



UN Volunteers

inspiration in action

December 2014 Newsletter

UNV Kenya, Somalia and Uganda convene the regional retreat in Kenya.

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE



Above Photo @ UN Volunteers discuss and contribute in group sessions

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The first UNV Kenya, Somalia and Uganda Regional Retreat kicked off on 5th to 8th of November, 2014 at the Maanzoni Lodge, Lukenya, in Kenya. The event was officially opened by the UNV Regional Manager for Africa, Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko, and graced by UNDP Kenya Country Director, Ms. Maria-Threase Keating, as well as the UNDP Somalia Deputy Country Director (Programmes), Mr. David Akopyan. The retreat gathered together more than 150 people to exchange experience, share their knowledge and ensure dynamic interaction for team building and networking.

The overarching theme of the retreat

was “**Vision, Voice, and Volunteerism**”, reflecting the following: **Vision** – Inclusive Participation in Peace and Development; **Voice** – Knowledge Sharing and Networking; **Volunteerism** – Voluntary Service to Nations and Communities.



UN Volunteers demonstrate a skit during the peer to peer learning session.

The retreat was characterized by sessions where Ms. Maria, Dr. Tapiwa and Mr. Akopyan shared their personal volunteer experiences and career. *Continued on page 7*

UNV Kenya & Somalia joins volunteer community to celebrate IVD in Kenya



Above photo @ Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko plants a tree during IVD 2014 in Kenya

The international Volunteers Day was celebrated worldwide on the fifth of December 2014. The theme of the year was “*Make Change Happen– Volunteer*”.

In Kenya the UN Volunteers joined the Volunteer community to mark the day in the Mukuru Kwa Ruben Slum of Nairobi at the Hope Worldwide Centre. The event attracted over 400 volunteers from the volunteer involving organizations that included among others UN Volunteers from Somalia and Kenya, AMREF Kenya, Kenya Red Cross, Progressive Volunteers, The President’s Award Ken-

ya, World youth alliance and Hope worldwide .



A number of activities dedicated to the day and to the slum children involved tree planting, cleaning of the classrooms and sharing light moments. The event was graced by the UNV Regional Manager for Africa, Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko who read both speeches from the UNV Executive Coordinator and the UN Secretary General. The Ministry of labor’s

representative Mr. Thomas Ngumi also graced the activity and read the speech from the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of labor.



The government through the Ministry of labor’s speech appreciated the support from UNDP and UNV towards the development of the National Volunteer policy which is expected to be public in 2015. In

the speech the government also committed to ensure the success of the Volunteer Policy development.. The government also expressed emphasis to recognize, budget for Volunteerism in its annual budgets and to commemorate IVD countrywide in 2015.

Above photos @ second top , Community volunteers joined by UN Volunteers from Somalia and Kenya to plant trees.

Photo below @ Volunteers pose for a group photo with UNV Regional Manager for Africa.

UN Volunteers visit less fortunate children

UN Volunteers under the leadership of the team association visited the Bethsaida Centre in Githurai 44 slums of Nairobi to celebrate Jamuhuri day with orphaned children.

Owing to their service to humanity the UN volunteers pulled together resources and items from their colleagues and donated them to the kids on the 12th day of December 2014. The UNVs led by the Kenya Pro-

gramme Officer included , Mr. Emmanuel Ngore ,Mr. Brain Waswala, Mr. Anthony Sirengo, Mrs .Lucy Mungai and Kelvin Keya took this opportunity to share Christmas messages and gifts to the children and to the mangers of the Centre. The team was also joined by Mwanaisha Hassan , a colleague to UN Volunteers from UNEP .

Other such initiatives are expected in 2015.



From top left photo @ Mr. Dmitry Frischin offering a helping hand to serve children with juice .

Top right photo @ UN Volunteers pose for a photo with the Managers of the Children's home at Bethsaida community.

Below photo @ Children clapping after receiving Christmas gifts from UN Volunteers.

UNDP Kenya's UNV ICT Associate wins The UN Volunteer of the Year 2014 Award

During the Annual UNV Kenya awards, **Mr. Abdulrasul Mohamedbhai**, an ICT Associate within the UNDP Kenya (a national UN Volunteer) was honored with a prestigious award of the **UN Volunteer (UNV) of the Year 2014 in Kenya** during the first ever UNV Kenya, Somalia and Uganda Regional Retreat in Kenya.

According to the established tradition, UNV retreats in Kenya, apart from knowledge sharing and team building, also serve to mark substantive contributions of UN Volunteers to promotion of peace and development and include an awarding ceremony for the best practices and results, achieved by volunteers. The UN Volunteer of the Year in Kenya award is the most distinctive recognition and acknowledgement for contribution of UN Volunteers to advocacy and support to volunteerism.

Mr. Abdulrasul Mohamedbhai deserved this prestigious award in 2014 due to his innovative and high tech approach to volunteer management in UNV Kenya. As a focal point in charge of a number of UNV web-based applications on a voluntary basis, Abdulrasul has been providing continuous support and assistance both to the UNV Field Unit and UNV team in the country, related to deployment innovative IT tools for leave monitoring and enquiries. He also advised the UN Volunteers in Kenya how to use these tools for their convenience and better interaction. His outstanding voluntary commitment, initiative, innovative thinking and creativity made him the awardee in the nomination of the UN Volunteer of the Year 2014 in Kenya.

Among the awardees in the nomination of the UN Volunteer of the Agency in Kenya, **it is the great pleasure for UNDP to congratulate Ms. Minja Nieminen, an international UN Volunteer, fully funded by the Finnish Government, who serves as a UNDP Programme Officer for Inclusive Growth and Social Development, and Ms. Sheila Masasabi, a national UN Volunteer, who serves as a UNDP Programme Officer for HIV**



Above photo @ Mr. Abdul pose with the UN Volunteer of the year 2014 plaque and certificate.

and AIDS for their substantive contributions to the programme mandate in line with their assignments and outstanding service. Particularly, Ms. Minja Nieminen invested her time, knowledge and skills to develop an innovative concept for County Business Centers with the focus youth and women's entrepreneurship in the country.

The awards are always given to UN Volunteers who demonstrate excellence, determination, dedication and exemplary performance within their assignments. UNVs are therefore encouraged to continue excelling and being innovative in their assignment and tasks as they continue gaining experience and advancing in their careers.

Last year the prestigious award was won by Sarah Laisney a former International UN Volunteer from UN-Habitat . Sarah is currently serving as a staff in UN-Habitat in the slum upgrading project after advancing her career upon exemplary performance professionalism and dedication in her assignment.

UNV Executive Coordinator meets Kenya Field Unit & team Association



The UNV Executive Coordinator , Mr. Richard Dictus visited Kenya in the Month of December 2014. During his mission he had an opportunity to meet the UNV Kenya Field Unit , the UNV Kenya team association leadership and the UNV Regional Manager for Africa –Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko.

The Executive Coordinator took his time to explain and share the new conditions of service for International Volunteers as well as the expected

Photo above @ Mr. Richard Dictus making his presentation and photo below @ Meeting members following the presentation.

new conditions of service for National Volunteers.

He also shed light on the strategic and priority areas for UNV starting 2015 as indicated in the new UNV strategic plan which are expected to shape and change normal operations of UN Volunteers and UN Volunteer staff in the field and head office in Bonn.

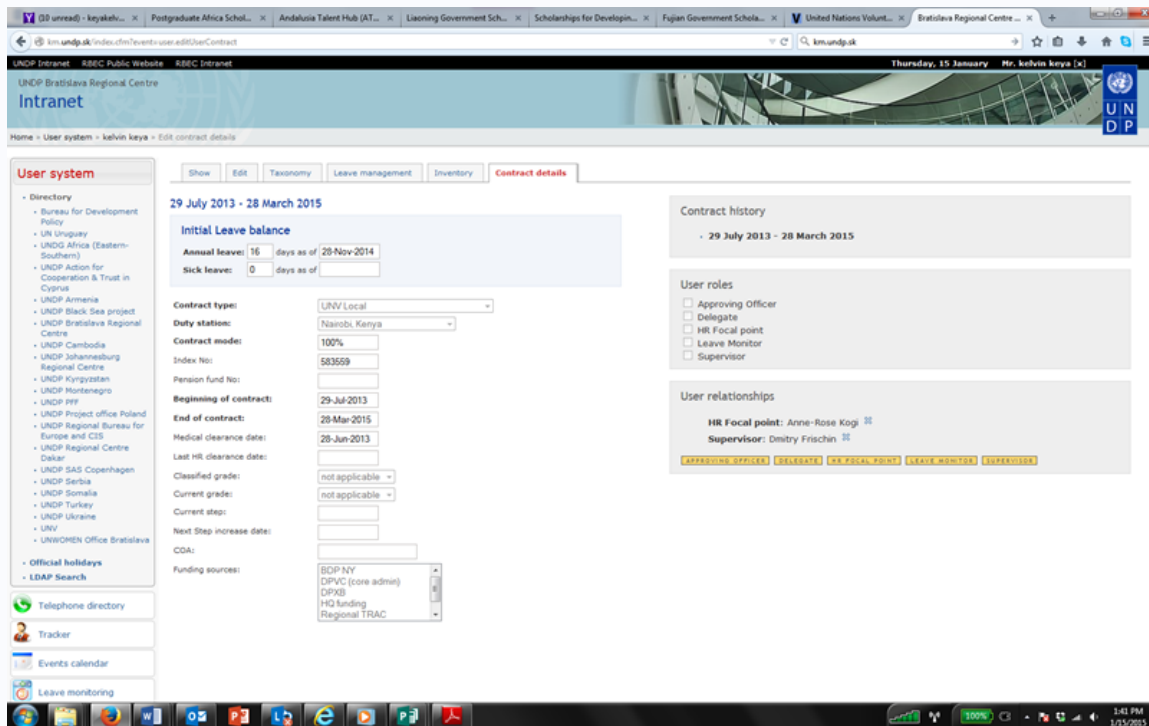
He also addressed questions from the team association leadership on the challenges and opportunities for UN

Volunteers . He also asked UN Volunteers to be proud for being volunteers for they contribute so much to the UNV programme and to the global UN priority and development programmes.

Present in the meeting were , Anne-rose Kogi, Dmitry Frischin, Arbe Gindole , Brian Waswala, Anthony Siringo and Kelvin Keya.



UNV Kenya to Launch E-Leave system in April 2015



Above is a screen print of the E-Leave home and individual profile page

The UNV Kenya field unit will be launching its online leave management portal i.e. the E-Leave system in April this year.

This system was thought of and developed to help our human resource office to be able to track and monitor leaves of the UN Volunteers in the country.

The system comes with various advantages,

1. It is very user friendly both to supervisors and the volunteers.
2. Any one can apply or approve leave from any part of the world as long

as they can access internet .

3. Both the UN Volunteers and supervisors can monitor their leaves .
4. The system can retrieve leave history , forward leave balances and notify on leave status.
5. Human resource managers can use the system to track and monitor leaves for all the staff members
6. The system is automated such that when a contract ends it automatically stops tracking an individual.

7. It can be used on any browser .

8. One can apply ,annual leaves, sick leaves and uncertified leaves via the same portal.

This system has so far been highly recommended by both supervisors and UN Volunteers .

You can find the portal via Www.km.undp.sk

For further information, training or support with this , please contact us at the UNV Filed unit in Kenya on email Unv.ke@undp.org

“Thanks to the recently created E-Leave system , this has come in time for us UN Volunteers, it was quite challenging to take and track my leaves for I am ever in the field , at the same time my supervisor is always in meetings and times out of the office on mission .

Now it is easy for I can apply for leave and have it approved online. To me this is very efficient and should be borrowed across borders.”

Castro Baraza – UNV Peace Monitor in Migori county.



UN

Volunteers

inspiration in action

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Above photo @UN Volunteers raise hands in unison to emphasize delivery as one message

development journey to motivate and inspire the UN Volunteers. The participants also had an online interaction with colleagues from UNV HQ Bonn as well. Ms. Rosemary Kalapurakal, UNV Deputy Executive Coordinator, who shared briefs on UNV Strategic Framework from 2014 – 2017. The UN Volunteers were also taken through online volunteering (www.onlinevolunteering.org) presentation by Ms. Anika Schachtschneider. She also stated that Kenyans were the leading numbers of online volunteers

Peer to peer thematic areas were evident *as youth, environment, community resilience for disaster risk reduction, peace building, working with refugees, gen-*

der mainstreaming and effective communications.

The retreat ended with an awarding ceremony, where the winners of this year were appreciated for their outstanding service and contribution to volunteerism

“Being a UN Volunteer is an opportunity for all of you to advance your career within and without UN so take advantage of the opportunity.”

**UNDP Kenya Country Director,
Ms. Maria-Threase Keating.**

You can also follow the video to the retreat via the link below..

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BxuZhuoy9E3Lb3FtVXpxMmZHaHc/edit>



www.onlinevolunteering.org

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For more information on this Newsletter, the UNV programme or to submit your volunteering, stories contact the UNV Communications Officer in Kenya [Kelvin Keya on kelvin.keya@undp.org](mailto:kelvin.keya@undp.org) or unv.ke@undp.org.

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