



UN

Volunteers

inspiration in action

UNV KENYA NEWSLETTER

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Why volunteerism is key for the SDGs

The month of September has been quite significant for the global community in many ways, but particularly for marking the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the new set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as global goals.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), global targets agreed by countries in 2000, have framed global development efforts for 15 years now. 15 years later, a lot has been achieved; according to UN reports, extreme poverty has been halved, more children are going to school and investments in fighting malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis have saved millions.

QUOTABLES

“2015 can and must be the time for global action”.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations



In 2015, the world has a historic opportunity to chart a new era of sustainability, building on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals - Read more at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

WHY VOLUNTEERISM MATTERS FOR SDGS

However, to effectively achieve the new global goals, it is imperative to look back from the lessons drawn from implementing the MDGs.

One of the many lessons from the MDGs is that focusing on the end result, while failing to pay attention to the means by which development is shaped, is quite limiting.

The new development goals have a comparatively wider scope and explicitly recognize volunteer groups as stakeholders in realizing the goals. UNV has been actively involved in the global conversation and in promoting volunteerism in the post-2015 context, including by supporting volunteer groups.

Here are a few pointers developed by UNV on how volunteerism and volunteers can contribute to the global development goals:

- *Volunteers can provide technical support and enhance capacity in all thematic goal areas. They deliver basic services, help transfer skills and foster exchanges of good practices, and add valuable international and local expertise through domestic, South-South, South-North and North-South exchanges. Corporate volunteers can play a particular role in this regard, by making their expertise available to public institutions as well as to fragile communities.*

- *Volunteers help leave no one behind by reaching out to people, including those marginalized or difficult to reach, to bring people's voices and knowledge into collective actions. This is crucial to build ownership and localize the SDGs. Volunteer organizations can serve as brokers of engagement, connecting governmental strategies and initiatives with complementary, yet essential, community voluntary action.*
- *Many of the SDGs call for long-term attitude and behavior changes - for example, in the way we live together or in the way we consume. Volunteers facilitate changes in mindsets by raising awareness or championing those changes and inspiring others.*

Use this link <http://bit.ly/1Z2vvbf> to read more on why volunteers matter for the SDGs on the UNV website and follow the conversations through the hashtags #action2015 and #actioncounts

Here are more links and resources on how volunteerism can contribute to the SDGs

<http://bit.ly/1Pjqdl1>

<http://bit.ly/1Y4oWV4>

<http://bit.ly/1IZidUE>

<http://huff.to/1LUWe5b>

<http://bit.ly/1fDb9eA>



The United Nations (UN) summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly. To learn more about the new global goals, log onto the official UN SDGs website at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

Light the Way Campaign: Volunteers raise their voices on SDGs



Volunteers from Action2015 Kenya coalition participating in the Light the Way march on 24th September 2015

The Action2015 Kenya National coalition, with support from among other partners the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized an event at the Freedom Corner in Nairobi to mark the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the new Sustainable Development Goals.

The event, dubbed Light the Way, is part of a global movement of the civil society coalition, Action2015, to raise the voices of non-state actors on the transition to the new global goals.

The event brought together hundreds of volunteers, Civil Society Organizations, the Private Sector, Development Agencies and Government Representatives.

The UN-WFP's Ms. Annalisa Conte, representing the UNDP Resident Coordinator at the event, emphasized that as an organization, the UN in Kenya is committed to play their part in enhancing the development aspiration of the Government and the people of Kenya. On conclusion, she raised the SDGs goal 9 flag at Uhuru Park with the help of a child called Vince Okoth.

Follow the conversation at [#lighttheway](#)



2015

The year world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With 50 years of experience supporting countries in their development, UNDP will be the first port of call for support for many governments as they implement the SDGs. Follow the link below to read more.

<http://bit.ly/1JsOMXE>

159

The total number of UNVs serving in Kenya by end of September 2015.

The UNV programme in Kenya is one of the largest globally.

17

Number of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

The previous global goals, the Millennium development goals, were 8, hence the new goals have added new areas for the global development agenda

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'You need to be patient and give the space to each refugee to tell their story.' **UNHCR IUNV Rezk Rezk during an interview with the Guardian in September**

”

VOLUNTEER VOICES

UNV PERSPECTIVES ON SDGS

As curtains falls on the Millennium Development Goals, and the world ushers in the new Sustainable Development Goals, UN Volunteers share their stories of change on the 17 goals. Evelyn Ongige, Gender Specialist with UNEP, shares her story of resilience bringing into perspective the SDG goal 5 on gender equality.

'My Past does not define me':

Stories of Resilience

I met the First lady of the Republic of Kenya, Ms. Margaret Kenyatta at a function organized by Plan International for girl advocates. This was a moment to treasure for me and a truly humbling experience. I experienced a serious mind shift during those few hours of being with her in the same room. The who's who in the Nation as well as UN Representatives from different agencies were also present.

The main reason I was in that room was because I was called upon to mentor this group of girl advocates from eight (8) different counties. These girls made several presentations to the First Lady through elaborate speeches, poems and skits. The main aim was to hold the Government accountable to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the first Lady was among the global leaders committing to close the gender equality gaps and strengthen the women empowerment agenda.

SDG Goals 5 and 4

The girl advocates zeroed in on SDG goal 5, Gender equality and linked this to Goal 4 on quality education. To expound this further, the girls prepared a skit that showed their different life experiences. One of the skits focused on forced attempts into early marriages to a very old man by parents due to financial challenges. In another clip, the girls brought out stories of attempted gang rapes, rejection by parents due to sudden blindness, female genital mutilation and many other stories.

Yet despite all that they had been through, these girls never gave up hope in life. They made it to tell their story. These girls chose to pursue their education despite their backgrounds. Some of their parents even preferred their brothers to study and not them. They only made it because some extra money was found and their fathers reluctantly took them back to school. In another example, the parents of a blind girl felt that it was a waste of money to educate her, but this girl has proved them wrong.

In my every day work with other colleagues in the UNEP Gender and Environment Outlook team, we are working on a report that addresses the

nexus between gender and environment. To make this point, gender equality and women empowerment is fundamental for sustainable development.

Climate change affects everyone, but affects men and women in different ways. Women and girls are the caregivers, and largely the fuel and water gatherers. Every day, women take decisions that affect the environment in the long term either in their search for food, water or energy and whether a woman is educated or not makes a big difference. An educated and empowered woman or girl will ensure environmental sustainability by using environmental friendly technology, bio-gas and planting drought resistant crops among other methods.

I will conclude this with a statement by the first lady, Ms. Kenyatta, who said that, 'gender inequality is an impediment to any Nation's development'. It has been said that when you educate a woman, you educate a nation. A girl puts more value in herself when empowered. One of the girl advocates made a profound statement by saying, 'my past does not define me.'

"The potential of volunteers to help create truly people-centered development is enormous, but, as yet, far from fully tapped. Achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals will be helped by the participation of all sections of society."

Helen Clark, UNDP administrator

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY CELEBRATIONS: UNV PEACE MONITOR LEADS FROM THE FRONT

The International Day of Peace is commemorated every year on 21st September.

This year, the UNV Peace Monitor for Migori, Castro Baraza, coordinated a multispectral working group drawn from state and non state organizations within Migori County. The group, mobilized the resources and organized the logistics for the activities that were undertaken to mark the day.



Top Left, UNV Peace Monitor, Castro Baraza leading peace campaign in Migori from the front with support from various stakeholders and tight security from the administration police. Top right, other participants during the peace initiative during the International Peace Day.

Conflict Prone Area

The boundary between Kuria East and Transmara West sub counties has been volatile over the years with conflicts centered on stock theft and boundary disputes as well as conflicts between pastoralists and farmers. Initially, crude weapons were used by perpetrators drawn from all communities concerned, but the last decade has seen an influx of illicit small arms and light weapons.

Various interventions have been undertaken by the government

through the NSC and other organizations, the most notable being the Kuria/Transmara Peace Accord in 2012. However, the latest spate of violence broke out at Magena along the boundary between the Maasai and the Kuria leading to loss of 3 lives in July 2015.

In response to this, the UNV peace monitor, together with the Kuria East and Transmara West

security teams organized a dialogue and reconciliation meeting at the venue of the skirmishes on 29th July.

In addition, the county peace stakeholder's forum coordinated by the peace monitor decided to organize a 2 day walk from Ang'ata (Transmara) to Kegonga (Kuria East) to mark the peace day.

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other"
Mother Teresa

Over 200 Volunteers

The participants included 200 volunteers drawn from Maasai, Kipsigis and Kuria communities and partners from World Vision, Action Aid, RAPADO, CHAKE, Administration Police, Anti Stock Theft Unit, District Peace Committees, Pastors One accord.

The event had an overwhelming participation of over 2500 community members. On the first day, the organizers led by the UNV Peace Monitor organized a 38km walk from Ang'ata to Getongoroma AP camp for over-night camping.

On the second day, the participants walked another 8kms from Getongoroma to Kegonga Stadium for the actual event. The event at the stadium started with entertainment and speeches from government officials. The UNV Peace Monitor was the event MC.

The event concluded with awards to four peace champions by the Kuria East Deputy County Commissioner who was also the guest of honor. A declaration for cross-border peace was made by the Peace Monitor and ratified by those present.

The event also included a radio talk show hosted on KBC English radio facilitated by RAPADO in 21st and 22nd September with the Peace Monitor participating in the interview on 22nd.

Picture Speak: *September in Pictures*



Top left, a plenary session during the G-United Forum at Laico Regency Hotel on 30th September 2015

G-United is a national volunteer programme under the Kenya Presidency that mobilizes 100 professional volunteers annually for various community assignments and links them to various networks and partners after the assignment. UNV Kenya is one of the key stakeholders in the initiative.

The panelists were from right, Mr. Joshua Oigara, C.E.O, KCB Group, .Ms Ada Eze , C.E.O Total Kenya, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary for Education, and Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chair and C.E.O, Comcraft Group and renowned advocate for volunteerism in Kenya



Top right and Left: Babu Sitima, a volunteer in the UNV/VIO Society exhibition stand at the G-United Forum, attends to queries by a participants at the Forum. The forum had over 50 exhibitions mainly from the corporate sector.



Top Left, UNV Peace Monitor, Castro Baraza riding a Police Patrol Vehicle during peace day event he spearheaded in Migori County. Top and right; messages of peace filled the day in the conflict prone area. Castro is among the many UNV Peace Monitors helping communities across the country live in harmony.



Left, UNV Africa Regional Manager, Tapiwa Kamuruko with three of the new International UNVs from right, Jean Sibomana, Wouter Thiebouu and Karen Mrema after a UNDP Team Meeting. The new UNVs joined the UNV Regional Office for Africa to strengthen the regional capacity of the UNV Programme in Africa.

Top right, Lee Hantebe, the other UNV at the regional UNV office from Zambia joined as the basic social services specialist and right bottom, Confred Nzau joined the regional office as Programme Associate. They can be reached through Karen.mrema@undp.org, wouter.thiebou@undp.org , lee.hantembe@undp.org, confred.nzau@undp.org and jean.sibomana@undp.org



Top left, participants pose after the UNV Youth Volunteer Assignment Preparation Training held from 21-25 September 2015 at the ActionAid Global Platform in Nairobi. The event brought together UNV Youth participants going for assignments in DRC, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar, Morocco and Niger Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa.

Top right participants and UNV FU during the award ceremony at the end of the training. Bottom left, a trainer during the training session on 'the volunteer journey'. Bottom right participants at the training discussing their roles in the new SDGs



Participants during the Light The Way event during a procession; holding a night vigil and celebrating the end of the event with a concert at Uhuru Park in Nairobi.

Right, a child raises the SDG Flag at the event

Light The Way is a global campaign by the civil society coalition Action2015 to raise awareness on the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs

Volunteer Faces

The UNV programme in Kenya is growing rapidly. In September alone, More than 10 UN Volunteers joined the UNV Kenya family bringing the total number of serving UNVs in Kenya to 159 by end of September. As the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme continues to grow, the Volunteer Faces section shall shed more light on passionate new UN Volunteers within three months of their service, putting forward the faces behind these brilliant minds. Here are the pioneers of this section.

Caroline Kaimuru, GEO 6 –Administration and Technical Support at UNEP, Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)



An environment enthusiast at heart, Caroline provides administrative and technical support for the 6th Global Environment Outlook project. Prior to joining the UN as an intern for the same project, Caroline has worked in various private sectors in a similar role.

A budding author and a blogger when she gets around to it, Caroline loves to read and laugh! She also dabbles a bit in interior decoration and she is working on getting an online certification of the same.

Her community work includes serving as a volunteer at Good Samaritan Children's home in Mathare.

**David Onyango,
UNV Associate
Programme Specialist
UNESCO**



David Ochieng Onyango joined UNESCO East African Regional Office as a UNV Associate Programme Specialist in September 2015. He has worked on areas of Gender, Governance and Human Rights in Rwanda and Kenya. A holder of a Masters Degree in International Conflict Management, he has quite familiar on areas of Programme Management and Human Rights among others. He is currently assisting in the implementation of the project that seeks to assist the Ministry of Education in Kenya address Gender Based Violence in Schools in Kenya.

**Evelyne Ongige,
Gender & Environment Specialist,
UNEP**



Evelyn has more than 8 years working experience in the United Nations (UNFPA, UNHABITAT and UNOPS), Government of Kenya and International NGOs in the areas of Programme Coordination and Management. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a focus on Community Development from the University of Maseno in Kisumu and an Ongoing MSc. International Development from the University of Birmingham in UK (online). She has also earned an International certificate in Women Leadership in Reproductive Health from CEDPA.

Evelyn led an assessment on the state of Youth Friendly services in informal settlements with funding from USAID. She launched a report on the state of Youth Friendly Services (YFS) in Informal settlements.

Evelyn is currently working as a UNV Gender and Environment Specialist with United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to prepare the Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO) report.



'We Are the First Generation that Can End Poverty, the Last that Can End Climate Change'

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon



Caroline Kanai, UNEP CAP Communication s Officer



The joyful Caroline Wathithi Kanai is a communications professional who has joined the UNEP CAP team as a Communications Officer. She is a media studies graduate from the Africa Nazarene University and has keen interest in social media and the use of digital media for development.

Previously she worked at Africa Insight Communications, where she was a News producer in charge of packaging broadcast news stories from across Africa. Caroline also worked with the UNEP South-South Cooperation in 2013 as national UN Volunteer for the GSSD Expo, where she worked on the online platform as well as coordinating communication events for the Expo.

During the one week Expo, Caroline and her team were praised for making the Expo held here in Nairobi, a trending topic worldwide. She has also worked as a local journalist with two media stations and has a good network of local and regional journalists.

She likes to meet new people, loves to travel to new places both locally and internationally she also enjoys outdoor activities like hiking. Currently she is pursuing her post graduate studies in media studies at the Daystar University, here in Nairobi.

Connect with Wathithi on: @wathithikanai and Wathithi Kanai on Facebook

Sarah Nyawira, Project Management, M&E, UNEP NCS



Sarah is an enthusiastic, assertive and result oriented personality with a passion to deliver results.

A graduate of Nairobi University and Kenya Institute of Project Management, Sarah has six years of progressively responsible experience. She is currently working as UNV with UNEP for the Nairobi convention Secretariat in Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation. He previous was at the Friends of Nairobi National Park where she left a remarkable achievement.

Sarah has been an online volunteer with UNV receiving a certificate in honor of recognition in 2015 as an online campaigner for The World Youth Foundation in MY World Survey towards the adoption of the Sustainable Developments Goals. As an online volunteer Sarah has used social media to platforms encourage youths who have access to internet to participate in governance processes as well as providing feedback through social media and other online platforms for development purposes. She also assisted the Women of Uganda Network in 2011 as a social media platforms facilitator for "ICT4D Youth Network".

Sarah is also a graduate of Youth Africa Leaders Initiative (YALI) – at Regional Leadership Centre Nairobi, 2015.

Victor is a tech savvy with a diverse background in the area of Information and Communication Technology currently enjoying working as Web/Graphic and Animation designer for **Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders – UNEP**. Prior to this position, Victor acquired over three years' experience in an International Diplomatic Mission serving in the capacity of an Information Technology Administrator.

Victor currently is currently undertaking a Master of Science Information Technology at the University of Nairobi and holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (First Class honors) from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT).

He has a passion for football fused with the love of rock music and watching animated movies. In his free time, he loves travelling and exploring nature. In the social media world, he has the soft spot for tweeter and instagram.



Victor Oburu
Web/Graphic Designer, UNEP SGB

Kenya-based UNV, Rezk among 6 UN workers featured in The Guardian

Kenya-based International UNV from Syria, Rezk Rezk, was one of the 6 UN Personnel featured in the Guardian on 8th September.

Rezk shared some of his moving experiences at the UNHCR assignment, starting with a highlight of the risky working conditions in the Dadaab camp where he is located.

'All of us working for UNHCR live in a compound in a small village several kilometres from the camps. Each day we go to the field office, which is walking distance from the camp, and the refugees come to meet with us there. On a few occasions we do home visits but because of security risks, threats to the UN and other NGOs, it's very rare, only in peaceful times'

Rezk went on to describe the nature of the cases he handles at the camp;

"I interview between two and four cases each day, which can be between 10 and 30 people, depending on the family size. We try to choose the most vulnerable, people who can never be sent home or integrated here. Women at risk, children on their own, medical cases, people who are at risk in the camps"

He however said that despite the hard working conditions, he feels contented with his work.

"I can't say it's easy, but there is a reward, because we are lucky – we actually see the result of our work. We receive messages when people are resettled, things like "you helped my son to survive, he had a medical condition, you rescued my life when I was being threatened"."

To read more on Rezk's interesting interview by the Guardian, please follow the link <http://bit.ly/1K4uf0y>



Rezk Rezk during the interview with the Guardian

Compiled and edited by Kevin Ochieng, UNV Kenya Programme Support Officer



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