a potential impediment to Kenya’s big march towards Vision 2030, the government and development partners are quickly turning to creating a conducive environment especially for the youth. The Government of Kenya and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have partnered with local county governments to establish Biashara Centers in the counties. Biashara Centers are envisioned as one-stop shops for provision of Business Development Services (BDS) to youth and women taking up employment within the Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE).

Because majority of the country’s population is involved in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMSE), improving this sector is the best way to reduce poverty and income inequality in the country. The main aims of establishing *Biashara Centers* across the country are to improve Kenya’s business environment; accelerate institutional transformation; promote economic growth through trade expansion; improve productivity and competitiveness, and encourage entrepreneurship and MSE development. The Marsabit *Biashara Center* is the third such center to be opened in the country on a pilot basis after similar centers in Kwale and Taita Taveta counties.

According to Ms. Amanda Serumaga, the UNDP Kenya Country Director, everyone has a responsibility to facilitate and diversify the economy of the country. “Such centers will form an integral part of long-term development. This is because they create an environment in which our small and medium entrepreneurs can grow their capacity and forge ahead to create sustainable and resilient regional and global businesses,” she said.

Since the Marsabit Center was established in June 2016, over 50 local youth entrepreneurs have received training on business skills development, market facilitation, feasibility studies, business plans, accounting and auditing. These are all skills that increase the chances of success for small businesses. According

to one of the beneficiaries Mr. Dogo, an entrepreneur building an online platform to facilitate trading in livestock, the centers have been very beneficial.

“I went to Nairobi to search for knowledge and opportunity. Now that there are more opportunities at the county level, I intend to come back home and build my county. In Marsabit, we only have one technical training college that was started just recently, but through this *Biashara Center*, young people like me will have a place to access knowledge even if they are unable to further their studies in a university,” he says.

“This *Biashara Center* will indeed be an important place for training our youth. They will access important trade information from within and outside the county to enable them launch and grow their businesses. The center will play an important role in nurturing the already existing talent among the youth in Marsabit Town even as we look forward to expanding the services to other areas within the county such as North Horr, Laisamis and Moyale,” said Marsabit County Governor, H.E. Amb. Ukur Yatani during the launch.

At the same event an innovative consortium in vocational skills training facilitated by the SDG Philanthropy Platform between Kuza Biashara, a social enterprise on innovative information technology, Housing Finance Foundation, and UNDP Kenya, was also unveiled.

The milestone consortium will significantly transform the way youth would want to Learn, Connect and Grow beyond the current trainings offered by the Biashara centre in line with 21st Century technology to reach more youth even in the most remote areas who cannot always attend classroom training using mobile phones. Internet training on computers at the Biashara centre will be complemented by mobile phone training and TVET on wheels which will extend access beyond the centre to some of the most remote areas of Marsabit where youth cannot leave their occupations and income streams to learn full time.







Strategic Result 4
**Environmental
Sustainability, Land
Management and
Human Security**

UN in Kenya makes final push for climate agreement

JUST a couple of days to a high-level meeting in New York where world leaders were expected to sign the Paris Agreement, the UN in Kenya made an innovative move drawing the attention of the world to the all-important law.

Two UN in Kenya staff members completed a four-day climb of Mt. Kenya, Africa's second highest at 5,199 meters (17,057 ft.). The expedition raised both the Sustainable Development Goals and UN Flags at the peak of Mt. Kenya.

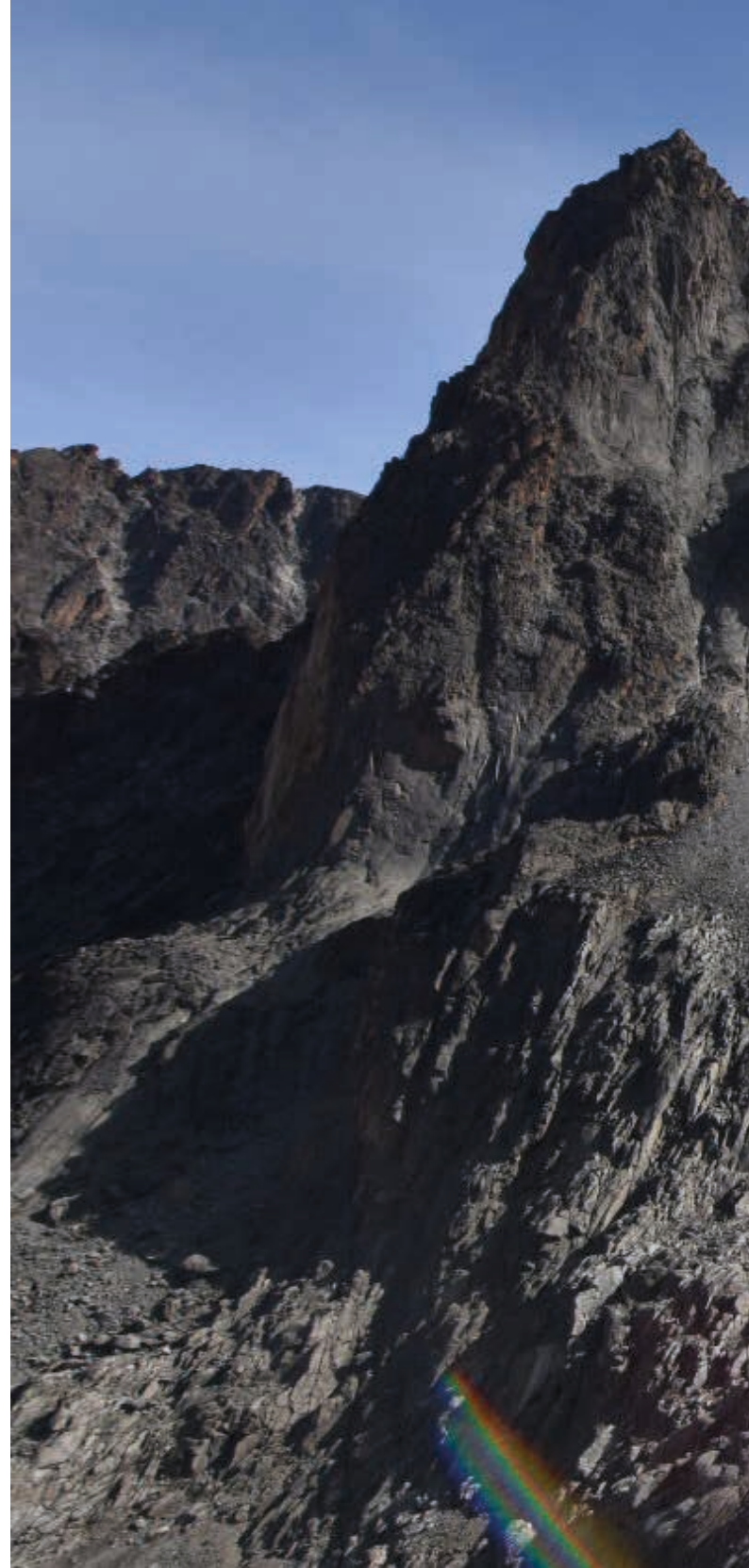
"This to us was quite symbolic because it shows how high-up in its priority the UN system in Kenya places the fight against Climate Change and there couldn't be a better choice than Mt. Kenya which is probably the most imposing image of the effects of climate change in Africa," said Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator.

The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), estimates a massive two thirds of Mt. Kenya's glaciers has already disappeared due to Climate Change.


The Paris Agreement falls within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that deals with greenhouse gases emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. It was conceived by representatives of 195 countries at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015, but has not entered into force.

"The world has a window to do business as usual or act and secure the future of our grandchildren and generations to come, and if we care then we must act and ensure that we keep the promise of the SDGs especially Goal 13 which most if not all goals depend on," said Mr. Newton Kanhema, one of the two UN staff members that raised the flags.

The raising of the SDG Flag was also to amplify Africa's voice on the SDGs on the eve of the New York event.







Solar lanterns improve grades in schools

MORE than 620 million people live without access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, which is two-thirds of the population (The Africa Energy Outlook). Most of these live in rural areas and off-grid solar power solutions provide an immense opportunity for increased access to clean energy in these regions.

One example is the Solar Lantern Project, initiated by United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The distribution was executed by Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority (ENNDA) in the northern counties Isiolo and Samburu, an area where inadequate access to electricity is a severe problem.

The project provides solar lanterns to health centers and schools in these northern counties. Health centers without access to reliable electricity were given lanterns to assist them in the clinic at night and when there is need for home visits. In schools, children borrow the lantern home for their evening studies. The lanterns come with a solar panel which provide the power to charge the lanterns. The panel is kept in the school and this approach added the benefit of increasing school attendance, as students must go to school to charge their lanterns.

Steven, a Class 8 student at Engilae Primary School in Samburu County has put the lanterns into use. He says that the project has been a life changer for him. "Before I was given a solar lantern, doing homework and my own studies was a problem. We had to ensure that we were done with homework before sunset. This was difficult as we also had other chores like milking cows when we got home. Studying using a kerosene lamp was difficult as the light was not adequate and many of us developed eye problems," he says.

"Kerosene is also expensive and on many occasions, there wasn't enough money to buy it. We had to go to bed as soon as the sun set. Now, I can study late into the night without any problem and I can see my dreams of becoming a doctor coming true."

Steven's mother is also happy with the project. She now has the burden of buying kerosene taken off her shoulders and hopes that with the better studying conditions, her son will realise his dreams and help out the rest of the family. James, a mobile phone repair technician, has been trained to repair the solar lanterns. He charges a small fee to repair the lanterns. "These lanterns have helped me grow my business. The additional income from the repair of lanterns has been able to make my business more sustainable," he says.

Once students have graduated from the school, they return the lanterns to the schools where they are then distributed to advancing students.

Panasonic Corporation donated 2004 solar lanterns to Kenya as part of its 100 Thousand Solar Lanterns Project in commemoration of its 100th anniversary. The Solar Lantern Project was nested under a joint UNDP and Ministry of Energy and Petroleum programme, which aimed to increase access to clean energy in Kenya.



West Pokot women discover life in fruit trees

IMAGINE convincing two pastoralist communities widely known for their violent competition over scarce water and grazing land to grow fruit products in one of the hottest and driest part of the country. Well, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the Italian Development Cooperation and the people of West Pokot went beyond imagining and set up a project that has made the residents become the envy of their neighbors.

From the outset, the demonstration plots and shade nurseries set at Sebit and Lomut areas for fruit propagation appear out of place. But that is only until you venture a bit deeper into the seemingly-lifeless villages or venture a little further down the road and discover this fruit producing village of West Pokot County.

About 10 different groups, of 26—30 women each, meet on different days of the week to work on the farm, and later to sell their produce at the road side. Farmers in the area are now cultivating commercially viable crops like green grams, water melon, okra, papaya and other fruit trees.

Agnes Chebet Lokukat, the women groups' supervisor in West Pokot, explains that after the women sell their produce, they meet in their respective groups and contribute money. The money is divided into three different accounts: the Social Fund account, the Savings account and the Leisure account.

For the social account, every member contributes KSh. 50 each. This money is lent out to any member who gets an emergency or who needs a loan, for instance, a mother whose child falls ill and needs to go to a hospital. The borrower is required to pay back the money after three weeks.

Members contribute an amount they're comfortable with to the savings account. Agnes says, "people contribute as low as KSh. 200. Some members earn as much as KSh. 30,000 to 70,000 per week from the

sale of their produce and other engagements."

Members are given their savings once a year with interest, if their money was used to work on projects during the year.

A very interesting feature of the woman group is a fine of KSh. 300 is levied on anyone who is found guilty of gossiping about a member or is late to repay monies borrowed or even skips groups meetings. This money is saved in the Fines account.

Agnes says she has at least 190 women groups in West Pokot. Their motto for this farming project is 'Fruit Trees for Life!' All groups also contribute KSh. 10,000 for combined events and workshops.

FAO has helped the community by providing a link to a ready market for their produce by constructing roadside shades.

"The shade helps to keep the fruits fresh for a longer time. If I don't sell all my fruits today, I'll go home with them," Susan Korkapel says, "my children don't go to the river to harvest gold anymore. They go to school and are also healthy since they eat a balanced diet."

Susan targets cars that ply the Lodwar-Kapenguria route.

FAO also have other greenhouse projects in Masol, Lomut and Ortum. Amos Pkite, a father of two, works in one of the greenhouses. "I am a crafter and trainer, I make KSh. 10,000 every month and this enables me to take care of my family, and pay school fees for my children," Pkite says, "apart from that, I am happy to see other communities like the Marakwet and Turkana coming to buy nursery trees from this greenhouse, yet we are Pokot. That way, we interact and create friendship. We don't fight over cattle anymore."

Agneta Aleyo, a UN Field Officer says she has been receiving calls from people interested in starting to farm in neighboring Marich and Lelan. "That's where we are planning to start up new projects," she says.





Working together to conserve elephants and make a living

“Beading elephant on a denim is not easy but I commit to learn and do it all for elephants and for our business, which will support our kids and because elephants have women characters” – member of Oltome Nadupo Women Company.

THE Oltome Nadupo – which means Elephant success – is a company comprising of 147 women from three different groups in Imbirikani area of Kajiado county. These women saw the need to be involved directly in wildlife conservation and in efforts to reduce human-wildlife conflict. They were brought together and supported through a partnership by the Office of the First Lady and UNDP, with Wildlife Direct as the implementing partner. The partnership seeks to fight human-wildlife conflicts and poaching through economic empowerment of communities within the Amboseli ecosystem. Under this initiative, women who are largely illiterate have been receiving trainings and business development support in different areas with the aim of supporting their traditional beads and handcraft production. The initiative also seeks to help the women market their products including linking them to profitable local and international markets. So far, the women have been supported to improve the quality of their wares and five-year business plans developed. The project aims to encourage livelihood diversification and alternative income generation to mitigate conflicts which arise from conventional farming that attracts elephants.

The 3 women groups that formed Oltome Nadupo are Osiram, Siana and Makutano. Each of the groups has 3 representatives on the nine-person board of directors that runs the affairs of the company. Gladys Ketente is a Director. “They

trained us on how to purchase goods, how to price and make profits”, she says. Beading is part of Maasai traditions and the women have focused on this as an economic activity. Masito Ngaloio, a member of the company says “before we were just beading without knowledge on who to target and how to make our products more appealing to the market. We were used to beading traditional items but we discovered that there are items that are more sellable in the current fashion industry like denim jackets”

A web shop was recently set up www.oltomenadupo.com and some of their products are already on sale in shops in London and South Africa by Kiko Romeo Fashion International. A beaded denim jacket is sold for 10,000 KES (100 USD) and Oltome Nadupo receives 70% of the sales. Creating linkages with markets nationally and internationally have been of high priority for the project and this approach is yielding results for the Maasai women.

Using the knowledge acquired through the trainings, the women have now diversified their business. They are involved in cattle brokerage, running a restaurant, and have recently won a tender from the county government to supply 5 cattle daily to the local slaughter house. The empowerment of these women can be witnessed through the diversification of the business, registration of the company, and participation in conservation matters. They had a 57 % increase in gross income in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015.



PHOTO: INGER HAUGSGJERD



Energy efficient charcoal production using metal kilns

CHARCOAL is the main source of energy in most households in Kenya, making charcoal production a big business venture. It is estimated that over 82 percent of urban households and 34 percent of the rural households use charcoal as a source of energy, and the industry employs over 700,000 people along the value chain.

Despite its significance, the charcoal subsector remains largely informal due to lack of clear policies and regulations. This has been cited as one of the major contributing factors to deforestation as most charcoal producers do not prioritize sustainable wood production.

In a bid to streamline the industry and address these challenges, UNDP in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) has been training charcoal producers in Taita Taveta and Kwale Counties to adopt new and cheaper technologies that are easy to implement. The wholesome training encompasses sustainable utilization of trees through natural regeneration and efficient wood conversion technologies using metal kilns instead of earth ones. Charcoal producers are also trained on the laws governing the sector, reforestation conservation plans, and product value addition including branding and marketing of their charcoal.

“For a long time the charcoal industry has not been regulated. By training the producers to be aware of the Charcoal Act, it will help regulate the sector and ensure that the producers are also benefiting and in a sustainable way,” says Nelly Oduor, the head of KEFRI.

Amongst the technologies introduced to the producers is the very efficient

and easy to replicate vertical drum kiln which is made from an ordinary oil drum. The drum is modified by welding a short metal pipe that acts as a chimney. The wood is then closely stacked vertically.

The horizontal drum kiln on the other hand is like the vertical one, but with the wood placed horizontally, and slightly covered with earth. It has a removable lid and a separate metal grill that is fitted inside the bottom of the kiln to provide air circulation during the carbonization process.

The charcoal producers were impressed by the short time that it took to carbonize the wood, eight hours, as compared to earth kilns that take two to three days. The charcoal recovery rate was also higher compared with the earth kilns.

“I will definitely get one of these drums,” Martha Wambona, a charcoal producer, said as she admired the end product during the practical lesson on charcoal production, “It only requires small branches, instead of huge logs and the quality of the charcoal is excellent.”

Every member of the Charcoal Producers Association was also given a portable metal kiln that can produce up to five bags of charcoal in six to eight hours and also produces tar as a byproduct.

With demand for charcoal at an all-time high, there is need to promote sustainable management and production and ensure that the industry is well organized, through the implementation of the Charcoal Rules that were established in 2009. This will the sustainable growth of the charcoal subsector making it to its full potential estimated at KSh.30 billion.





Reconciling pastoralist communities through asset creation

As the dancers rhythmically troupe from side to side to the tunes of what is evidently a popular folk song, an outsider would easily overlook what is obviously a misplaced set-up for such a serious performance – a bushy stretch adjacent to the lush greenery of a maize plantation, littered with maize cobs and acacia thorns. But it is only when you listen to the story of two communities recovering from a violent ethnic conflict that you agree that this dance could not have been held in any other location on the earth's surface.

Mikutani is a small village in the far south of Baringo County that experienced repeated cattle rustling between the Illchamus and Pokot communities resulting in destruction of property and loss of life.

Through peace initiatives and advocacy by the government and NGOs, the communities, in 2009, were able to move back to their homesteads and begin rebuilding their livelihoods and trust.

Unfortunately, during their return the area was experiencing drought and the returnees received food aid under the World Food Programme (WFP) and Government of Kenya-funded General Food Distribution.

With no livestock to support them, and faced with drought, the General Food Distribution was not a sustainable household 'food security option'. A few attempted to diversify their livelihood option by trying to farm using the waters from Lendorok and Mukutani seasonal rivers.

Luckily for the community, during the same period, World Food Programme and the Government of Kenya were rolling out a project of building community resilience to persistent droughts through asset creation.

The new program focused on harvesting rain water and introduced micro-irrigation projects and conservation agriculture as means of enhancing food security.

The community prioritized construction of an irrigation scheme through participatory rural approach. WFP and other partners provided technical and material support for the implementation of the project. In the beginning,

an improvised dam, mainly of stones, was designed at the intake to channel water into the scheme. Currently, the canals have extended to provide water to several plots.

Margaret, 40, a mother of five and an orphaned and abandoned child, says, "Most of us have no education, have no jobs and we lost our livelihoods in the clashes, the maize irrigation scheme is empowering poor community members to have a permanent source of livelihood."

Christine Ruto, 36, and a mother of five, says, "The project has uplifted my community, originally pastoralists, to practice agriculture. We will have enough food and our children will go to school."

"We usually rotate to work on farms, this way, we the Pokot mix with the Illchamus and Tugen and we all work together. We don't have to fight over cattle anymore. The women work hard and organize so that all things work out well," adds Christine.

Each family plans to have two and a half acres of irrigated land by the end of the project.

The community plans to work towards utilizing the entire 300 acres of available land, improving their farm production by improving agricultural practices and establishing and strengthening community cooperative and marketing structure.

Mikutani is one among 42 communities in Baringo County that are supported by World Food Programme and the county government. A project which began with just meeting the immediate food needs of hungry and poor residents is slowly helping the same people to create and own assets. Once dry and abandoned, the fields are now lush green, flourishing with crops. Song and dance has become a daily routine as visitors continue to come in, hoping to learn a thing or two from the newly-recruited yet hugely successful crop farmers.

Mikutani has about 300 households with a population of about 2000 and is home to two pastoralist communities - Illchamus and Pokot. In 2005 the area experienced a series of cattle rustling and majority of the households lost the livestock that they relied on and were forced to migrate to safer locations within and outside the location.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

