

UNV in Action

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Following the post election crisis of 2008, the UNV Emergency volunteers who are stationed in Nairobi cautioned residents of Nairobi North that though calm had been restored, lasting peace has not been attained and therefore they should not relent in their quest for lasting peace and reconciliation. “There are people who have not returned to their homes and so there is still a lot to do in peace building and reconciliation within the district. Moving out of a house that you had illegally occupied does not mean there is peace, there has to be genuine reconciliation” she said.

UNV Country Coordinator Ms. Annet Mpabulungi – Wakabi says that the Neighbourhood Volunteers Scheme has so far mobilized 928 volunteers covering 21 districts. In Nairobi there are 228 volunteers in 9 neighbourhoods. “The volunteers have made positive progress, but the challenges are still there therefore there is still more work to be done”.

She said that there is need to continue building the capacity of Neighbourhood Volunteers through training, because various challenges are coming up as they continue to work in the community and that the NVS is currently being redesigned to make it more sustainable and strengthen the projects relationships with other actors in the community. “In the process of the redesign, there will be interaction with the Community, Neighbourhood Volunteers and all other stakeholders at the district level so that they can give insight about the direction that the project will take”.



On Right: A UN Volunteer takes details of a slum dweller from Kibera Slum in Nairobi.



In the centre: Dr Ozonia Ojielo joins members of DPC in Nakuru to perform a Peace song during the occasion.

Dr Ozonia Ojielo- UNDP Disaster Reduction Unit recently in Nakuru thanked volunteers for the work that they have done and encouraged them to continue being committed and dedicated because the project is looking towards the long term by building sustainable human resource capacity within the communities. In areas where the project has exited the volunteers have been able to create their own network and continued with volunteer work.

He encouraged volunteers in other neighbourhoods to take on this kind of approach in order to keep the volunteering spirit alive even after the project exits from their neighbourhood. “Volunteerism should be anchored in the community and done in a structured way, so what has been started should be engrained and continue within the community”

The Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme is an initiative that is being implemented to harness positive attitudes in the neighborhoods in order to enable reconciliation and the recovery process following the violence that was witnessed in many parts of the country after the 2007 disputed Presidential elections in Kenya.



On Right: Anne Chebet NVS Coordinator addresses a Peace Baraza at Gelegele , Sotik District