

• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors

Message from the Resident Representative



The Millennium Development Goals were born out of the development conferences of the 1990s. 2015 was a generation away. Now that there are only five years left every country needs to assess its own performance.

Kenya's long-term development plan is based on Vision 2030. Part of that vision, the Medium Term Plan, takes Kenya up to 2015. The UN has created its own plan, the Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) which is a five-year plan also aligned to the MDGs. Guided by this plan UNDP Kenya works closely with the Government of Kenya to meet the targets. Every programme that we support is geared towards meeting at least one MDG.

Kenya is making progress and has learnt many lessons along the road to the MDGs. The next five years will be critical. A scaling-up of resources and partnerships is essential to accelerate the pace. Combine that with political will and supportive donors and Kenya will have a very good chance of accomplishing all its goals.

Aeneas Chuma UNDP Resident Representative, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Kenya

• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

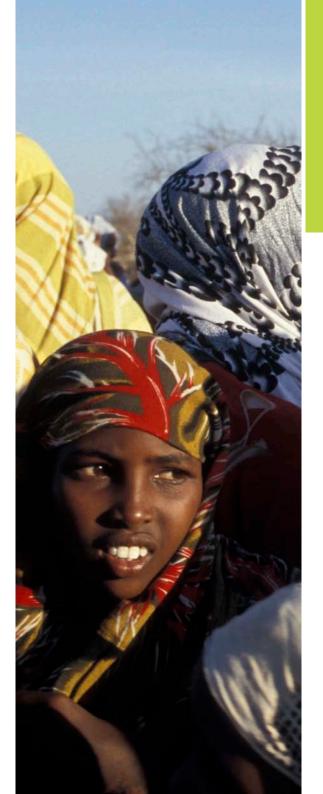
- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors





Our Mission in Kenya

The mission of the United Nations system in Kenya is to support the government in its efforts to create and sustain an enabling environment for the promotion of human rights and good governance, and which will improve the quality of life and the well being of the Kenyan people. To achieve this, UNDP Kenya is organized into different programme units namely: governance, poverty reduction, peace building and conflict prevention, environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction and policy analysis.

Poverty Reduction

Working with the government, development partners and the private sector, the poverty reduction unit seeks to enhance and sustain livelihood opportunities and food security with a focus on vulnerable groups, the majority being youth and women.

Democratic Governance

The governance team focuses on deepening democratic engagement by working with all key stakeholders to encourage citizen participation. The programme aims to enhance the capacities of key national and local level governance institutions. The programme responds to the aspiration of entrenching democratic governance in Kenya and supports initiatives that improve efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and equity in the delivery of public services.



• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

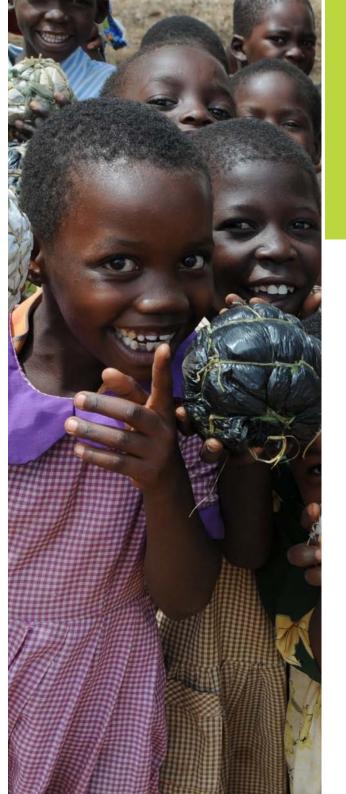
- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors









Energy and Environment

The provision of adequate, quality and affordable modern energy services plays a decisive role in poverty reduction and sustainable development. Energy services are also critical for the achievement of all MDGs, as well as to promote the installation of micro enterprises that play a pivotal role in employment creation. UNDP, through its Energy and Environment Unit, seeks to support the country in attaining the right energy sources needed for development, while protecting the environment.

Peace Building and Conflict Prevention

UNDP Kenya currently has programmes in the following areas: peace building and reconciliation, conflict transformation, and armed violence prevention or reduction. These are aimed at integrating conflict prevention into development programmes, building national processes and institutions for conflict management and ensuring a consensus through dialogue.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Kenya is prone to disasters, especially in the arid and semi-arid land areas. Drought is the most prevalent natural hazard in Kenya, with almost 70% of the country affected. Over the past two decades, over 3.5 million people per year affected by erratic rainfall and cyclical drought, depend on food aid. As a response, UNDP Kenya continues to leverage resources to support the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of State for Special Programmes.

• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors







Street Photography – a platform for peace | Building a foo

Imagine being involved in the post-election violence of 2008 and then, two years later, seeing yourself in a photograph, either as a perpetrator or a victim. This is the scenario envisaged by the recently launched touring exhibition, Picha Mtaani.

Picha Mtaani, in partnership with UNDP Kenya, is an initiative that seeks to create a platform for peace building, national healing and unity through street photo galleries. The 'peace caravan', as it is known, toured seven towns that were hit by the post election violence.

Launched in December 2009, Picha Mtaani was designed, through mobile exhibitions, to create discussions and to encourage truth telling amongst the youth.

Building a food secure country

One of the lesser-known consequences of the 2008 postelectoral violence was the low agricultural performance the following year due to the fact that farmers were not prepared for the planting season. In order to assist the recovery process, UNDP Kenya had to re-orient its programme activities under the Agribusiness Project so that smallholder farmers could resume farming activities. Over 6,600 families directly benefited from this programme by increasing the total land acreage prepared and planted to 20,040 hectares.

The Agribusiness Project is one of the flagship projects within the poverty reduction unit of UNDP Kenya. Funded by the Italian Development Corporation and UNDP Kenya, through the Ministry of Agriculture, the project aims to address the issues that contribute to low agricultural performance amongst smallholder farmers in Kenya. The project is implemented through the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC).

• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

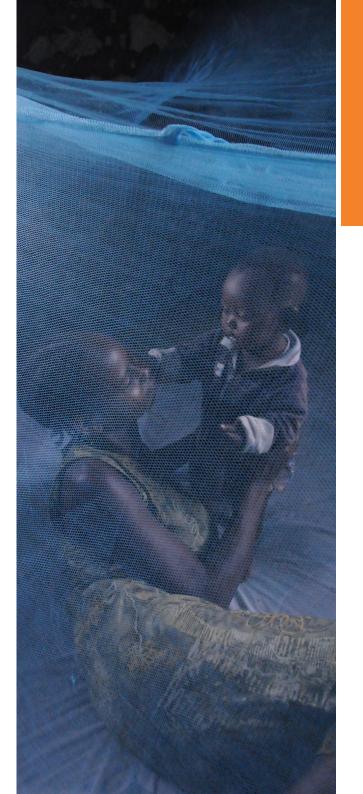
- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors





MDG progress in Kenya

1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Poverty declined from 56% in 2000 to 46% in 2006, attributed to improved governance and management of public resources and key economic reforms. Poverty is still at 2006 levels.

2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

In 2002, when the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) was elected to government, H.E President Mwai Kibaki introduced free primary education. The net enrolment rate in primary school for 2006 was 86.5%, attributed to the introduction of free primary education.

3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Policy and institutional arrangements have been strengthened to promote women's participation in development, including a ministry and commission in charge of gender issues. Affirmative action was introduced in the recruitment and promotion of personnel in the public sector.

4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

The government increased immunization coverage to over 80%, while public health centres and drugs accessibility have also improved. About 68% of children under-five years old are receiving bed nets to protect them against malaria.



• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors



Forests contain massive carbon reservoirs, vital to regulate the global climate. UNDP Kenya helps Kenya conserve its environment to reduce the impact of climate change and attain the seventh MDG on sustainable environment.

5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

The 'ring-fencing' budget policy on health projects has improved maternal health. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (as an indicator of maternal mortality rate) increased from 42% in 2003 to 56% by 2007).

6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

HIV/AIDS prevalence data (at 2007) suggests that females have a prevalence of 6.7% compared to 3.5% among males. Estimates show that prevalence is higher in the urban areas (8.3%) than in the rural areas (4.0%). Results from the investment programme of the Economic Recovery Strategy HIV indicator reveal that in 2007 the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate among expectant women in the 15-24 year age group was 6.3%.

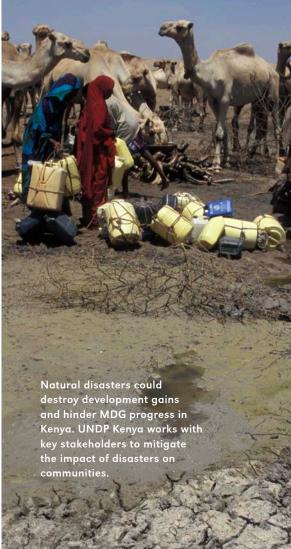
7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Kenya has almost 40 million hectares of forest, 37.6 million hectares of which is ungazetted natural woody vegetation and 1.7 million hectares, gazetted forest. This means that approximately 2% of the total country land area is gazetted forest. Between 2005 and 2007, the Kenya Forestry Research Institute increased seed production by 25%.

8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

In March 2008, the Ministry of Planning and Vision 2030 launched the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) facility to collaborate in implementing strategies geared towards a better quality of life for citizens.





• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

Donors





Finance

The finance unit's core function is to support UNDP Kenya in the delivery of disbursements as per the mandate of the Programme implementation modalities. The unit strengthens the accounting relationship between UNDP Kenya and other UN agencies and oversees the funds and programmes managed by UNDP Kenya.

The unit disburses funds on behalf of more than thirty UN agencies whose functions are administered by the Kenya Country Office and other UNDP country offices. These disbursements relate to: national execution (NEX) advances; national execution (NEX) direct payments; travel allowances; procurement payments; medical reimbursements; security allowances; salaries/benefits for local staff, international staff and United Nation Volunteers (UNVs).

Key Achievements

- In the year 2009, the unit processed over 12,000 payment-related vouchers amounting to a total of US\$51.5 million. The expenditure relating to the UNDP Kenya programme delivery activities amounted to US\$23 million and that of UN agencies amounted to US\$14 million (UN agency global average for 2009 was US\$3.3 million).
- Over the years since the year 2004, there has been a steady increase in delivery as indicated in the table below:

Year	Total Disbursement	Programme	Agency	Management	Other offices
2004	23,623	9,343	9,967	2,171	2,142
2005	37,358	17,849	15,480	2,772	1,257
2006	39,027	18,077	14,464	2,562	3,924
2007	42,531	24,527	13,346	2,541	2,117
2008	55,853	30,222	13,591	2,868	9,172
2009	51,595	23,047	14,158	2,758	11,632

2004 - 2009 delivery-amounts in US\$ Thousands

• The economic and social situation in Kenya today

Our Mission in Kenya

• UNDP KENYA - Programmes by geographic location

Success stories

- Street Photography a platform for peace
- Building a food secure country
- Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya
- Making a big difference in a small way
- Over two thousand guns go up in smoke
- Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

MDG Progress in Kenya

Finance

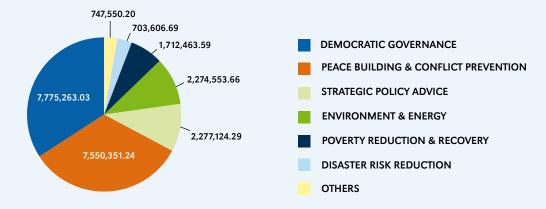
Donors





Donor contributions for the financial year 2009

DONOR	AMOUNT PER DONOR (US\$)			
SIDA	10,158,695.00			
Japan	9,046,726.00			
Netherlands	3,890,933.00			
Norway	2,345,747.02			
Sweden	1,500,000.00			
GEF	1,088,145.82			
UNDP	1,072,500.00			
Finland	819,751.96			
DFID	753,678.93			
European Union	748,392.03			
Denmark	741,903.32			
The Rockefeller Foundation	648,750.00			
Special Voluntary Funds (SVF)	433,051.00			
DAITG	399,361.02			
DANIDA	253,928.13			
UNDP - Kenya Country Programme	243,607.89			
Belgium	143,884.89			
UNEP	127,000.00			
UN CTY Coordination Fund - UK	63,333.00			
UNHCR	49,959.00			
MCF-PHASE 2	51.36			
TOTAL	34,529,399.37			



Expenditure by Programme Unit for the Financial Year 2009 (US\$)



Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty



Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health



Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases



Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability



Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality



Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development



United Nations Avenue, Gigiri P.O. Box 30218, Nairobi Phone: (254-2) 7624394 Fax: (254-2) 7624490 Email: registry.ke@undp.org www.ke.undp.org

The economic and social situation in Kenya today

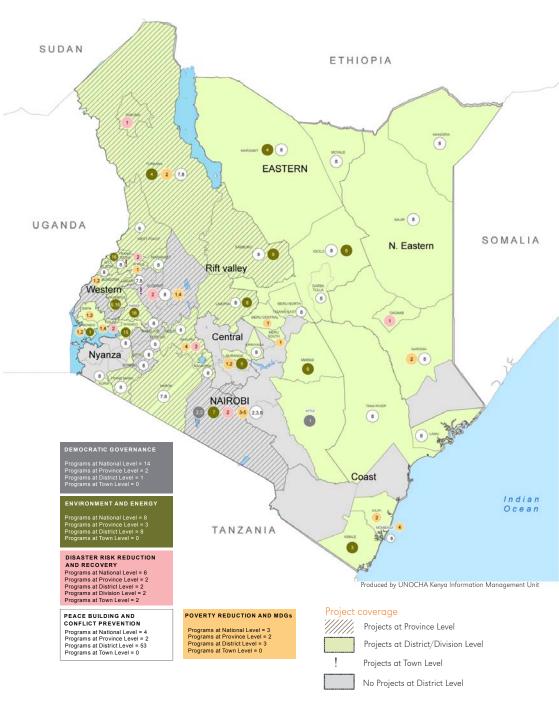
In 2009, Kenya faced a number of challenges, while making significant progress in other areas. Prolonged drought in the northeast destabilized food security leaving over 3.8 million people in need of food aid. The situation was worsened by the global economic crisis that led to reduced inflows from tourism, remittances and foreign direct investment. Poverty is still a major challenge for the country, with about 46% of the population living below the poverty line. The most affected group is the youth who make up 60% of the population. Depleted forest cover is a challenge for future water supply, and the government, stakeholders and partners are making firm efforts to recreate lost forest cover.

Despite the challenges, the economy began to show signs of growth, posting a 2.8% growth up from 1.7% in 2008. The political reform agenda is on track with most of the Agenda 4 items, part of the National Accord signed by the coalition partners in 2008, being implemented. These include formation of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission, the Interim Boundaries Review Commission, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission and the Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The constitutional review process is back on track, spearheaded by the Committee of Experts.

Key Economic and Social Indicators 2006 - 2008

Description	Unit	2006	2007	2008
Population	Million	36.1	37.2	38.3
GDP growth at constant prices	Per cent	6.3	7.1	1.7
GDP per capita	Ksh	34,570	36,000	35,611
Inflation rate	Per cent	14.5	9.8	26.2
Formal employment	Thousand	1,924.8	1,977.3	2,011.1
Informal employment	Thousand	7,068.6	7,501.6	7,935.1
Primary school NER (net enrolment rate)	Per cent	83.5	91.6	92.5
Primary school NER girls	Per cent	82.9	89	90.5
Full immunization coverage (under 1 year)	Per cent	71	73	71
Female representation				
National assembly	Per cent	8.1	8.1	8.7
District commissioners	Per cent	2.8	8.1	8.1
Councillors	Per cent	13.3	13.3	15.8

UNDP KENYA - PROGRAMMES BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

- 1: Marginal Justice: (Kitui, Kisumu)
- 2: Implementation of Sexual Offences Act: (Nairobi)
- 3: KHRC Strategic Plan: (Nairobi)
- 4: MoJNCCA Capacity Support Agenda 4 Reforms: (National)
- 5: Support to MFA: (National)
- 6: Mainstreaming Disabilities: (National)
- 7: NEPAD/APRM Sustaining Dialogue: (National)
- 8: National Capacity for Protection of Human Rights: (National)
- 9: Judicial Review: (National)
- 10: NCEPII/URAIA: (National)
- 11: CEMDEF Clarion: (National)
- 12: Rights and Justice: (National)
- 13: Access to Justice: (National)
- 14: CSDG Facility: (National)
- 15: Paralegal Resources: (National)
- 16: Action Aid Inequalities: (National)
- 17: Public Sector Reform: (National)

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RECOVERY

- 1: Joint Host Community: (Kakuma and Daadab)
- 2: Post Election Violence Livelihood Recovery Project:
- (Nakuru, Kisumu, Kitale, Eldoret, Nairobi)
- 3: Enhanced Capacity for Recovery from floods in Kenya:
- 4: Joint UN Programme on AID: (National)
- 5: Responding to HIV/AIDS at the Workplace: (National)
- 6: Enhancing GIPA and CSO Partnerships-KANGO: (National)
- 7: Emergency Response to Drought: (National)
- 8: Disaster Risk Management for Kenya: (National)

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

- 1: Enhancing Water Governance through a HRBA: (Bondo)
- 2: World Sustainable Pastrolism Drive GEF IUCN: (International)
- 3: Improved Conservation and Governance: (Kwale)
- 4: Indigenous Vegetation: (Marsabit, Turkana)
- 5: The Village Model: (Murang'a)
- 6: Commercial Insects for Forest Conservation: (Mwingi, Kakamega)
- 7: Nairobi River Basin Phase II: (Nairobi)
- 8: Safeguarding Food Security: (Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo)
- 9: Forest Recovery Policy and Strategy: (National)
- 10: Drought Coping with Support from GEF: (National)
- 11: Improvement Livelihood in Dryland Forest of Kenya: (National)
- 12: Regional CDM Capacity Build. for Sub-Saharan Africa:
- 13: Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency: (National)
- 14: Poverty and Environment Initiative: (National)
- 15: Resource Utilisation in the Wetlands of River Nyando: (Nyando)
- 16: Strengthening the Protected areas Network in Kenya: (Trans Nzoia, Kakamega, Nandi)

PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

- 1: Peace Support Operation Training:
- (International involving 13 countries) 2: Support to RECSA II: (Nairobi)
- 3: Support to the Facilitation Efforts Peacebuilding: (Nairobi)
- 4: Conflict Transformation: (National)
- 5: Armed Violence: (National)
- 6: Peace Building in Kenya: (National)
- 7: Conflict Solving: (Turkana, Transmara, Mt. Elgon)
- 8. Strengthening of Provincial Peace for PPFs and District Peace
- Committees: (NAIROBI: Langata, Embakassi, Kasarani; R/VALLEY: Turkana North, Turkana West, Turkana East, Turkana
- South, Loima, Pokot North, Pokot Central, West Pokot, East
- Pokot, Marakwet, Trans Nzoia West, Eldoret West, Trans Mara, Sotik, Kipkelion, Molo, Naivasha, Narok North, Laikipia North, Laikipia West, Kuresoi, Samburu East, Samburu North, Samburu Central; WESTERN: Lugari, Mt. Elgon; EASTERN: Isiolo, Tigania East, Garbatula, Marsabit Central, Marsabit North, Marsabit South, Moyale; COAST: Lamu East, Likoni, Tana River, Tana Delta; NORTH EASTERN: Garissa, Wajir East, Wajir North, Lagdera, Mandera Central; NYANZA: Borabu, Kuria East, Kuria

POVERTY REDUCTION AND MDGs

1: District Business Solution Centres:

West, Nyando; CENTRAL: Kirinyaga South

- (Murang'a, Bungoma, Siaya, Bondo, Meru South, Kisumu, Kitale, Eldoret)
- 2: Kenya National Youth Development and Training Programme: (National [Muranga, Bungoma, Siaya, Bondo, Turkana, Kilifi, Garissa, Meru])
- 3: CBK Capacity Building Support Project: (Nairobi)
- 4: Fanikisha Promoting Women in Business:
- (National [Nairobi, Kisumu, Eldoret, Nakuru, Mombasa])
- 5: NESC PP Dialogue: (Nairobi)
- 6: Youth Employment Regional Programme: (National)
- 7: PSDS Donor Coordination Unit Support: (National)
- 8: Vision 2030: (National)
- 9: Pro-Poor Policies and Planning: (National)



Supporting the reform agenda in Kenya

After the violence following the 2007 elections, the Government of Kenya agreed to a programme of reforms known as Agenda 4. These were part of the National Accord signed by the coalition partners in 2008.

The challenge was to ensure that the reform priorities under the Accord were implemented before the closure of the policy window. The Ministry of Justice and National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs (MoJNCCA) and UNDP Kenya agreed on a project to enable the government to commence these reform priorities.

In 2009, it was evident that the project had achieved positive results. It had supported the creation of the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC), the Interim Independent Boundaries Review Commission, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, and the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. These commissions were set up under the leadership of the ministry, with UNDP support for capacity building, team building and induction retreats.

Notable was support to the National Conference on Electoral Reforms in Kenya, billed as one of the most successful recent events on policy dialogue. The forum brought together President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka and international experts and electoral administrators from Ghana, South Africa. India and Canada. The outcome of this conference gave the country a new impetus for electoral reforms.

As a result, UNDP Kenya, together with development partners, the IIEC and the Government of Kenya, established a separate project to move electoral reforms forward: the constitutional review process took centre-stage in 2009. However, there were fears that meaningful progress could not be made without united political leaders.

Through the UNDP Kenya project, the ministry gave support to the coalition government on consensus building around contentious issues of the draft constitution. Several meetings and retreats were organized for coalition partners' representatives and the cabinet. Progress is evident in the constitutional review process, with the majority of the political class supporting the outcome.

Priority has been given to the constitutional review process, with specific concentration on the draft constitution referendum. UNDP Kenya also offered technical support to the coalition government in consensus building and public awareness activities on the new constitution



66 It will make a difference. At least we will have a transparent and fair election and the right leaders that people want will be chosen."

Ismael Yassin, Registration Clerk at the IIEC Voter Registration Station





Making a big difference in a small way

In a world where water is scarce, carbon dioxide excessive, and the climate sometimes extreme, it's often the little things that make a difference. UNDP Kenya has been involved with three small-scale projects that could make a big difference to forests, carbon dioxide levels and the income of the poor.

Karura Forest is a 1,000 hectare site of canopied indigenous forest on the edge of Nairobi. Considering that less than 2% of Kenya is covered by indigenous forest, the location is a blessing in that it acts as Nairobi's 'lung', absorbing carbon dioxide and purifying the air. It is also a water catchment for four tributaries of the Nairobi River, essential for the water scarce city.

The Nairobi River Basin Programme (NRBP) is a combined initiative of the Government of Kenya, UNEP, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, the City Council of Nairobi, the private sector and civil society. Its mission is "to restore a riverine eco-system with clean water for a healthier environment".

Implemented in three phases, the third phase involves capacity building in the community and empowering youth and civil society. Community involvement promotes forest regeneration and conservation and improves rural livelihoods for forest adjacent communities.

Tree planting

The Huruma Vision Self help Group is a CFA (Community Forest Association), provided for under the Forests Act 2005. The 30-member group consists of people from Huruma village, adjacent to Karura Forest. The group was established in 2005 to restore the forest by reforesting eight hectares of degraded site. They later began a tree nursery.

The seeds are collected from the forest, with the permission of the authorities, or bought from the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute. Water for the seedlings comes from the nearby river. They currently have 4,000 seedlings, which are sold to UNDP Kenya and other buyers.

The costs of this project are small, and include watering cans and pot bags. The group also targets large companies involved in 'green' projects, and synchronise planting patterns with the periods that seedlings are required.



66 Now the community knows that felling trees would be a loss to them because there would be no flowers for the bees."

John Chege, Huruma Community Representative, Secretary, Huruma Vision Group (photo left)





Over two thousand guns go up in smoke

It is estimated by the Control Arms Campaign that over 639 million small arms circulate worldwide, many of them used in conflicts in Africa.

Due to Kenya's proximity to long-running conflicts such as in Somalia and the Great Lakes region, it has become a repository for illegal weapons that are easily smuggled across porous borders. Not only are small arms replacing traditional weapons such as spears in conflicts over land, livestock and water, they are also used in Kenya's cities to rob, maim and murder.

As part of UNDP Kenya's initiative to reduce and control the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the Government of Kenya recently destroyed over 2,500 illegal firearms, most of them surrendered by pastoral communities in northern Kenya. The illegal weapons were burnt to ashes and metal parts smelted. The UNDP Kenya deputy country director for programmes, Alfred Teixera, Minister for Internal Security, Professor George Saitoti, and Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere witnessed the inferno.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Teixeira reiterated UNDP Kenya's commitment to assisting the government to reduce armed violence in northern Kenya through the armed violence reduction project being implemented in Isiolo, Marsabit, Moyale, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa districts. UNDP Kenya has donated 10 rough terrain vehicles worth over US\$ 300,000 to this project. Professor Saitoti, pledged to enact a law that would subject those possessing, trading, conveying and dealing in illegal weapons to stiffer penalties.

Proliferation of small arms remains a major challenge to human development in Kenya. UNDP Kenya promotes a culture of peace in the country through peace education. We support the government and other stakeholders on issues of conflict prevention and peace building programmes that advocate for, and support national plans and policies related to peace building and conflict management.



One of the greatest challenges facing the international community is the reduction of the exceedingly high availability of small arms and light weapons in areas of conflict around the world."

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs





Creating employment and saving Kenya's forests

Forests are crucial to climate regulation, water catchment and biodiversity, yet it is estimated that 15 million hectares of forest are lost worldwide every year to agriculture. During the 1980s the Kenyan population grew at 4% a year. Combine that with large-scale logging and a need for charcoal fuel, and it is not surprising that Kenya's forests are rapidly being destroyed.

To reverse this destruction, Kenya aims to increase forest coverage to 4% (from the current 2%) by 2012. In line with this, UNDP Kenya partnered with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to encourage Kenya's youth to plant trees.

The Kazi kwa Vijana Trees for Jobs initiative was launched in December 2009 in the Ngong Forest on the edge of Nairobi. In a ceremony attended by the UNDP Resident Representative, Aeneas Chuma, 500 trees were planted. The initiative enlists 200 youths in Kajiado North District in planting and nurturing 30,000 trees on a 12 acre piece of land provided by the forestry ministry. Apart from giving the youth employment, it creates awareness of global warming and provides solutions such as tree planting that mitigate the impacts of climate change.

In addition, tree nurseries will be established in the forest to supply young trees for planting, managed by the community. A moveable fence will be erected to protect the young trees for a period of about 18 months to ensure that the trees are allowed to regenerate.

Ngong forest covers an area of 528 hectares just six km from the Nairobi city centre and acts as a 'carbon sink' for the city. Like other Kenyan forests it is threatened by human activities such as logging and charcoal burning. The forest is also a crucial water tower that sustains the Athi River, the second largest river in Kenya. It is a water catchment area for Nairobi province, and claims 208 indigenous species of plants and trees, and over 120 indigenous bird species.

Besides encouraging tree planting UNDP Kenya also supports the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in implementing the Kenya National Youth Policy. We do this with projects that promote peaceful co-existence, revitalize youth polytechnics and instill an entrepreneurial culture to enable the youth to achieve their goals.

Poverty levels in Kenya are still high at 46% of the population. UNDP Kenya works with relevant stakeholders to reduce this figure, including partnering with the government to implement Vision 2030.