



## Kenya's Polio and Immunization Ambassador is the UN Person of the Year 2015



Harold Kipchumba receiving his UN award from the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas. (Photo by Pieter Desloovere/UNICEF)

Harold Kipchumba, Kenya's Polio and Immunization Ambassador, is the winner of the UN Kenya Person of the Year 2015. This prestigious award was presented to Mr. Kipchumba on Friday 30 October during celebrations to mark the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations. It was in recognition of his relentless advocacy

efforts to promote the vaccination of every single child in Kenya.

The UN in Kenya Person of the Year award was introduced in 2002 to collectively honour those who have shown personal commitment towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and who have through their actions served as



Palestinian and the Vatican Flags are now flying high at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON). The raising of flags was a result of the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on 10 September 2015 regarding the raising of the flags of non-member observer States at the United Nations.

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### Upcoming Events:

- 01 December 2015 – World Aids Day
- 11 December 2015 – Human Rights Day

an inspiration to all Kenyans.

Mr. Kipchumba, a polio survivor, was jointly nominated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Kenya, "for his unwavering support and outstanding efforts towards elimination and eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases" in Kenya.

Other nominees who received certificates of commendation were:

Ms. Martha Karua – For her immense contribution to the current constitutional, activism for human and women's rights and advocacy for the two-thirds gender rule principle.; Mrs. Sarah Tunai, First Lady of Narok County – for championing a holistic social development solution (Eco Manyatta Green Building Revolution) that addresses all the four United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Outcomes within the pastoralist communities in Kenya; and Walk of Hope – an organization comprised of youth activists from Northern Kenya who have been walking for peace and engaging communities in the region to play an active role in addressing the security situation in the area.

Since the May 2013 polio outbreak

in the Horn of Africa, including Kenya, Mr. Kipchumba has been on a mission. He has visited and held dialogue meetings with identified communities and groups, families and individuals who are resistant to polio and other EPI vaccines, either because of their beliefs or practices (religious, cultural, among others). Indeed he has won the hearts of many through his passionate appeal to parents, caregivers and gate-keepers. He continues to lobby opinion leaders including politicians, policy makers, religious leaders, private sector and communities to give support to the repeated polio campaigns, as a result of the outbreak in the Horn of Africa and global eradication efforts, both at national and county government levels.

"Immunization is not a choice, it is everyone's responsibility and it is a right", says Kipchumba. As a polio survivor, he knows too well how it feels to be stigmatized and isolated. At the age of 4, he became sick and started to lose the ability to walk. "If only my mum knew about the importance of two polio drops, I would not be using crutches today."

Two years ago, in the midst of the Horn of Africa polio outbreak, the Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF and

WHO, appointed Mr Kipchumba as the Polio and Immunization Ambassador for Kenya, giving him a chance to be the face and voice of the disease and to share his story, especially with people who are still resistant to immunization. "No child should suffer or undergo any pain the way I did, be it polio or any other vaccine-preventable disease. No child should ever be denied to live because of choices made by others", says Kipchumba.

Most recently he was in Kitui County, reaching out to the Kavonokya group, a religious community that does not believe in modern medicine or medical care but rather embraces prayers and singing as a way to heal themselves. In addition, he has also identified 15 immunization champions, all polio survivors, in counties with some of the hardest to reach areas communities. Mr. Kipchumba has enlisted their support to appeal to all parents, caregivers and gatekeepers to vaccinate and protect all children throughout Kenya and now worldwide.

Accepting this prestigious award, Mr. Kipchumba said "If there is any child out there that lacks vaccination, I want to be the person to bridge that gap", "Let me assure you, the polio vaccine and all other vaccines are safe and effective."

## Empowering Women to Conserve Wildlife in Amboseli



Kenya First lady and UN Resident Coordinator dancing with the community. (Photo by UNDP)

Women of Amboseli were treated to a rare occasion when the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta joined them to launch an

innovative wildlife conservation project. The project supported by UNDP and implemented by Wildlife Direct will economically empower women and

educate them on the wildlife conservation with an aim of turning human and wildlife conflict into an economic activity.

The First Lady is the Patron of 'Hands off our elephants' campaign launched in 2013 by conservationists to help save the elephants from extinction. The campaign has made great strides in raising public awareness and mobilizing support for the protection of elephants.

The First Lady emphasized the role of women in conservation and urged key stakeholders to ensure women are placed at the center of conservation efforts. She called for eradication of cultural practices that limit women from accessing social and economic opportunities.

She said stakeholders identified communities co-habiting with the treasured wild animals to pilot the project as they are their first line of defense.

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“Women are known to play an important role when it comes to conservation issues world over. This is why we are investing in women projects in this region because we can count on you to protect our elephants,” she said.

She further stated that the Government is aware that the absence of rural women in the economy held back development and the ability for Kenya to achieve its aspirations to be a wealthy nation.

Speaking at the launch, The UN Resident Coordinator, Nardos Bekele-Thomas called on stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation as a means of eradicating poverty. “The new global platform for development recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is a global challenge that we must all work hard to achieve. Sustainable tourism is one such way through which we can eradicate poverty. We must continue to endeavor to support local communities to

protect and conserve their environment especially in respect to rich wildlife ecosystems. To do this we must encourage innovative approaches to eco-tourism and cultural tourism. We must also facilitate the interaction for tourists and local communities that own and run small and medium enterprises.”

The Sustainable Development Goals underscore that well-designed and managed tourism is one way through which people can make a significant contribution to sustainable development. Tourism has close linkages to other sectors and can create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities.

UNDP partnered with local four women organizations to help them increase their livelihood opportunities and grow their wealth which in turn reduce human and wildlife conflicts.

The Empowering of Women to Conserve Wildlife in Amboseli project is

a result of a partnership between UNDP and the Office of the First Lady initiated by UNDP Executive-Director, Ms. Helen Clark in June 2014 as a means of finding solutions for local communities to promote wildlife conservation.

It seeks to identify and nurture alternative sources of income that will improve the general wellbeing and wealth of local communities residing within the Amboseli ecosystem. Under the pilot project, Amboseli National Park is being used as a showcase of excellent conservation partnerships between host communities, government, scientists, NGO’s and international partners.

## International week of Action on Prevention of Lead Poisoning Campaign in Kenya

Over 1000 participants drawn from the government, the local community, NGOs, the private sector, school children and teachers, gathered at ‘Our lady of Mercy Primary School’ in Nairobi to commemorate the international week of Action on Prevention of Lead Poisoning that ran from 26th to 31st October 2015. There were a number of activities organized by UNEP, KIRDI and Basco Product Ltd (Paints Products). Key among them was awareness raising about lead poisoning and demonstrating professional painting of deteriorated surfaces previously painted with lead-based paint to reduce child exposure.

Lead Poisoning affects a number of young children in Africa. As lead paint deteriorates over time, children inhale or ingest lead through household dust, paint chips or contaminated soil. There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered to be safe. Childhood lead poisoning can have lifelong health impacts, including: learning disabilities, anemia, and disorders in coordination,



One of the participants participating. (Photo by UNEP)

visual, spatial and language skills.

UNEP representative, Juan Fernando Caicedo of Chemicals and Waste Branch, during his speech underscored the role and effort of lead alliance to eliminate lead paint under the auspices of WHO/

UNEP, in order to protect human health and the environment. He said that lead paint alliance is pursuing a two year action plan whose goal is to encourage national governments to establish legal limit of lead in paint; encourage industry

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Pupils from Our lady of Mercy Primary School entertaining guests. (Photo by UNEP)

to voluntarily stop manufacture and sale of lead in paint; Increase awareness of health and environmental risks posed by lead in paint and finally increase and diversify the number of alliance partners. He also discussed about the

toolkit that has been developed to assist the governments in establishing national legal limits on lead in paint.

In her speech Dr. Alice Kaudia, Environment Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and

Regional Development Authorities, Kenya said that “*the focus is for all of us to have a responsibility of acting to ensure that lead in paint is eliminated or reduced to safe levels*”. She outlined the importance of research and development in generating relevant data that is useful in formulation of environmental regulations and policies. Dr. Kaudia thanked UNEP for thinking about development of a toolkit to assist developing countries in establishing legal limits in an environment that has little resources.

The day was marked with entertainment from students with messages on elimination of lead paints contained in the songs and poems. Basco products donated lead safe paint to paint to the entire school in order to minimize child exposure to lead.

## Promoting the participation and benefit of women-led Micro and Small Enterprises in public procurement



Participants at the Winning in Tendering Training convened by JoyWo with technical and financial support from UN Women Kenya. (Photo by UN Women)

UN Women in collaboration with the Joyful Women’s Organization (JoyWO) convened a two-day follow up capacity building forum for women led Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE’s) on public procurement. The training was held in Nairobi on 28th and 29th September 2015 with the key objective to equip the women with

practical skills and knowledge to fill out successful tenders; provide a platform for the women business owners to interact with government entities-that is buyers- as well as to provide a platform to network, share and learn from successful women entrepreneurs.

The training that brought together over 80 women from Micro and Small

Enterprises, was conducted using a range of approaches suitable for adult training such as practical demonstrations, testimonies, presentations and group/ individual exercises.

Some of the main topics that were covered in detail included: introduction to e-procurement, understanding taxes and how to file tax returns, how to fill out a prequalification and standard tender forms and interactive discussion sessions between the public entities (buyers) and women vendors.

The training was highly successful and was an eye opener for many who were new to tendering and supplying to the public sector as well as those who have previous experience doing business with government. “*I am going to employ and empower more women because when I empower a women, I empower a nation*”, Janet Imali, Head of a Partnership that provides cleaning services stated after the training.

The forum was the third round of training with members of JoyWO with the first two trainings held in June and November 2014 respectively.

Information collected from the





The Facilitator Ms. Jennefer Kamande, Chair of the Kenya Association of women Accountants (AWAK) showing participants how to file tax returns. (Photo by UN Women)

participants during the workshops indicates that the trainings have had an impact on several fronts. For example, 24 women mentioned that when they attended the previous trainings, they did not have registered businesses at that time but since then, 18 had progressed and managed to formally register their businesses. Further, out of 43 women in the current training who reported to have registered businesses, 14 had also managed to acquire the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) certificate which is a prerequisite for trading with government under the 30 percent policy; Of those with AGPO certificates nearly all (12 out of 14 women) reported that they had been prequalified while four women had actually won government tenders. This was a great inspiration to



Learning by doing: Participants Mercy Mutisya and Freda Okello, learning to fill a standard tender form. (Photo by UN Women)

## Kenyatta University Leads In Becoming The First HeForShe Academia Champion



Kenyatta University Vice Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda and UN Women Country Director Mrs. Zebib Kavuma celebrate the launch with Kenyatta University Students. (Photo by UN Women)

the other women entrepreneurs who realized that APGO is a reality.

Sarah Thuku one of the participants and an owner of Ltd Company which deals with construction, explained that one thing she would do differently after the training is encourage more women to get into construction which is a male dominated industry

For further information on this initiative please contact Banu Khan, Programme Analyst, UN Women, Kenya; email: [banu.khan@unwomen.org](mailto:banu.khan@unwomen.org)

Kenyatta University's HeForShe launch on 5th October 2015 in Nairobi was kicked off by a HeForShe branded caravan that set off from the university's Bishop Square headed to Amphitheatre Hall where the main event was held. On board were university students wearing HeForShe branded t-shirts, holding HeForShe stickers and bookmarks. UN Women Country Director Ms. Zebib Kavuma, a Representative of UNFPA Country

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Director and 20 Kenyatta University members of management and staff as well as 150 students from Kenyatta University participated in the launch.

The vibrant and colorful event saw Kenyatta University, the first University in Kenya to commit to the HeForShe Campaign through its Vice Chancellor Professor Olive Mugenda and University's Male Deputy Vice Chancellors publicly signing up to be HeForShe Champions. The campaign which was officially launched in Kenya by President Uhuru Kenyatta on 26th November 2014 is a UN Women solidarity movement for gender equality that looks into mobilizing both men and boys as advocates and change agents to bring about gender equality.

Speaking at the launch, Kenyatta University Vice Chancellor Prof. Olive Mugenda stated: *"I have never experienced any disrespect from the gentlemen I work with being a woman Vice Chancellor and these men are a good example of how men should support women leaders."*

*"The way we treat our children whether they are boys or girls affects how they grow, how they treat their wives and how they are going to treat their children,"* expressed Professor Mugenda after reading out an example of a friend who had not received the best treatment from her father since childhood.

In her remarks, Ms. Kavuma draw attention to a fact that *"HeForShe has become the subject of more than two billion conversations on social media with offline activities reaching all corners of the globe"*. She encouraged other universities to also embrace the campaign so as to include academia and research institutions to the list of Heads of county governments and private sector. She further reiterated that gender equality is not only about women and girls but it's also about men and boys. *"We cannot be speaking of equality and neglect the other side of the equation, it is important that we make sure the voices of both men and women are heard and their concerns captured in policies and programmes,"* she added.

David Okoro, who was speaking on behalf of the UNFPA Kenya Representative gave an example of



Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) Prof John Okumu signing to be a HeForShe Champion. (Photo by UN Women)

himself stating that the lack of delivery services for women in the rural areas made him have a drive to practice medicine so as to be in a position to offer them accessible delivery services. In this context he viewed himself as a supporter for women and gender equality and hence a HeForShe champion Kenyatta University Students Association Organizing Secretary, Washington Shamere spoke to his fellow men stating that men and boys show their manhood by how they treat women, mothers and sisters and hence urged them to all sign up to the HeForShe Campaign. He also appreciated the campaign being launched in KU citing that it will work in the best interest of seeing that the women who study in the institution are treated with dignity both during their studies and upon leaving the university.

*"Getting men and boys to join in this noble cause is very important as they are key to gender equality,"* stated Prof. Olive Mugenda. She added that men can increasingly see that their lives are hurt by gender inequalities that have negative impacts on women and girls, with whom they live, work and interact in many different ways.

Finally, before signing up Prof. Olive Mugenda made commitment on behalf of Kenyatta University which was is a HeForShe campaign champion to do

the level best to realize gender equality and urged students and staff to embrace values that are empowering and inspiring and which help further dreams, aspirations and potentials. She clearly pointed out her support to the students for them to form a HeForShe Students Association through the Gender Directorate stating that it would be essential in making a difference in the university.

Kenyatta University HeForShe launch is the 4th launch since the National one. The previous launches took place in Nairobi where H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta signed in to be a champion, in Safaricom Limited which saw Safaricom C.E.O and most of the male staff sign in as champions and in United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) where most UN Agencies being led by their representatives signed in. There are more upcoming launches in which area for this year which include Turkana, Garissa, Migori and Kirinyaga County. Another launch is also planned in the Magistrate.

To sign up go to [www.heforshe.org](http://www.heforshe.org). Do contact HeForShe Campaign manager for more information on her phone number: 0716256261



## UNFPA Executive Director Visits Mandera To Support Maternal and Child Health Campaign

The Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr Babatunde Osotimehin travelled to Mandera on 6 November as part of the highest-level delegation to ever visit the county, a region that carries the unenviable reputation as ‘the most dangerous area on earth to give birth’.

Mandera in north-eastern Kenya, has a maternal mortality ratio of 3,795 per 100,000 live births, compared to the national average of 362 deaths per 100,000 live births.

The delegation was led by Kenya’s First Lady of Kenya, Ms Margaret Kenyatta who launched the Beyond Zero Campaign in Mandera county by donating a fully-kitted mobile clinic. It was the first time in Mandera’s history that the First Lady of Kenya has visited. Other notable guests included the Ambassadors of the EU, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.



UNFPA Executive Director Meets First Lady Margaret Kenyatta. (Photo by UNFPA)

UNFPA is part of a group of UN partners, known as the H4+ group (others are World Bank, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS and UNWomen) who

are working in six counties in Kenya that are responsible for most maternal deaths. The counties are Mandera, Wajir, Marcibit, Isiolo, Migori and Lamu.

## UNHabitat Celebrates “Urban October”



UNHabitat-Residents of Mathare slum enjoying an outdoor film screened as part of the Urban October. (Photo by Julius Mwelu/UN Habitat)

The month of October saw UN-Habitat host many celebrations around the world. Urban

October was launched by UN-Habitat in 2014 to emphasize the world’s urban challenges and engage the international

community towards the New Urban Agenda. This year’s “Urban October” began with the World Habitat Day which was celebrated on Monday, October 5 and concluded with World Cities Day on 31 October under the motto ‘Designed to Live Together’.

In Kenya, UN-Habitat celebrated Urban October 2015 by launching Urban Nights - a mobile Cinema event that took place throughout the month. Urban Nights engaged students and communities in conversation surrounding gender equality under the HeForShe campaign as well as raising awareness on the importance of public Space.

Our main partners were Nairobi County Government, The Slum Film Festival, Udada Festival, Urban Bites and UN-Women under the HeForShe campaign.

Urban Nights took place six times during the month of October, each

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UN-Habitat football team celebrates after winning the *Urban October* football tournament. (Photo by Julius Mwelu/UN Habitat)

celebrating different audiences as well as having different results. The inaugural event took place in a bid to celebrate World Habitat Day 2015. The location choice of Pawa 254 was convenient because it is a cultural hub and safe zone for many activists as well as artists.

Other events took place at Kenyatta University where students played a major role in setting up of the venue, ushering guests and providing entertainment in the form of spoken word poetry as well as comedy, Eastleigh High School and at the Austin Field in Mathare slums. Austin field is a space that was campaigned for by a young man by the name of Austin. He would often play soccer here as a child and encouraged as well as trained other young boys and girls to do the same.

## UNESCO Clubs movement to promote UNESCO ideals of peace and sustainable development



Students from State House Girls School in Nairobi celebrated the Kenya UNESCO Clubs revitalization initiative and welcomed all guests. (Photo by Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO)

UNESCO and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) has revitalized the Kenya Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association (KEFUCA) during the sensitization workshop on 13-14 October, 2015 at Kenya School of Monetary

Studies (KSMS). Representatives from Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST), World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association, U.S Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association, National Cohesion Integration Commission (NCIC), patrons

from high schools and universities, university student leaders and high school students also joined the event.

UNESCO Clubs movement demonstrates how ordinary citizens can influence decision-makers in promoting UNESCO ideals of peace and sustainable development. The UNESCO Clubs consist of groups of volunteers of all ages and socio-professional status who advocate UNESCO ideals. UNESCO Clubs support UNESCO priorities by using community experiences, skills and outlook to foster peace and sustainable development. The UNESCO Clubs were born of individual initiative: from the beginning to the present day they have been set up in answer to a widespread feeling among their members of the need to participate more actively in international life, in harmony with UNESCO's approach and within its fields of competence.

Prof Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MoEST, urged everyone to be an ambassador of peace, to promote a culture of peace and sustainable growth as Chief Guest on behalf of the First

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Mr. Mohammed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, congratulates Kenya's initiative for the UNESCO Clubs movement demonstrating how ordinary citizens can influence decision-makers in promoting UNESCO ideals of peace and sustainable development. (Photo by Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO)

lady. He said *"We are clubs for peace. One of the key roles is to participate in social involvement. Whatever you are, in your village or somewhere else, your presence as a member of this club must be felt and we have been reminded to be active."*

Mr Mohammed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, congratulated Kenya's initiative in revitalizing the UNESCO Clubs that act as *"a platform which allows people of all ages to take their initiative for peace and sustainable development,"* within their communities and throughout the country and beyond.

Dr. Humphrey Waweru, Chair, KEFUCA asked people to join hands in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence and used a metaphor to explain that *"in the equatorial forest, we find 1,500 species of trees in one square kilometer and they all coexist. Why shouldn't our people do the same? Blessed are the peace makers. To all members, kindly go out there and create peace and promote non-violence within our people."*

Mr. Guy Djoken, President of U.S Federation of UNESCO Clubs Centers and Associations shared his own story of when he joined the UNESCO Club

movement as a secondary school student of a small village in Cameroon. He reached out to students, *"being involved in your community to bring positive change starts from within, and by reaching out to your family and friends, and to larger community, and the impact that you bring to them can be limitless"* by sharing his testimony of international commitment to the goals of UNESCO Clubs.

Mr Dharendra Bhatnaga President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations highlighted on the growth of UNESCO Clubs and Associations spreading in all continents of the world. UNESCO Club is a movement by the people and for the people where it first started in Sendai, Japan in 1947 after the Second World War and now it has grown to about 5,000 UNESCO Clubs who share their vision and prayers for world peace. *"It's now becoming ever stronger with what we are witnessing today in lending a support to our main organization, UNESCO in forwarding the message for peace."*

Going forward, in support of the Government's efforts in promoting peace building and culture of non-violence, KNATCOM is taking an active role to revitalize the UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations as a part of Kenya's Vision 2030 flagship project. Already 50 Clubs have been established while 100 more are in the process of being established.

Dr. Evangeline Njoka, CEO, KNATCOM, briefed on UNESCO's ideals and reaffirmed KNATCOM's commitment to the establishment of strong and sustainable UNESCO Clubs across the country by providing support through training and provision of resource materials in partnership with UNESCO and other partners.

The United Nations is both a participant in and a witness to an increasingly global civil society. In a rapidly changing context of global affairs, the interactions of the non-state actors have become indispensable partners for United Nations efforts. This renewed global partnership with civil society not only enhances democratic governance and strengthens the call for universal peace and larger freedoms, but also shapes innovative initiatives in social,



From left: Mr. Guy Djoken, President of U.S Federation of UNESCO Clubs Centers and Associations, Prof Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MoEST, Mr Mohammed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, and Dr. Humphrey Waweru, Chair, KEFUCA launches the publication: *KENYA UNESCO Clubs: For a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence A Practical Guide*. (Photo by Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO)

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economic, environmental and human dimensions of sustainable development that are impacting policies both within and beyond the UN system. In this regard, one of UNESCO's successes as a specialized agency of the United Nations, has been due, in part, to the active role that civil society plays, in meeting the challenges of today's world in Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication. UNESCO Clubs in particular have always played an important role in continually lending a fresh perspective under local ownership to foster UNESCO's values and principles.



Prof Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MoEST, urges everyone to be an ambassador of peace, to promote a culture of peace and sustainable growth as Chief Guest on behalf of the First lady. © Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

## A Call for Comprehensive Action on Volunteerism in Kenya



UNV Regional Manager for Africa, Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko addressing the participants

The UNV Regional Manager for Africa, Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko has called for the speedy adoption of the National Volunteer Policy which was developed with significant support from UNDP and UNV.

Speaking on behalf of Resident Coordinator at a Breakfast Roundtable on national volunteerism, he stressed that the adoption of the policy doesn't guarantee automatic growth and

efficiency of the volunteer initiatives at national and county levels.

The Roundtable held in October was a huge milestone for the volunteer community in Kenya. The Breakfast Roundtable was established as a consultative platform for raising the profile and support for volunteerism in Kenya. It was organized by the Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIO) Society with support from the

Kenya Government, United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Volunteer programme (UNDP/UNV), Kenya Red Cross and other partners.

In 2004 the Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIO) Society started to bring together organizations working with volunteers to promote and coordinate volunteerism in the country. And also to develop an enabling legal and policy frameworks for promoting volunteerism in the country. The VIO Society has emerged as a legitimate umbrella network for mobilizing volunteer organizations in Kenya.

Dr. Kamuruko, told , participants of the critical role volunteers play in the realization of the recently adopted the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further investments for successful implementation of the policy statements would be required. He therefore highlighted the need for developing a strong national volunteer infrastructure to secure proper implementation of the policy.

In his remarks, the Principal Secretary



in the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, Mr. Ali Noor Ismael, pledged the commitment of the Ministry to hasten the adoption of the National Volunteerism Policy.

He promised that the subsequent process for developing the National Volunteerism Bill will be consultative and he welcomed the increased participation of Corporates, Academia, Civil Society and other stakeholders in strengthening volunteerism in Kenya.

He also highlighted the setting up of the National Volunteer Secretariat through the support of UNDP, to embark on implementing the national volunteerism policy as soon as possible.

The Roundtable was well attended by among others the Governors of Uasin Gishu county governor, H.E Jackson Mandago, Makueni county governor,

H.E. Prof Kivutha Kibwana and Elgeyo Marakwet county governor H.E. Alex Tolgos. The Kenya Red Cross Secretary General, Dr. Abbas Gullet, was the event host.

The Roundtable participants committed on advancing the cause of volunteerism in the five action areas. On the National Volunteer Policy, Bill and Action Plan, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, while thanking UNDP for its support in the development of the Volunteer Policy, assured the participants that the process for the adoption of the Bill by the cabinet shall be fast tracked.

The Governors present, under leadership of the Governor for Makueni, Prof Kivutha Kibwana, also committed to introduce volunteerism agenda to the Council of Governors by inviting

the Volunteer Involving Organization's Society to the Council of Governors meetings. The Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services committed to fast track the setting up of the Volunteer Secretariat to ensure strategic coordination of volunteers and volunteer activities in the country.

Some of the participants volunteered to participate in the Advisory Board for the Volunteer Involving Organizations Society which will be the strategic and advisory organ for the volunteer network. The participants also agreed to work with the Government in developing training curriculums on volunteerism.

The participants further committed to make the CEOs Breakfast Meeting an annual event to strengthen and audit the progress of the volunteer support activities undertaken during the year.



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## **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

- In Southern Asia, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 1990. By 2012, the enrolment ratios were the same for girls and for boys.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school.
- Women in Northern Africa hold less than one in five paid jobs in the non-agricultural sector.
- In 46 countries, women now hold more than 30% of seats in national parliament in at least one chamber.



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## Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- In 2015, 91% of the global population is using an improved drinking water source, compared to 76% in 1990. However, 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines.
- Each day, an average of 5,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases.
- Hydropower is the most important and widely used renewable source of energy and as of 2011, represented 16% of total electricity production worldwide.
- Approximately 70% of all available water is used for irrigation.
- Floods account for 15% of all deaths related to natural disasters.







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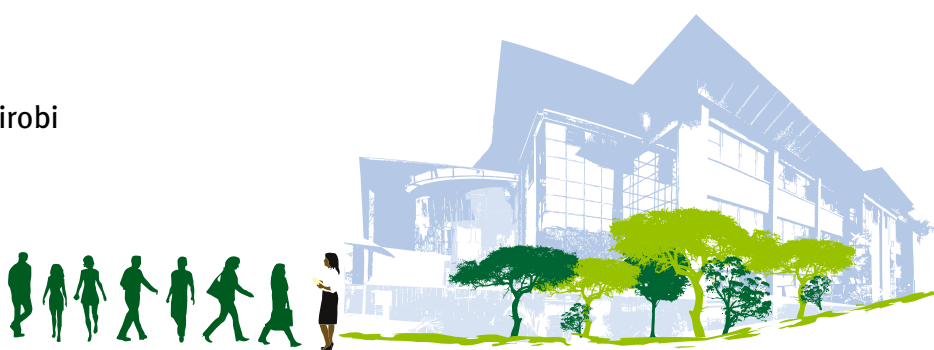
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5. Keeps peace with peacekeepers in more than 12 operations on 4 continents
6. Fights poverty, helping millions of rural poor achieve better lives
7. Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
8. Mobilizes US\$ billions in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies
9. Advances democracy, assisting many countries a year with their elections
10. Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of millions of women a year

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