



# UN

# Volunteers

## inspiration in action

JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

### VOLUNTEERING FOR CHANGE:

- ◇ UN Volunteers Excel In Mathare Project.
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## UN Volunteers Excel in the Mathare Project– Nairobi



*Sarah Laisney (from France) IUNV in UNV Cape training children on how best to recycle old newspapers.*

The UN Mathare demonstration project seeks to empower the residents of Mathare slum to improve their living conditions, particularly shelter and basic urban services, as advocated for in the right to adequate housing.

The programme is implemented by **Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch (HSUB)** of UN-Habitat and the **UNV Kenya Field Office**. The project draws from practical global experience in working with key development partners.

The project seeks to build community capacities initially through assisting with

a community-designed and built improvement to public spaces and facilities, as a starting point for future community-driven, collaborative action that tangibly improve slum conditions.

Through the development of a network of public spaces and design and implementation of localised upgrading of community facilities, the project acts as a foundation for future urban development of the slum.

Throughout the implementation of this initiative, UN-Habitat and other UN agencies represented by UN Volunteers will contribute to capacity development,

resource mobilisation, multilateral negotiations and

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*Above IUNV Sarah Laisney with UNV George Gachie pose for a photo with the UNV Of the year 2013 plaque.*



*I am proud to be associated with sustainable development through volunteerism. I have learnt many skills and ideas in my interaction with fellow Volunteers and UNDP staff in the DRR Unit.*

**Arnold Ambundo- UNV DRR Programme Officer UNDP KENYA**

# UNV Kenya



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programme design with implementation at the neighbourhood.

### UN Volunteers Contributions

The UNV Field Office in Kenya offers a rich pool of experience working with UN Agencies, NGOs and Government Agencies in Kenya, in implementing youth-led projects for peace and development. Such experiences give the project a solid foundation for coordinating and promoting volunteer action for long-term community development. Under the “Delivering as One” flagship, the UNV office and UN-Habitat have created an inter-agency, volunteer-based partnership that brings the requisite skills and expertise to coordinate an effective, community-led development project.

It is hoped that over 30 UN Volunteers will join working groups aimed at collecting data, developing impactful rela-

tionships with community members and government, anticipating and solving problems, and overseeing a building project such as an all-purpose community facility as planned by community members. Through this work, the partnership aims to create the chance for further collaborative efforts with long-term positive impacts.

During the last United Nations Volunteers Retreat held in November 2013, the project and its leaders **Sarah Laisney** a fully funded International UNV by France and UNV **George Gachie**, were recognised by the both by UN-Habitat and UNV Kenya. Sarah was awarded as the UN Volunteer of the year 2013 while George as the Volunteer of the Agency

To learn more about the project please express your interest in joining the working group, please email

[sarah.laisney@unhabitat.org](mailto:sarah.laisney@unhabitat.org) or [george.gachie@unhabitat.org](mailto:george.gachie@unhabitat.org).

### *Strengthening the Volunteer Involving Organization's Network in Kenya*



*Photo @ VIO Network Members pose for a photo after their first meeting at UN Complex in Gigiri.*

The UNV Kenya continued to participate and strengthen the Volunteer Involving Organization Network in Nairobi . Led by UNV Kenya Programme Officer **Mr. Dmitry Frischin** on the far end Left and Kelvin Keya UNV Kenya Partnership & Communications to the far end right ,the network members under the AMREF Kenya Chair

were mobilized to attend the first VIO Network meeting this year. Among issues discussed involved future network activities and expansion to include other volunteer organizations as well as partnership with government on finalizing on the ongoing National Volunteer policy development process.

*“We have an opportunity to plan well this year and to strengthen the network.*

*Let all network members remain committed as we proceed with developing the National Volunteer Policy.”*

**Meshak Odede**  
*Progressive Volunteers*





## *Fitting in the UN Volunteers Family in Kenya*

Two weeks into my assignment as **UNV Associate legal Officer for UNEP Nairobi**, I'm so anxious to contribute towards the greater goal of peace and development. So I'm thinking how do I fit in?

I'm required to support and assist the senior legal officer in providing legal counsel to UNEP. Naturally this means that most of my time is pretty much spent at the office like any other legal adviser. As volunteers we are tempted to think that to actually contribute to the ultimate goal requires that we be recruited in a position that requires us to encounter 'actual conflict' and get the chance to practically contribute towards peace and development making it practically much easier to evaluate the impact we have on the ground towards achieving the greater goal.

UNVs get the chance to share their experiences as volunteers, it is harder though as an 'office volunteer' (so to speak) to tell other UNVs about my experiences as mine will most likely involve reading and legal research and going through case law and my experiences are 'the usual things' and not as dramatic or involving as other UNVs who get a chance to see real bombs and explosions and encounter the effects of these conflicts and can tell you what impact they actually have. I will like to think that I'm not the only 'office volunteer' who is asking these questions. That's because deep down in us (UNVs) we really want to be a part of that big goal—Peace and development.

One of the most interesting things I have come across in my first days as a UNV is the write up on '**Promoting volunteerism for peace and development**' particularly the part that talks about my role as a volunteer. It says that as a volunteer my role is not simply to manage an agenda, an office a programme or an operation.

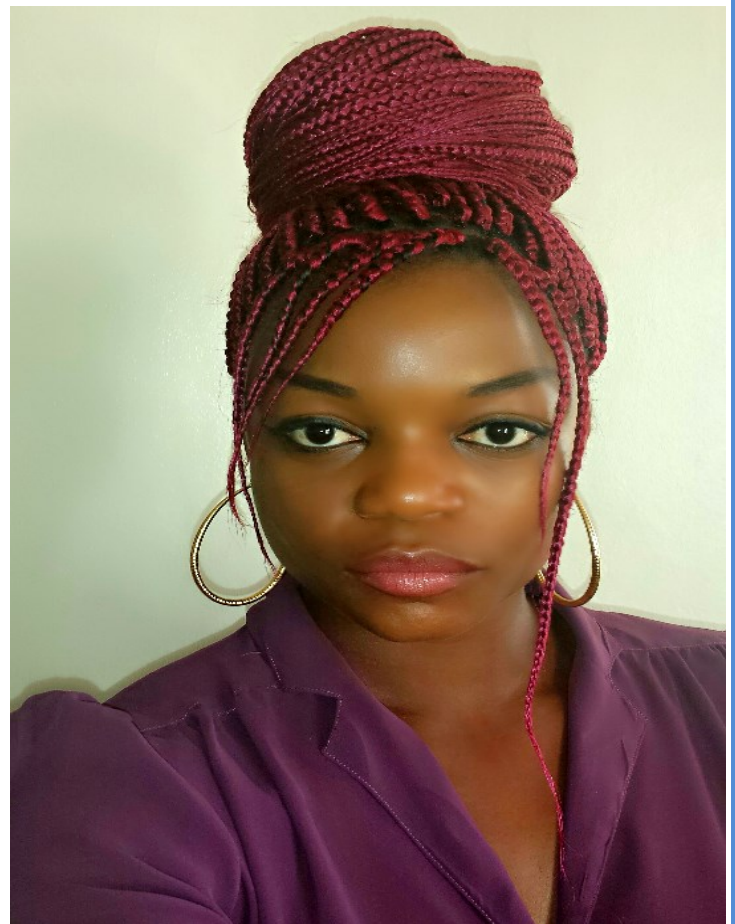
I have the chance to contribute to development create positive change and have a beneficial impact in the lives of other people in the UN family. And amidst all the advice from this piece of work I get these words stand out clear to me '**in the end the quality of your performance should speak**

**for itself**' So to me the whole 'drama' of my assignment in my ability to understand that I can be able to excellently carry out that which is assigned to me to carry in accordance with my term of reference as a UNV.

So just like the write up tells me I'm becoming a part of the UNEP family, carrying out my duties as prescribed, and why not add a little flair to that greater UN family – I joined the UNON female volleyball team and like the volunteer toolkit advises me,

*"I've written the terms of reference of my assignment on a piece of paper put it in that envelope ready to go back to it from time to time to it to make sure that I accomplish them."*

And that's how I fit into the greater goal!



*Above photo @ Camila Nkwenti UNV Associate legal Officer for UNEP (from Cameroon)*



## Congratulating EX-UNV Columbus Epetet



Above photo @ from right Kelvin Keya , Columbus Epetet, Ann-Rose Kogi , Judy Mugo and Dmitry Frischin

We the UNV Field Unit in Kenya joined the UNDP Kenya as well as the UN Volunteer family in Kenya to congratulate Columbus Epetet for his career development ,after a successful interview to become UNDP Kenya Finance Associate.

Columbus had previously served as UNV Finance

and Administration Associate in the Field Unit for three years.

From the UNV Field Unit ,we wish him all the best in his new responsibility for UNDP Kenya Country Office.

## Volunteer Voices



*“Our work touches the mind, body, heart and ultimately the spirit of those we serve, integrating our deep compassion with highly effective programs and services”.*

**Ms. Priscilla Muisyo**  
**Programme Associate**  
**UNV Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery—UNDP Kenya.**



*“The beauty of life lies in giving, I feel refreshed and human as a UN Volunteer.*

*I am proud to give something to this world .”*

**Mrs. Jecinta Cheruiyot**  
**Procurement Associate**  
**UNV– UNDP Kenya.**



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 [unvkenya@undp.org](mailto:unvkenya@undp.org) .

For our vacancies : [www.recruit.unvke.org](http://www.recruit.unvke.org) . Call us on +254 20 762 5540