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Volunteers

inspiration in action

Special Edition on UNV Executive Coordinator's mission
to Kenya in March 2014

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE:

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UNV Executive Coordinator — Richard Dictus Visits Kenya.



The UNV Executive coordinator –Richard Dictus in a tie above visited Kenya from 9th to 12th March 2014, he was accompanied by **Mr. Tapiwa Kamuruko, UNV Portfolio Manager for Africa** and **Mr. Jordi Llopart, UNV Office New York Chief of the Communications and Communications** .

Upon arrival to ,Richard and his delegation were warmly welcomed by the UNV Kenya field unit lead by Kenya Pro-

gramme Officer Mr. Dmitry Frischin. The mission was quite tight with a number of meetings within the UN Complex and in the field. On Monday the 10th ,the **UNV Executive Coordinator** signed a partnership **MOU with UNEP ,Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director Mr Ibrahim Thiaw.**

The partnership will see a greater involvement and engagement of local and International UNVs in UNEP programmes.

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Above ,photo @ Richard Dictus the UNV Executive Coordinator , share a dance moment with the resettled 2007 post election victims at Donga farm in Nakuru.

UNV Kenya

VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE: A NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME IN KENYA



1. Above left, photo @ UNV Executive Coordinator –Richard Dictus signs an MOU with UNEP's Deputy Executive Director Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw at UNEP headquarters in Kenya.
2. Above right, photo @ Richard being welcomed to Nakuru county office by the county governor Mr. Kinuthia Mbugua
3. Second photo @ Richard Dictus addressing the donga farm community where the victims of post election violence were settled by the Kenyan government.
4. Below photo @ Richard Dictus listening to questions from District peace committee members working with UNV Peace Monitors in Nakuru.

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On the same day , Mr. Richard had a private meeting with the UN-Habitat Operational led by **Mr. Thomas Melin**, Head Ag, Human Resources Liaison Officer.

On the 11th March , Richard led the delegation to Nakuru where he was welcomed by the Nakuru county commissioner **Mr. Mohamed Birik** and the County governor ,**Mr. Kinuthia**



Mbugua who briefed the UNV Executive Coordinator of the peace interventions that had been carried out by the UNV Peace monitors, to encourage

peaceful coexistence within Nakuru county and most specifically in areas where post election victims were settled. The governor also expressed his



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gratitude and appreciation to the UNV support to the county and that the county government will also continue to support the peace monitors to achieve the success of their interventions.

At around one pm, the delegation had gone through a long drive to Donga Farm in Subukia where

the Internally displaced persons were settled. While there, Richard addressed the community members after he had heard presentations and speeches from the community volunteers and leaders in the camp. The delegation was then later received back to Nakuru town to

meet the UNV Peace monitors from Eldoret, Narok and Nakuru who were also accompanied by the Nakuru District Peace Committee members (DPCs). The DPCs are community volunteers who have continued to support UNVs and the county to promote peace in Nakuru.

Encouraging Student Volunteerism in Kenyan Universities



Above photo @ UNV Kenya Communications Officer motivates students at Karatina University to join volunteers activities and volunteers programs available in Kenya

On fourth March the UNV Kenya extended student and youth volunteering at the Kenyatta University in Nairobi, the event was dubbed '**Awakening the Giant in You**'. Present were representations and presentations from Microsoft Africa, Discover your Career Kenya, The University of Nairobi, Technical University, the Progressive Volunteers and Change Mind Change Future Volunteers. While speaking and addressing the over 700 students/participants, the patron of the Kenyatta University Peace club, **Dr. Hellen Oduk** appreciated UNV Kenya support to the impact of volunteerism and volunteer initiatives among students.

Student volunteerism in Kenya continue to be appreciated and supported by both the private

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Youth and Student engagement in volunteerism continues to be UNV Kenya's focus, on 21st February UNV Kenya visited the Southern University of Kenya in Kitui county. The objective was to meet the University leadership as well as to motivate the students to appreciate and take up volunteer activities and programs.

Two hundred and fifty three students benefited from the session which was facilitated by UNV Kenya Communications officer.



Above photo @ Dr.Hellen Oduk the Patron Kenyatta University peace club address students at the University.



Photo © Students from Inorero University Kenya who visited the UNV Office and the UNDP-UNV Communication & Information Centre

From page 3 .sector and the academia leadership, so far Kenya has signed MOU's with five universities to partner with them to encourage, motivate and support youth and student volunteer initiatives .

On 21st March, the UNV Communications officer continued to champion for University partnerships and student motivation to volunteer programs at the Karatina University of Kenya in Nyeri county. A total of 432 students attended the open forum where a number of questions came up on UNV Programme and volunteerism in Kenya. The UNV will continue exploring such

partnerships in future especially to the counties to help inform youth and communities to contribute to local development.

The UNDP-UNV Communications and Information Center is yet to be launched in April 2014. The Centre will be open for local and International Masters ,PhD and Undergraduate students to carry out research, gather information and resources both for Volunteerism, development UNV and UNDP programs.

The Centre is already attracting attention and expression of interests from local university students .

On the 26th day of March Students from Inorero University asked to visit the Centre to gather information about UN Volunteers and Volunteer Initiatives. We are expecting visits by United States International University in April.

Fare thee well to EX –UNVs—Ramit Basu and Masae Ochai



We the UNV Kenya family wish to express our gratitude to Ramit Basu, (Left) and Masae Ochai (Right) both who exited UNV Kenya Programme in March.

We wish you the very best in your new endeavors





UNV 's Supports Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Kenya 2014

My volunteer experience has been so exciting, working with fellow UN volunteers, International Volunteers, UN Staff and the Academia has changed my approach towards personal and community development.

I have added value to my life by seeing the impact of my work to communities.

**Brian Wasalwa—UNV
UNEP Environmental
Education and Training
Specialist**



Above photo @UNV Brian Wasalwa far back left hold a young boy during the YES Kenya 2014 in Naivasha

The YES program is a 15-18 day intensive learning program: exploring environmental, economic, social, and technological complexities; providing a deeper understanding of multidisciplinary and transcultural perspectives in addressing these challenges; and combining the scientific state-of-the-art with active entrepreneur knowledge.

This year, the YES Kenya 2014 Programme was held in Naivasha (Kenya) at Elsamere Conservation Centre, from 28th January to 14 February 2014. **Brian Waswala (UNV-UNEP)** contributed to its success. Guest lecturers and faculty members included Prof. Ludwig Ellenberg (Humboldt University, Berlin); Dr.

Stefan Gara (ETA Environmental Consulting); Luke Metelerkamp (Sustainability Institute); Dr. Alex Awiti (Aga Khan University, Kenya); Dr. George Ogendi (Egerton University, Kenya); Halima Muringa (World Bank Group) and CJ Jones (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) among others.

The Yes Kenya 2014 participants gained enormous knowledge and training through informed guidance and interactions on various global environmental and sustainable development challenges. These included sustainable social systems; practical sustainable energy solutions and smart cities; environmental education for change; social accountabil-

ity; eco-social resilience; clean development mechanisms; water and sanitation; food and nutrition; organic farming; and human rights. Brian enlightened his peers on UNEP's role in promoting Environmental Education and training, UNVs activism in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, volunteerism and development.

The seasonal trainings are organised by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich), my climate and UNEP. For more information please visit: <http://www.myclimate.org/yes>.



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Volunteer Voices

Being the Change I Want to See.....



One year later while volunteering with the agency that is at the forefront of championing gender equality and women's empowerment issues globally has been as fulfilling as it has been educative.

I have not only increased my knowledge and appreciation of **gender equality** and **women's rights** but have also had opportunity to translate theory into practice. Typically, I am involved in interventions ranging from managing grants and partnerships to conducting advocacy and lobbying to movement building and social mobilization. This is not to say that the experience has not come without its fair share of challenges. My first year in volunteerism has taught me the value of espousing three qualities; initiative, proactivity, resilience.

I have learnt that regardless of the environment you find yourself working in, it is up on you to take the initiative to know people and make yourself known. Through introspection, I was able to identify my comparative advantage and determine exactly what I bring to the UN Women office. This

saw me interact more with staff outside my programme, making a point to engage senior management as often as possible.

I have learnt that networking does not only refer to meeting people in my line of duty but it also means getting out of my comfort zone and engaging with people from different agencies. This works to one's advantage as far as professional development is concerned. Furthermore, I have developed an appreciation for the UNV fraternity and the opportunities for growth that come with it; I try as much as possible take part in activities organized by the Field Unit as these present a forum where I can share my experiences and lessons learnt as well as learn from others.

All in all, I implore upon UNVs to maintain a solution oriented attitude. Joining the UN, I had a vision of the difference my volunteering would make 'out there'; in the communities far away and amongst the common person. But in one year, I have learnt that 'out there' could simply mean making an impact in my immediate environment that will make a difference for the next UNV who will in turn make a difference in the community.

Edith Muluha
Programme Assistant- Ending Violence against Women Programme
UN Women

Volunteering is a great way to learn new things, it's a great way to meet new people, it improves our communities, it brings people closer to one another, and it spreads happiness.



Ms. Arbe Gindole — UNV Finance & Admin Associate UNDP Kenya



It is always encouraging knowing that somebody is expecting my

hand for their day to be satisfying, this feeling motivates me to wake up every day to get to the office to volunteers my skills and services to fellow colleagues in the ICT Unit and UNDP team.

Abdul Mohamedbhai
ICT-Associate
UNDP- Kenya

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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 or unv.ke@undp.org.

For our vacancies : www.recruit.unvke.org . Call us on +254 20 762 5540