



UN

Volunteers

inspiration in action

UNV KENYA NEWSLETTER

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International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2015 in Kenya and Ethiopia



This year, the theme of the International Volunteer Day was *'The World is changing, are you. Volunteer'*. This was a call for everyone to take part in the new global goals. UNV Volunteers took time to celebrate the spirit of service to humanity to mark the day globally. UNV Kenya was involved in the celebrations in Kenya and Ethiopia. *More on page 5*

Dmitry's Parting Shot

QUOTABLES

"The Future Belongs to Us".

Dmitry's parting shot to 'One Big Volunteer Family in Kenya'

October 2015 was the month when Dmitry Frischin left his desk in the UNV Field Unit in Kenya for a similar role in Ethiopia, having served to grow the UNV programme in Kenya for over 3 years.

Dmitry set some time aside to share his experiences during the 3 plus years. It was quite an interesting experience to say the least:

What can you say about your personal experience in Kenya?

Kenya was my first country in Africa where I started my service as a UNV Programme Officer/Team Leader.

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DMITRY'S PARTING SHOT

If you say that Kenya was my first entrance to Africa, I think it would be absolutely correct. I really enjoyed my service in this beautiful country with diverse culture, unique traditions and environment, old history, existing challenges and great opportunities. I am very grateful to my colleagues in the UNV Field Unit and UN Volunteers who tried their best to accommodate me in the country and help as much as they could.

As a UNV Programme Officer/Team Leader, what successes and best practices of your work in Kenya can you mention for sharing?

First, I should say that those successes and best practices in my work became the reality due to support and unprecedented dedication of the team in the UNV Field Unit, UN Volunteers in Kenya, UNDP and other UN Agencies, partners from the government and volunteer involving organizations, universities and young activists. I am proud and grateful to share that together with our members of One Big Volunteer Family we facilitated the National Volunteerism Policy development process, strengthened Volunteer Involving Organizations Society, engaged young talented people into initiatives for peace and development through volunteerism, promoted volun-

“If you say that Kenya was my first entrance to Africa, I think it would be absolutely correct.”

Dmitry's sum up of Kenya

teerism in academia and marked International Volunteer Day, participated in strategy development with UNV at global level, initiated joint projects on youth involvement and volunteerism, advocated for peer-to-peer learning. Starting from warm welcome by the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative and UNDP Country Director upon my arrival in Kenya, I always felt excellent support, attention and care of my colleagues in UNDP and other UN Agencies, we used to deal with. It really helped us

to mobilize additional resources and to launch joint projects.

I believe that there were certain challenges you were forced to deal with too. Can you tell us a bit about them?

From the professional point of view, in my position I am usually expected to advise and to guide in UNV rules and procedures. However, sometimes it was very



Dmitry during his farewell

difficult to justify some decisions in the past. I knew that I had to inform my colleagues about such dramatic decisions, but I was frustrated and stressed to do that. I am happy that nowadays we have a new methodology for calculation of Volunteer Living Allowance, linked to particular indicators. In my opinion, it gives some sort of sustainability and assurance in the future. I am also very glad to see the efforts of UNV to harmonize international and national conditions of service. For example, when I started my service, there were no clear training allowance for national UN Volunteers. Training allowance for international UN Volunteers were mainly focused on local languages. The diversity of training opportunities, that we have today, is encouraging. I am sure that we need continue investments in volunteer professional development and career growth, because this is the nature of the modality and future of our UN Volunteers.

In conclusion, what would you like to share about the UN Volunteer modality and to wish to our colleagues and partners?

In my opinion, the UN Volunteer modality remains a unique one as an opportunity to gain advanced knowledge and experience in development work in the context of the internationally recognized UN values and principles. There is a proverb that the challenges and issues on your way make you stronger. I would refer it to the UN Volunteer modality, where we need to manage our budgets, to perform professional duties with passion and dedication, to be initiative and to look for future with optimism.

I would like to wish One Big Volunteer Family in Kenya the best professional development, satisfaction and career success. From my side, I will be always happy to assist and support as much as I can.



Top: Dmitry during a tree planting ceremony during the International Volunteers Day; Middle Dmitry conferring with volunteers during the Devolution Conference in Kisumu earlier this year and below, in his new office in Ethiopia with Kenyan colleagues

UNV KENYA CONTRIBUTES TO A SUCCESSFUL KENYA/ETHIOPIA BORDER PROGRAMME

There is a growing recognition of the need to transform the border regions from being “barriers” into a “bridge” in order to give the communities on both sides of the border opportunities for better cooperation and bridge isolation gaps so as to improve their livelihood and socioeconomic conditions.

Since early 2015, the Governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, in partnership with IGAD and the UN County Teams of Kenya and Ethiopia, have embarked on an innovative cross-border and area-based programme to bring about sustainable peace and development in Marsabit County, Kenya and Borana Zone, Ethiopia.

The UNV programme through the UNV Kenya Field Unit has been actively involved in this landmark programme providing technical, human and financial support through various stages of the programme.



“The Marsabit, Moyale, Borana Zone Cross-Border Programme endeavours to promote peace and development in the greater Horn of Africa region,” Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya

The programme will use tailor-made capacity building initiatives on conflict management and peace-building, as well as implement alternative livelihood projects to improve the skills and knowledge of the local communities in preventing conflict and bringing about sustainable peace and development. Emergency and long-term development projects will be designed and implemented to address the immediate humanitarian concerns and long-term development objectives of the project with the sole objective of bringing about lasting peace and sustainable development in the region.

The USD 200 million five year Cross-border Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation: Marsabit County of Kenya and Borana Zone, Ethiopia, was launched by Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopia’s Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn, as part of an agreement between the two countries to foster, environmental protection, trade, development and peaceful coexistence in their border regions.



President Uhuru Kenyatta and the Ethiopian Prime Minister with UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas and Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Trade, Amb. Amina Mohammed with her Ethiopian counterpart during the signing off ceremony

As elaborated in the Programme Concept, **“the programme will at all stages of its implementation widely engage volunteers through the UNV modality to ensure respective performance of the activities of the project under the conditions of cost-efficiency and inclusive participation. The project will benefit from volunteers under the UNV modality by securing the relevant inclusive participation of people on the ground and proper interactions between communities, with a special focus on youth.”**

500

The number of trees planted during this year’s International Volunteer Day in Wote, Makueni County to pre-launch the Lead The Change Campaign; a campaign to involve volunteers in leading community change towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the County.

169

Number of the targets for the new 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One of the highlights of the new SDGs is their level of specificity. The new goals go

into specific details and leave nothing to chance.

3

Number of years that Dmitry, Kenya’s outgoing UNV Programme Officer, served in Kenya.

For over 3 three years, Dmitry led the UNV Kenya Field Unit in achieving several milestones for the UNV programme in Kenya. Dmitry left to serve in a similar position in Ethiopia and will still work closely with Kenya in Kenya/Ethiopia Regional projects such as the Kenya/Ethiopia Cross-border Integrated Programme for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation.

VOLUNTEER VOICES

As curtains falls on the Millennium Development Goals, and the world ushers in the new Sustainable Development Goals, Roberto Mwashashu, UNDP UN Volunteer shares his story of change on the 17 goals.

Roberto Mwashashu (Kenyan) is a National UNV with UNDP Kenya. Prior to UNV, he was a trainee with USAID-FIRM and a volunteer with I Choose Life Africa for five years.



Contributing to sustainable development

Ever looked at decisions you made at a time in your life and crown them with a smile? Well, my decision to participate in volunteering activities at the community level since my tender age to date has been a life changing moment. The act of volunteerism is an altruistic motivation that motivates me to be a volunteer and most importantly add value to the people I serve.

In one of the outreach activities as an intern with the United Nations Information Centre-Nairobi, I volunteered to mobilize other interns to participate in the Nelson Mandela International Day and I remember participating in a talk on UNV programmes, that's where my interest to join the UNV started to build on.

My work as a UN Volunteer Project Officer – Business Development Services is to support the establishment and operationalization of County Business Development Centres locally known as Biashara Centres. My passion springs from the belief that achieving economic development and hence poverty eradication calls for holistic approaches, and I feel very

happy and lucky to be able to contribute to inclusive economic development in Africa.



As the United Nations Development Programme, we are supporting the County Governments in Kenya to promote inclusive economic growth and job creation at the County level through empowering MSEs, small holders, youth and women access and leverage economic opportunities. In line with the motto, "Tuimarike Pamoja", the Centres are key in promoting forward and backward linkages and markets for MSEs to grow at the county, national and regional levels, and enhance their access to capacity building, technology transfer, finance, value chain development initiatives, innovations and industrial development programs.

Volunteering has opened doors for me to work with people from various

backgrounds at the community. It has given me a chance to work with experienced professions from the UN, the government and the private sectors. I have been able to forge sustainable partnerships which are key drivers of public-private engagements. I love this new experience where I constantly find myself coordinating a number of activities by various development partners.

Indeed, to be a volunteer is to be flexible, to be open to contributing your skills and enthusiasm to new opportunities. This is how I've had some of the most rewarding experiences in my assignment, building the capacities of youths, women, people with disability and marginalized persons in information communication technology and entrepreneurship.

Through the opportunities that have been given to me by the United Nations Volunteer programme, I believe that my technical capacities have been overall enriched, and my motivation to be active in this field of work has immensely grown. Additionally, as a youth, I understand that I have the opportunity and responsibility to contribute to sustainable development.

IVD 2015 in Kenya and Ethiopia a huge success

UNV in collaboration with the Government of Kenya, Volunteer Involving organizations Society (VIO Society) and other stakeholders recently participated in a National Volunteer Week, that culminated in the International Volunteer Day celebrations 2015 held in Wote Town, Makueni County on 5th December 2015.

The overall aim of the celebrations was to pre-launch a pilot of the Lead the Change Campaign, that seeks to build a national volunteer campaign platform for mobilizing community change makers across Kenya to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Kenya's Vision 2030 by documenting, showcasing and supporting the remarkable work of volunteers at local and national levels.



Makueni Governor Prof. Kivutha Kibwana during the IVD 2015 event

“Every year on International Volunteer Day (IVD), we recognize the invaluable contributions of volunteers to peace and development. This year, just two months after the launch of the new, universal development agenda, we promote the special role which UN Volunteers and volunteers worldwide will play in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), noted a United

Nations Volunteer, Lee Hantambe, who spoke at the celebrations on behalf of the Executive Coordinator of the UNV programme, Richard Dictus.

Your World is changing.
Are you?
Volunteer!

‘The world is changing. Are you? Volunteer’, was the theme of the day the day, marked by planting of over 500 trees in collaboration with Makueni County Government followed by a selfie moment where participants took selfies with their Lead the Change campaign pledges against the trees they planted for the global UNV Selfie campaign. The ceremony also saw the unveiling of 32 Lead the Change volunteer ambassadors per ward in Makueni County as a culmination of the Pre-Launch of the Lead the Change campaign.

“A lot of volunteers are young people and this is encouraging. Volunteerism is a catalyst in economic growth across the world and its recognition and support is of paramount importance,” noted, Makueni County Governor Prof Kivutha Kibwana while speaking during the ceremony even as he encouraged those in attendance to take up some form of voluntarism in addition to their everyday work.

A volunteer, Mary Nduta, who has devoted her skills to volunteerism for more than 6 years, reiterated the governor's remarks, adding that through volunteerism, her community based public health organization, *Nuru na Uhai*, had had the privilege of educating the community on best practices in health prevention.

To advocate for volunteerism and its contributions to national develop-

ment, UNV in Kenya works with the Government of Kenya and other partners to support the National Volunteer Policy; supporting the VIO network to further enhance national advocacy and joint delivery. The international volunteer day is among the activities and interventions run by UNV to advocate for volunteerism and the impact it has in meeting peace and development challenges.

A day before the celebrations, univer-



UN Volunteers Sheilla, Benjamin and Asha posing for the Global UNV IVD Selfie campaign

sity students, youth and partners held a symposium at the Strathmore University in Nairobi to discuss innovative ideas to promote National Volunteerism. The meeting brought together more than 5 public and private Universities for a consultative forum for designing the Lead the Change volunteerism campaign.



Lee Hantambe from the UNV Regional Office for Africa during the tree planting session

2015 IVD in Pictures

Just two months after the global community agreed on the SDGs as the new global development framework, volunteers gathered in large numbers to demonstrate the spirit of service and showcase the contribution volunteerism can make in the new global goals. The theme for the year was therefore rightfully *“The world is changing. Are you? Volunteer”*. UNV Kenya was involved in IVD events in Kenya and Ethiopia. Below are the pictorial highlights

IVD 2015 IN KENYA



UN Volunteers from left; Asha, Sheilla, Dennis, Anthony, Rebecca, Brian, Benjamin and Karen pose for an IVD Selfie. On the right are more selfie moments at the Youth Symposium.

Makeni Governor Kivutha Kibwana and Lee Hantembe from UNV Regional Office for Africa join other participants in the tree planting session



Prof. Kibwana and Mr. Lee Hantembe delivering their speeches for the day



Left: Anthony Sirengo, UN Volunteer with UNEP follows the IVD event keenly as Lee Hantembe from the UNV Africa RO confers with Mr. Gekonge from the Ministry of Labour.

Right: Guests from JICA and a skit performance by a local group

IVD 2015 IN ETHIOPIA



Anne-Rose, Kevin and Jamila from UNV Kenya join in the selfie moments during the colorful event



The IVD 2015 Ethiopian Youth Band in action



UNDP Ethiopia's Head of Operations joins other cycling participants in the cycling competition



Centre: Dmitry, former UNV Programme Officer for Kenya, joins the UNDP Head of Operations and other volunteers at a Home for the Elderly



Tae Kwondo performance and exhibitions courtesy of participants from the Korean Development Agency, KOICA



Dmitry joins the youth band and other participants in launching the IVD Billboard. The Billboard is part of a campaign to sensitize the public about volunteerism

UNEP UN Volunteers Contribute to the Success of the Eye on Earth Summit



Brian opening the Green Campus – Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES) Side event

The Eye on Earth Alliance in collaboration with UNEP and other stakeholders recently convened the Eye on Earth Summit on 6-8 October 2015 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Present among the delegates, were Isaiah Otieno and Brian Waswala, UNEP UN Volunteers, who promoted Access to Information in line with Principle 10 of the RIO Outcome document; and environmental education respectively, as means of addressing present emerging environmental challenges.

At the **Education for Sustaining the Planet** Session, Brian who also serves as the Eye

on Environmental Education Facilitator, raised growing concern of the limited / lack of data needed to track SDGs. He challenged education institutions to mainstream sustainability concerns into curricula, promote environmental best practices, and develop capacity of environmental professionals to help achieve the UN Agenda 2030. He also underscored the need to develop training

material on environmental data management especially in the global south; showcased UNEP's use of ICT platforms (Massive Open Online Courses and e-learning) as capacity development avenues; and promotion of citizen science as a means of bridging data demand and supply gaps. At the **Green Campus – Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES)** side event, he advocated for advance environmental policy development within public, private and education institutions; increased youth engagement and empowerment in environmental policy development & implementation; and behavior change towards negative consumerism patterns, as means of fostering future generations of environmentally conscious citizens.

Isaiah Otieno, a Civil Society Support Officer – IT, supported the Access to Information side event, where UNEP's ED Mr. Achim Steiner launched the **"PUTTING RIO PRINCIPLE 10 INTO ACTION: An Implementation Guide"**. This guide is to enable governments to put Principle 10 of Rio Declaration into action by facilitating broad access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters. The myUNEA.org, a user-friendly, moderated, inter-active, online hub hosted with the purpose to increase peoples' participation in UNEA was also launched. More info: www.eoesummit.org/news/eye-on-earth-summary-of-outcomes/



Isaiah Otieno at the Environment Education Booth

UNEP UN Volunteer a key speaker at Environmental Conference in Swaziland

Under the theme, *Creating Sustainable Societies: Scaling up Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) through the UNESCO GLOBAL Action Plan (GAP)*, the EEASA conference focused on critical environment and sustainable development issues in southern Africa and how environmental education (EE) is the catalyst to achievement of the "Future We

Want".

At the event, one of the chief speakers, Brian Waswala (UNEP-UNV) called for the advancement of environmental education (EE) policy development and adaptation through country specific approaches; realignment of national and SADC policies with the SDG (especially SDG 4 on

education and target 4.7); increment of educators and trainers integration of sustainability practices; EE curriculum development and implementation; youth and community empowerment; and promotion of cultural sharing of EE knowledge and good sustainability practices among others.

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A Call for Comprehensive Action on Volunteerism in Kenya

The “CEO’s Roundtable on national volunteerism” held on 22nd October 2015 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 and 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.

The UNV Kenya programme has been actively capacity building the VIO Society as a legitimate umbrella network for mobilizing volunteer organizations in Kenya.

Dr. Tapiwa Kamuruko, the UNV Regional Manager for Africa, while representing the Resident Coordinator, reminded the participants of the critical role of volunteers in catalyzing the realization of the recently launched Global Sustainable Development Goals. He thus called for the speedy adoption of the National Volunteer Policy which was developed with significant support from UNDP and UNV.



Prof. Kivutha Kibwana, Governor for Makueni County, addresses the Forum as Mr. Ali Noor, the PS Ministry of Labour looks on

He also stressed that the adoption of the policy doesn’t guarantee automatic growth and efficiency of the volunteer initiatives at national and county levels. Further investments for successful implementation of the policy statements would be required. He



Dr. Tapiwa, UNV Regional Manager, Africa, delivering speech on behalf of the UN RC

therefore highlighted the need for developing a strong national volunteer infrastructure to secure proper implementation of the policy.

While making the final remarks, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Services, Mr. Ali Noor Ismael, OGW, reiterated 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 very consultative and participatory and 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 with an immediate follow up with the National Volunteerism Bill.

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.

Link to photos: <https://onedrive.live.com/redirect?resid=D013FA1CCBC89903!8976&authkey=!AO1Y3XTMfufaBtc&ithint=folder%2cjpg>

UN Volunteers Pledge to Keep the Promise

On 1st December 2015, UNEP-UN Volunteers (UNVs) joined fellow UN staff at the UN Offices in Nairobi (UNON), Kenya to mark the World AIDS Day. Guided by the World AIDS Day 2015 theme, "Getting to zero; end Aids by 2030", the team comprising of Isaiah Otieno, Lucy Mungai, Brian Waswala, Anthony Sirengo, Milcah Ndegwa, Asha Sitati, Michael Omare, Elca Wabusya, and Marjorie Nyabuti pledged to "Spread the love, not the virus".



Some of the UN Volunteers during the event

This year's theme complies with UNAIDS's fast-track strategy to end the Aids epidemic by 2030 by averting 21 million AIDS-related deaths, 28 million new HIV infections and 5.9 million new infections among children by 2030. It also supports the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal 3 Target 3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS,

tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

World AIDS Day is an annual event commemorated on 1st December every year. It provides and an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the

fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV (#StopTheStigma) and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988. #RethinkHIV #GettingToZero

“AIDS is far more than a health crisis. It is a threat to development itself.”

-Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General

UNV Kenya participate in Ethiopia IVD

In addition to organizing a successful IVD in Kenya, UNV Kenya also participated in IVD celebrations in Ethiopia. UNV Ethiopia



in collaboration with various partners organized a 2-Day IVD event with key activities including Volunteer Billboard launch, SMS campaign, cycling competition, youth ceremonial procession, community service, university symposium and blood donation campaign. UNV Kenya Field Unit were represented at the events by Anne-Rose Kogi-UNV Kenya Officer-in-Charge, Kevin Ochieng, UNV Programme Support Officer and Jamila Gabow, UNV Human Resources Associate.

The event was held on the sidelines of a partnership meeting between Kenya and Ethiopia Field Units following the current trends for regionalization of volunteer interventions and programme cooperation.

Other partners engaged in the event included other UN Agencies, Voluntary Ser-

vice Overseas (VSO), Japanese International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), American Peace Corps and Family Planning Association.



Inset: Anne-Rose joins her Ethiopian counterparts in launching the IVD SMS campaign while top, with Jamila during the community service event at an elder's home. Left, Kevin with UN Volunteers in Ethiopia during the community service



A section of the conference participants in a group photo

Brian also enhanced children and youth capacity on environmental awareness through EnviroPicture games at the parallel youth session, where he called for trans-formative

behavior change through children and youth participation in decision making and policy formulation. The youth in attendance pledged to make the world a better place (Handprints of Hope).

The conference was also graced by Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini (Prime Minister of Swaziland), Prof. Hubert Gijzen (UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa) and Dr. Shepherd Urenje (Programme Specialist in Education with the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development among over 300 delegates from the southern African region, culminated in the adoption of the [Matsapha Declaration](#).



“No one has ever become poor by giving.” – Anne Frank, diary of Anne Frank



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