

InFocus

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A MAGAZINE OF THE UN IN SOUTH AFRICA



UN supports tracking of South Africa's SDGs Progress

UNHCR thrust into the "politics of crumbs" as efforts to integrate refugees resisted

Deputy Secretary-General's Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture


NELSON MANDELA
FOUNDATION
Living the legacy



THE
FIFTEENTH
**NELSON
MANDELA**
ANNUAL
LECTURE

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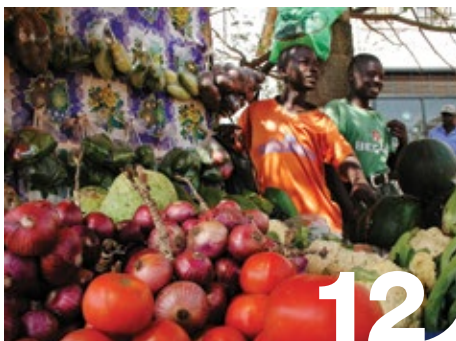
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Efforts to foster peaceful co-existence and local integration of refugees in South Africa continue despite challenges of recurring violence and discrimination



Deputy Secretary-General's Mandela Annual Lecture

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InFocus

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Front cover photo: UN Deputy Secretary-General delivering the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in Cape Town. **Back cover photo:** UN staff at a UN Day event.

EDITORIAL NOTE

We are delighted to welcome you to the inaugural issue of *InFocus*, a magazine of the United Nations system in South Africa. Several UN agencies operating in this country publish their own inhouse publications. *InFocus* will highlight the work and operations of the whole UN system in South Africa.

In this inaugural issue, we have attempted to give readers a mix of stories covering a wide variety of some of the UN's activities in this country, ranging from stories with a human interest, to stories on projects and activities by various agencies.

We have not stopped there, but gone further and included articles on technical issues such as the Strategic Cooperation Framework, formerly known as the UN Development Framework or UNDAF, a document that delves deep into the nitty-gritty of areas of cooperation between the UN and the Government of South Africa; and a piece on how the UN is implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have also included a section profiling new staff who have joined the organization.

Your feedback on this and future issues is crucial. It helps us to improve our work. We hope you will find this publication informative on what the UN is doing in South Africa and the priorities on which we channel our efforts.



Refugee agency thrust into the “politics of crumbs” as efforts to integrate refugees resisted

Efforts to foster peaceful co-existence and local integration of refugees in South Africa continue despite challenges of recurring violence and discrimination

By Pumla Rulashe



Refugees returning to their communities in Inanda Township in Durban

A little over a month after the fatal shooting of his young brother in their small shop in Durban's Inanda township, Ethiopian refugee Melaku Seifu* continues running his small township business, knowing that he cannot go on for much longer. According to his countrymen, he is a shell of his former self.

Seifu's brother Abraham fell victim to unknown assailants shortly after fake news circulated on social media in June 2017, alleging that foreign nationals were behind the abduction and trafficking of children. The story had township youth

in Inanda and neighbouring locations up in arms, demanding the arrest of the perpetrators.

As the South African Police Services (SAPS) acted quickly to stamp out the violence that ensued, Ethiopian refugee community leader, Tsegaye Negesse* claims, "this gave some of our local business competitors the opportunity to once again, try and remove us from the townships."

The ploy has succeeded where Seifu is concerned. He is worn out and tired of being a victim of repeated harassment and attack.

Seifu has approached UNHCR, the UN Refugee agency for assistance with resettlement. As he waits to hear from the

police on the arrest of his brother's killers and UNHCR, Seifu buries his grief deep within and carries on with his life and his business.

The 37-year old, who was forced to flee Ethiopia in 2009 following his vocal political views, has reinforced the exterior of his shop—a shipping container—with mesh steel fencing and other security features as deterrents. He has also employed a local resident of the township to continue running the shop.

The fortress that has now become Seifu's shop and only source of income, is symbolic of the love-hate relationship refugees have with the communities they serve and the running battles they

endure with their South African business counterparts.

Ahmed* is another refugee who is as equally a victim of harassment as Seifu. The difference between them though is that he has no intentions of leaving South Africa. The Somali refugee businessman arrived in the country 16 years ago and started out as a hawker, selling domestic items door-to-door, seven days a week.

"I started business from zero wearing shoes worn down by walking the streets," he recalls. "I endured insult, injury and all-weather conditions and today, I own a retail warehouse and employ 60 people, a large number of them South African."

RISING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Before the violence that erupted in June, Ahmed owned five small shops in Kwa-Mashu, a township outside Durban and next to Inanda. Unlike Seifu, who has returned to rebuild his business, Ahmed has been advised against this as the next time he comes under attack it could have deadly consequences.

The ominous warning has since kept him out of KwaMashu and focused on his warehouse in Durban's central business district.

Accounts of refugee victimization and harassment in the competition for the "crumbs of South Africa's township economy," is, according to William Zenzele, the President of the KwaZulu Natal Youth Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "an indication of the prolonged lack of economic development in many areas of the country where crime is rife and unemployment, particularly amongst the youth, is high."

According to Trading Economics, South Africa's youth unemployment rate increased to almost 60% in the second quarter of 2017 from 54.3% in the first quarter of the year.

"It is some of this youth that become the foot soldiers who do the bidding of disgruntled township business owners bent on destabilizing refugee and foreign owned shops in the locations," says Negesse.

Zenzele states that the proliferation of shopping malls in townships has, because of its multi-billion rand muscle, sidelined and pitched emerging entrepreneurs in

fierce competition against each other, on the periphery of the township economy.

A CULTURE OF DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

"The unintended consequences of this commercial exercise on small-scale family-run businesses has not only been consistent loss of revenue but the perpetuation of the cycle of poverty in the townships."

"On top of that," he continues, "the influx of refugees and foreign nationals also competing for the crumbs from the table of multi-million-dollar retail industries has created an environment where the locals who are in the majority attack the minority who they feel pose a threat to their survival."

"Xenophobia and a culture of discrimi-



I started my business from zero wearing shoes worn down by walking the streets. I endured insult, injury and all-weather conditions and today, I own a retail warehouse and employ 60 people, a large number of them South Africans.

nation and violence combined with the competition for limited jobs and resources is a concern UNHCR addresses as practically and as multi-faceted as possible," says Sharon Cooper, UNHCR Regional Representative for southern Africa.

To support the government's efforts in addressing xenophobia following violent attacks in 2015, UNHCR coordinated the UN emergency response plan to support the government's early action to contain the attacks. Early warning mechanisms and advocacy by the UNHCR-led

Protection Working Group led to the arrest of some of the perpetrators.

With support from other agencies and partners, the office conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and supported close to 3 000 asylum-seekers and refugees through legal and human rights interventions, counselling and social support.

"Today, UNHCR and its NGO partners monitor attacks against refugees by assessing situations based on information received from our persons of concern. We look into the factors leading to violence and the challenges presenting problems to integration. We also undertake incident verification exercises to quantify and qualify the number of refugee businesses and persons targeted, damaged or destroyed."

BROKERING PEACE

In the recent unrest in Durban, approximately 45 refugee-owned businesses in Inanda, KwaMashu and Chesterville townships were looted and destroyed.

Through coordinated intervention involving the SAPS, ward councilors from affected sections within the townships, respected community elders, UNHCR and its NGO partners, meet to broker peace and iron out differences to enable refugees to return back to the communities usually yields the desired results.

The agency also encourages refugees to insure their goods and the tools of their trade such as electric clippers, combs, razor blades and capes to enable them to re-stock small to get back on their feet.

"UNHCR, is also very mindful of the socio-economic challenges in these deprived communities which we are unable to address," says Cooper. "We are however heavily invested in including small numbers of South Africans in livelihood activities and life skills programmes for refugees."

UNHCR prioritises and engages closely with South Africa's youth, usually at the forefront of xenophobia fueled looting and violence, on the plight, rights and obligations of refugees and other persons of concern.

UNHCR also supports public information and education campaigns on the plight, rights and obligations of refugees undertaken by the Department of Home

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INTERVIEW

Easing the pain

UNICEF's own Florence Nightingale

Few things in life are more stressful than being severely injured and then being flown out of your country for medical assistance. Often, one is anxious, in pain—physical and emotional—and without friends or family to accompany you on the journey.

It is in times like these that UNICEF lives up to the mantra of caring for its staff and their families. With some of the best medical facilities in the world, South Africa is a logical destination for patients from other African countries seeking medical assistance.

For more than a decade, Lilly Meyer, the soft-spoken UNICEF South Africa's human resources assistant and focal point on medical evacuation (medevac), is the “go-to person” for her colleagues and their families whenever they are medically evacuated to South Africa.

Our interview is interrupted by a call from a colleague based in West Africa who needed Lilly's advice on treatment in South Africa for a knee replacement surgery following a work-related injury. Patiently and methodically, Lilly explained the process and assured her she would be there to assist. As an acknowledgement of her compassion, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake awarded her a Certificate of Appreciation which is mounted proudly in her office.

To find out more about what drives the dedication and care of this remarkable member of the UNICEF family, we sat down with Lilly Meyer:

What does your role in supporting medivac patients entail?

I am the liaison person for the medical evacuee, UN doctors, receiving doctors in hospitals around South Africa, the country offices from which they reside from and their family members. I also regularly visit them and follow up on their welfare as part of staff support and caring system while they are in South Africa and even after they have left to return to their countries.

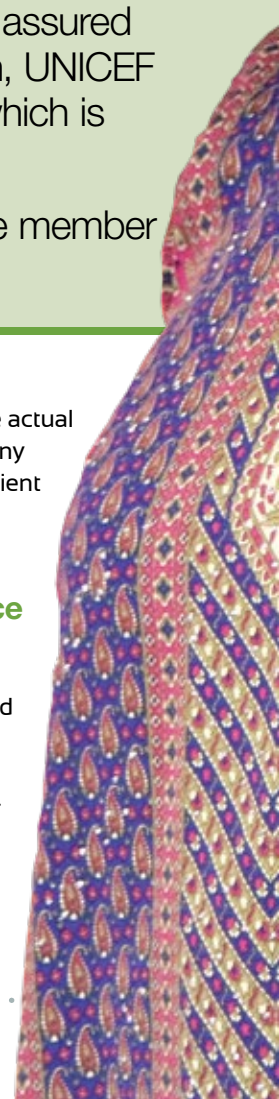
Tell us how a medivac process occurs?

Our office usually receives an email or phone call from the sending office informing us about the evacuee, which could be a staff member or the dependant of a staff member. Sometimes the patient travels on their own and sometimes they are accompanied. When it is the latter, then I have to attend to the

needs of the accompanying person as well. The actual evacuation is usually undertaken by the company SOS International and they usually take the patient from, as we call it, “bed to bed”.

What type of support does the UNICEF South Africa Country Office provide?

Dealing with medivac cases can be complex and requires flexibility, commitment, coordination and communication at various levels. It cannot be done on its own and needs support from different sections of the office, including human resources, finance, administrative protocol and transport. In the very sad cases where the battle is lost, we also arrange the repatriation





of the deceased. In these cases, the relevant embassies help and we sometimes arrange a memorial service in South Africa for colleagues and friends who are not able to travel to the country for the funeral. Since I joined the South Africa Country Office, we have arranged 364 medivacs from 36 African countries. The highest number was in 2011 when we supported 46 colleagues in total, some of whom had been injured in the Abuja bomb blast at the UN House in Nigeria.

What type of support do you as an individual provide?

To ensure that all the paperwork is in order, I liaise with the department of home affairs and then inform the South African consulate or embassy in the country of origin to get them to expedite the visa.

We also inform the embassy of the sending country so they can provide support,

including translators. I then arrange doctor-to-doctor discussions and updates and arrange airport pickup and accommodation while ensuring that the doctor in South Africa is kept informed throughout the process. My role is also to be a liaison between the patient and their office when needed.

How challenging has your experience been?

Psychologically, it is not an easy task to be dealing with the pain and trauma of colleagues and their dependants and there are times when I also need emotional support. I once had to accompany the repatriation of the remains of a staff member to West Africa but during a stop-over in East Africa, the remains had not been transferred the connecting flight. I have learned that at times things can be beyond my control but you just have to manage as best you can.

What motivates you to keep going?

The best reward is to see colleagues recover and heal completely. I am motivated by this as well as notes of appreciation from those who are healing and even from the offices, staff associations and representatives of the sending country. This makes you realize it is not only the patient that is affected. It's a humbling experience. I remember a staff member whom we had evacuated following a shooting incident saying to me, after his recovery in Johannesburg, "If I did not work for UNICEF I would be dead". Comments like this help make my job worthwhile. Also, my family is very supportive, as when there is an emergency over the weekend and I need to travel to either the hospital or to where the medical evacuee is staying to support them. Of course, the support of the South Africa Country Office is invaluable and my colleagues also keep me going. ■

Nelson Mandela's Annual Lecture 2017

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed visited South Africa to deliver the 15th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture at the invitation of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Here are some **quotes** from her lecture, *Centering Gender: Reducing Inequality Through Inclusion and Sustainability*, in Cape Town on 25 November:



ON NELSON MANDELA:

■ My feelings about Nelson Mandela – Madiba – are deep. They are shared across this country, this continent and our world...We all stand today on his shoulders, with a shared sense of the respect, admiration and pride for the feat that he accomplished.

■ As a young girl, my earliest memory of the liberation struggle was when I was 11 years old and I asked my father if we could visit South Africa. He sighed and said no, that was impossible for a family like ours of mixed heritage. Why not? I wanted to know. He tried to explain the unexplainable; that as constituted – black father, white mother – we would be breaking the law. In apartheid South Africa, we would be segregated – mother,

father and child – by race. The horrifying reality saddened me – that human beings could do that to one another.

- In the course of history, among great leaders, Mandela towered – but he was the first to say he was not a perfect human...He noted that he was concerned that he not be regarded as a saint...He would have preferred to live as a man – to remind us that the possibility of such humanity exists in each of us - than to be turned into a myth.
- Mandela confessed some qualities that could be considered flaws. But he manifested them as virtues.
- He stared life-threatening danger in the face and refused to be cowed. He lived through his family's suffering for his long walk to freedom was also that of his nearest and dearest. When he declared that he was prepared to die for the ideal of a democratic and free society, this was not an academic promise even if it started as an ideal.
- Nelson Mandela taught that freedom is indivisible, noting that "the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them; the chains on all of my people were the chains on me."

ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR FORCE:

- On the economic front, if we look at the labour force we find women doing some of the most important work in society for the least compensation. Unpaid domestic work – which often involves taking care of loved ones – falls on three times more women than men.
- The empowerment of women is more than a social imperative or a matter of justice. It is essential to achieving sustainable development, protecting our environment and securing peace.
- A report issued by the World Economic Forum last month noted that it would take 217 years to equalize the pay and employment opportunities of men and women. Perhaps most disturbing is that this number has increased from the 170 years researchers calculated a year ago – meaning that we are in fact seeing the gender equality gap increasing rather than decreasing.

- We have evidence that one of the greatest predictors of stability and resilience to conflict is levels of gender equality in a society, and that women's meaningful participation in peace processes increases the sustainability of peace by 30% over the long term.
- We could literally fill this entire hall with documents proving that well-educated women who have equality in political participation and the jobs market raise income for everyone – and improve living standards for generations to come.



ON GENDER EQUALITY:

- Socially, environmentally and politically, women have proven that when you invest in them, you get results for all. The question is how to build on these gains and achieve true gender equality. The answer is investment in women's empowerment in all its ramifications along with a cultural shift in mindsets so that women's equality is a given in all societies.
- But gender is not equal to women. Gender inequality, norms, and stereotypes affect men and women, girls and boys. When young boys are taught that it is not manly to cry, they learn to suppress their emotions. When young men are taught that violence is masculine and accepted, we create the next generation of those who seek solutions at the barrel of a gun. When society dictates the role of men as



bread winners or aloof and distant fathers, we disempower families and create public policies that don't match the reality of households.

- Gender inequality affects every one of us. And addressing it is equally our shared responsibility. That change will need to happen with our youth.
- Just as the world came together to support the end of subjugation on the basis of race in this country, we need today to birth a new movement that calls for true equality, everywhere. We as leaders must stand up and take collective responsibility for our current failings but also for the actions we must take to end the conflict, injustice, inequality, corruption and ensure true inclusive democracy, peace and prosperity for our people.

ON SDGS:

- It has been called a 'declaration of interdependence' composed of 17 Goals and 169 targets. The Goals represent unprecedented ambition to free humankind from the tyranny of want. They envisage transforming the way governments interact with people, businesses interact with communities, and all of us interact with our environment.
- Women and girls are at the heart of the SDGs. These Goals can change history by ensuring women's rights and leadership around the world.
- But we will only realize the potential of the SDGs if we take seriously the values of inclusion and leaving no one behind. The sustainable change that we need to see will only be possible if we are including young people – girls and boys.

ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE:

- The continuous battle of overcoming structural barriers as well as cultural and social challenges must be fought with a new narrative that addresses the current context and constituency of young people left behind.
- This country knows these statistics all too well. Reading the front page of a Johannesburg daily newspaper yesterday I saw similar facts – one in four women are the victim of violent abuse, an estimated 100 rapes occur per day, and half of children are abused before they turn 18.
- Marginalized and younger women are particularly at risk, and often suffer greater consequences. Young women who experience intimate partner violence are 50% more likely to have acquired HIV than women who have not experienced violence.

ON VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- One of the greatest threats to global security is violent extremism. I have seen its effects in my own country and around the world, and I have met with the survivors. Extremists of all types seek to curtail women's rights – the rights to education, health, political life; freedom of association and movement, and freedom to make choices.
- Sadly, the context we face in our world today poses new threats beyond terrorism, we also face the major threat to security and development posed by climate change. Exacerbating poverty and vulnerability of the poorest in our societies.

ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

- No one can deny that climate change is real, manmade and has a role in pushing up global temperatures – and therefore we know mankind is responsible for and can address the problem before it is too late. The signs are with us everywhere across the globe.





Top: Five-year-old cousins Wendy, Nosipho and Bandile at the centre.
Bottom: Children at Za5khele Neighbourhood Care Point in Swaziland about to enjoy a hot meal. Photo: WFP/David Orr

WFP

Young Swazis get some neighbourhood care from South Africa

How a contribution from the government of South Africa helped the World Food Programme to assist vulnerable children in neighbouring Swaziland

By David Orr

Swaziland—a landlocked country almost entirely contained within the northeast corner of South Africa—faces numerous challenges including poverty, chronic food insecurity and high levels of HIV/AIDS. Like other countries in the region, it is only now emerging from the shadow of two successive years of drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

That is why the World Food Programme was so pleased to have received a contribution of nearly US\$3 million (ZAR40 million) from the South African government to provide food assistance for the orphans and other vulnerable children who attend the country's Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs).

With these funds, WFP purchased thousands of metric tons of maize, beans and vegetable oil for its NCP assistance programme in Swaziland. A significant proportion of the maize and pulses was sourced from smallholder farmers in South Africa.

The support from South Africa enabled WFP to resume food distributions to the NCPs in August 2017. These had to be suspended in mid-2016 due to lack of funding for the programme and, in the interim, many centres struggled to survive. But now, disadvantaged boys and girls at the NCPs have started once again receiving daily hot meals.

As part of its NCP food assistance programme, WFP is attempting to source 40% of the maize and 100% of the beans directly from smallholder farmers in South Africa.

The idea is to empower smallholder farmers in South Africa by providing them with greater market access for their products, while ensuring that small business and emerging millers are integrated into the entire value chain.

Many of the smallholders have expressed satisfaction that their produce was being used in a spirit of 'Ubuntu' to help vulnerable children in neighbouring Swaziland. The NCPs provide a safe place for 52,000 disadvantaged boys and girls to access early education while receiving meals and health care.

For the past few years, five-year-old cousins Wendy, Nosipho and Bandile have been attending classes at Zakhele NCP, just outside one of Swaziland's largest towns, Manzini. They live with parents or relatives in a nearby compound consisting of some 20 simple stick-and-mud huts. These are very poor families with little or no work. The carers at the NCP say all three children showed signs of malnutrition when first they started coming to the centre.

Swaziland is one of the countries in the region that was hardest hit by drought in recent years. Some 640,000 people—nearly half the population—faced some level of food insecurity during the peak of the 2016–17 lean season.

The longer-term effect of contribution serves an important role in reaching the goals of sustainable development both in South Africa and the region. ■



Global action in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in South Africa

South Africa is one of the primary destinations for trafficked persons in Africa. It is also used as a country of origin or transit point for those trafficking to Europe and North America. The trafficking involves women, men and children who are exploited by being forced to work, engage in commercial sex, commit crime and beg in the streets.

With internal trafficking, girls are moved from rural to urban areas for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude while boys are often forced into child labour and criminal activities. It's worth noting that trafficking frequently involves criminal networks dominated by different nationalities in different locations.

In response to this practice, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union launched the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) in South Africa in September 2016. The four-year joint initiative is being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNICEF.

At the launch, the former Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, noted: "Often powerful and well-resourced interests do not take these crimes seriously enough," adding, "When questioned they reply, 'What is the rate of child or women trafficking?', as if to suggest that one person smuggled or trafficked is an acceptable figure."

The GLO.ACT programme was expected to be implemented across 15 southern African countries. It focuses on assisting governments, civil society organizations as well as the victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.

The key challenge of the programme in South Africa is to address the lack of systematic collection and analysis of data on trafficked persons and

smuggled migrants. For trafficking, different government departments often produce their own statistics, disaggregated according to diverse factors. Gaps in identifying trafficked persons, particularly those not trafficked for sexual exploitation, also hamper data collection.



Often powerful and well-resourced interests do not take these crimes seriously enough.

As a result, in April 2017, UNODC and the department of home affairs started a research study on the migrants smuggling. The study, which is expected to last until the end of 2018, will collect data from all of South Africa's nine provinces. The data will facilitate policy decisions based on collected evidence, particularly in view of the fact that the home affairs department is currently drafting a legislative bill on smuggled migrants, which UNODC hopes to support.

A secondary priority for UNODC is the provision of capacity building to increase the efficiency of criminal justice practitioners to respond to the trafficking of persons and smuggled migrants. In July 2017, UNODC hosted a workshop

on human trafficking for criminal justice practitioners in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, which was attended by 62 participants, the majority of them women.

The aim of the workshop was to identify and investigate cases of human trafficking and strengthen victim referral mechanisms; increase the provision of victim protection, including the appropriate issuance of letters of recognition for the victims; identify suspected cases while providing correct follow-up and referral mechanisms; and to strengthen the handling and prosecution of cases.

The workshop proved to be such a success to the participants that UNODC plans to hold similar workshops in other provinces. Prior to the workshop, UNODC had held its first information-sharing workshop in Pretoria in June 2017, which brought together key stakeholders to develop plans on how South Africa should respond comprehensively to cases of trafficking of persons and smuggled migrants. ■





UN supports South Africa's efforts to track SDGs progress

By Lindiwe Dhlamini



South Africa is working to bring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the core of its development agenda. The country's National Development Plan: Vision 2030, aims to achieve its goals within the same timeframe as the 17 SDGs and thus provide an opportunity for convergence and alignment of the two agendas.

The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, are designed to build on the "unfinished business" from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by embracing a comprehensive vision of sustainable development that recognises the link between the economic, social and environmental development.

To date, a lot of work has gone into mobilizing partners within the private and public sectors, civil society, financial development institutions and the academia, as well as

the UN, to ensure that all partners are equally engaged to provide substantive inputs into Statistics South Africa's four sectoral working groups on SDGs indicators: social; environment; economic and partnerships as well as peace, safety and governance. The first stage involves finalizing South Africa's Indicator Baseline Report on SDGs which will form the foundation for future tracking of progress towards the SDG targets in preparation for the country's first SDGs Report which will be out in 2019.

To this end, the UN has commissioned research in support of the government, including a Background Paper on *Environmental Dimensions of Sustainable*





Development Goals (SDGs) in South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) prepared by Prof. Godwell Nhamo, and The South Africa Country Data Report: A survey of data sources for the indicators relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, prepared by Prof. Jean-Paul Van Belle.

IMPORTANCE OF DATA TO SDGS

Following the first ever UN World Data Forum held in Cape Town in early 2017, the UN Development Programme (UNDP)

country office's economic adviser, Fatou Leigh, observed that innovation and technology has changed the way data is collected, processed and used in recent years. It was therefore important to question the traditional ways of data gathering and dissemination. She questioned whether it was necessary to wait for ten years before conducting a population census.

She further noted that as important as data was, funding for it was not prioritised in many countries and was therefore not adequate, predictable and sustainable. This was particularly relevant to the SDGs. She called for all stakeholders to identify champions within their organisations who would advocate for data funding.

According to Ms. Leigh, it was important to build strong alliances and partnerships to promote transparency and accountability in the generation and use of data. She urged national statistics offices to work more closely with other sources such as administrative data, social media and the private sector.

In view of these observations, UN officials note that the UN should consider assisting Statistics South Africa's ISbalo Capacity Building Programme that aims to build African statistical capacity relevant to African challenges. The UN could also

consider giving support to the government's newly-launched Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration.

PARTNERSHIPS

SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. At the global level, UNDP has been mandated to assist countries in developing indicators to track progress on this goal. To this end, the UN in South Africa,

led by the Governance Programme Manager, Bongani Matomela, has been working with non-state actors in developing and applying the indicator framework and the first country baseline report on Goal 16 to track progress.

In March 2017, the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) was contracted to develop a mechanism to strengthen the participation of South African civil society in monitoring Goal 16. South Africa is one of the seven pilot countries around the world to initiate this study using funds from the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Over a period of eight months, the project, among others, developed a gaps analysis on the proposed monitoring framework developed by Statistics South Africa; held two national multi-stakeholder consultations designed to strengthen civil society's capacity to monitor and implement SDGs; and designed an accessibility tool to empower communities to take an active role in measuring and reporting on progress towards Goal 16; and demonstrated the use of the accessibility tool in Orange Farm, a poor township south of Johannesburg.

The exercise is designed to align the UN's work with current government programmes in its efforts to leave no one behind. According to a senior official from Statistics South Africa, this was the first engagement of its kind involving the government, civil society and the UN. Entities that contributed to the alignment process included the National Alliance for the Development of Community Advice Officers, the National Alliance for Non-Governmental Organizations of South Africa, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the Department of Public Service and Administration, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP. ■

The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, are designed to build on the "unfinished business" from the MDGs.



INTERVIEW

Yahya Amadou Ba

Deputy Country Director for UNDP South Africa

Yahya Amadou Ba is the new Deputy Country Director responsible for operations for the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in South Africa. *InFocus*' Zeenat Abdool sat down with him to talk about his new assignment. Prior to this appointment, he held a similar position with UNDP in Tanzania.

Q: What exactly does your position entail?

A: I am the second in authority in the UNDP in South Africa. I report to the country director and I am in charge of all the operations of the office—from finance to procurement, human resources, information technology, logistics and everything else that nobody wants to handle. They come to me and I fix it. One of my functions is to work together with the UN agencies so that we are more efficient and effective in delivering our mandates.

What type of skills are needed for this position?

I think we need broad skills but for me, what brought me to this position is my background and education. I am a certified public accountant and got my certificate in Senegal. I used to be an auditor in the private sector. I then went to UNDP where my main skill is to be someone who is ready to support and to work hard. If you don't want to work hard and even in emergency situations then this position is not for you. You need to have knowledge in procurement, finance, human resources and in building relations with partners and suppliers; this is very important. I think the main skill you need for this position is someone who can manage and deliver results based on best value for money. We want quality but also at a good price for procurement or other activities.

You previously held positions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Tanzania. What motivated you to come to South Africa?

As you know, DRC is a post-conflict country. Tanzania is not like South Africa, which is a middle-income country. I wanted to have experience from a more developed country like South Africa. I think the challenges are different. I used to work on emergencies to fix issues and to help build capacities in a post-conflict environment. But now I am here in South Africa where all the difficult issues have already been resolved and the level of support and engagements are different. It's a new challenge that I wanted to face.

Which areas of the UN in South Africa need improvement or you are hoping to improve?

I have been here for just two months. I don't pretend to know everything about South Africa but from my initial assessment, we need to improve on common services, how we can work together as the UN. Because if every UN agency is operating separately without mobilizing our resources as one entity, then we will not be effective. I want to work with my other counterparts in UN agencies to see how and where we can cooperate to deliver efficient services.

What are some of the challenges you face in this position? Managing money must be tough!

It's not about the amount of money, it's about principle, every dollar or rand counts. We are managing public funds and it gives us an obligation and commitment to be very selective and transparent in managing those public funds. Every time I have to approve something or to sign a cheque, I have to be very serious about it and make sure that what

I'm signing or approving is right and legitimate. That is very important and I need to be very attentive. I think in this office I'm very fortunate because my colleagues are very professional. In terms of capacity, we have all the managers we need, we just need to put in place standard operating procedures to be more transparent in our work. But I think we have a good team.

On a lighter note, what do you like about being in South Africa? Is it your first time here?

To be honest, what I enjoy is to be at Menlyn Mall [laughs]. I work hard and I leave the office at around 7 or 8pm. When I get home I'm so tired. I expect that by the end of the year I will go out and visit some tourist sites and also go into the countryside in other provinces to see what is out there.

What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?

When I leave the office and I'm home, I just pray and watch TV and then go to bed. But by early morning, at 5am, I go to Virgin Active gym to exercise and then around 8am I am here in the office. I like sports and running, those are my hobbies. ■



WHO

Public Health Association of South Africa urged to promote National Health Insurance

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) should voice its support of, and promote the country's proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme, says the country representative of the World Health Organization in South Africa, Dr. Rufaro Chatora.

"I scan the media every day and I hear the Minister of Health, Dr. Aaron Motsoaledi's lone voice promoting NHI. However, there is almost nothing from PHASA," Dr. Chatora told participants at the PHASA's 13th annual conference held recently in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The NHI scheme is South Africa's strategy to move towards universal health coverage guided by international frameworks of the United Nations such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages.

NHI also aims to meet the World Health Organizations (WHO)'s frameworks on moving towards universal health coverage whose goals are access to essential quality health services, financial risk protection, and responsiveness. Achieving universal health coverage will contribute significantly towards realising the vision of a long and healthy life for South Africans.

The conference reflected on the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and WHO collaboration on "A Global Charter for the Public's Health" and its implications for public health in South Africa. Four enabling functions of the Charter: governance, capacity, information and advocacy were examined during the conference, including how these can be strengthened in South Africa.

The conference was attended by over 300 national and international participants spanning the spectrum of public health including academia, researchers, students, administrators and civil society. Dr. Chatora's presentation also addressed South Africa's global commitments such as the International Health Regulations 2005, examining how PHASA can strengthen the country's work to attain these commitments. He also emphasized the important role South Africa could play to support public health in other African countries through its strong institutions such as the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, WHO Collaborating Centres and Universities. ■



Dr Rufaro Chatora

UNHCR thrust into the "politics ...

from page 5

Affairs, the Department of Social Development and respected human rights organizations. This is to ensure that communities are better informed about the reasons leading to refugee crises and the obligations South Africa has towards those seeking protection.

INTEGRATING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

"Working with the South African government and other institutions is critical if we're going to provide refugees who have fled persecution and have lost the protection of their countries, the opportunity to start over again," adds Cooper.

Many township residents complain however that refugees do very little to ensure their integration at community level. Complaints that refugees from particular countries are aloof, isolate themselves and are disinterested in the community they supposedly serve, are unfortunately quite common.

Ahmed* disputes this. "I have made all kinds of overtures to engage my South African counterparts with the aim of assisting them glean business skills from refugee traders but all of them have been ignored."

"This makes me believe that it is not just our business practices that pose a threat to some local business people. It is our very presence."

Irrespective of what the case may be, UNHCR strongly urges refugees to actively participate in lawful community-based activities to better facilitate their integration in the townships.

For Seifu* though, "Enough is enough. I can't continue living like this."

Ahmed, on the other hand is adamant, "My family and I are going nowhere." He says he has no intentions of starting over again in any other part of the world. "I have done all the starting over I am going to do. South Africa is the only home my children know and Africa is where I choose to remain." ■

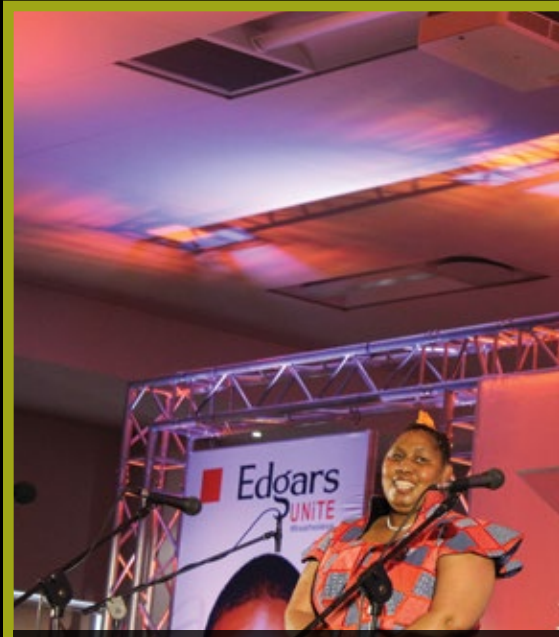
**Names have been changed to protect the identity of refugees interviewed.*

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





Inter-generational dialogue with Soul City Rise Young Women's Club. L-R and UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Graca Machel, UN Women SAMCO Representative Anne Githuku-Shongwe, Acting UN Resident Coordinator Rufaro Chatora.



Deputy Minister for Social Development Hon Hendrietta Bhebe and Deputy Minister of Education Hon Githuku-Shongwe at the Edgars UNITE Western Cape Film Festival.



Panelists at a discussion on migrants and refugees on International Migrants Day.



UNHCR's launch of the LuQuLuQu campaign in South Africa.



Model UN debates student at the finals in Johannesburg.



Gana Fofang, former UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa.



Mchogopane-Zulu & UN Women SAMCO Representative Anne Mchogopane-Zulu.



Model UN debates students.



South Africa with High-Level Influencers.

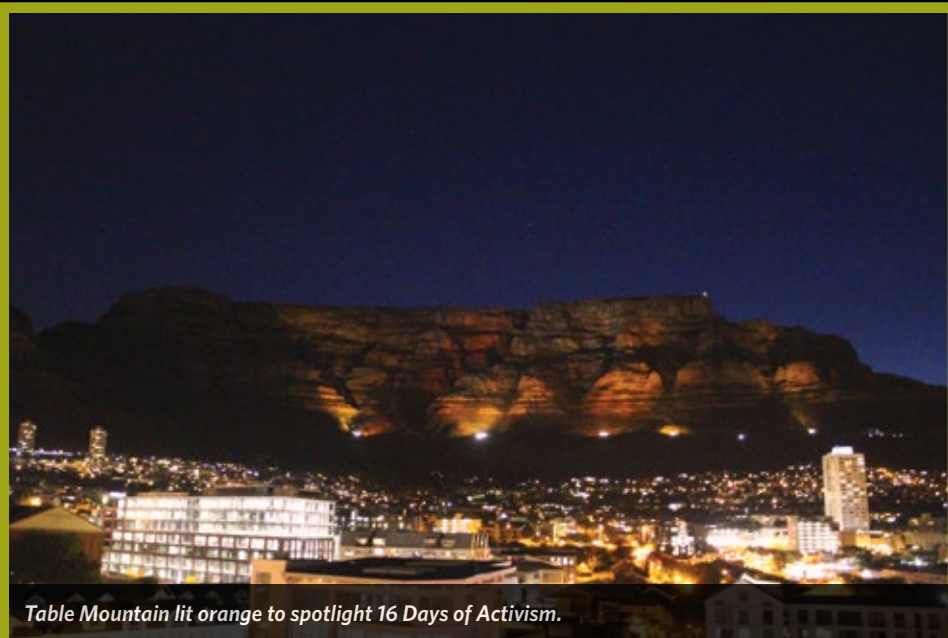


Table Mountain lit orange to spotlight 16 Days of Activism.



South Africa.



UNAIDS Director (South Africa) Mbulawa Mugabe (left) and Executive Director Michel Sidibé (centre) greet Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi in Cape Town in November 2017.

UN's contribution to development in South Africa

The Strategic Cooperation Framework: Progress Report

This is a summary of the contribution of the United Nations agencies to South Africa's development between 2013 and 2015 in line with the UN Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF). It examines the governance structures supporting the implementation of the SCF, and draws key lessons for strengthening future cooperation between South Africa and the UN.

UN's support during this period was based on the recommendations of the review, "Joint Evaluation of the Role and Contribution of the United Nations System in South Africa (JERC)", commissioned by the South African government and the UN in 2008/2009.

CHALLENGES OF THE UN-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

The review identified several coordination challenges between the UN and various government departments. Among them were the absence of thorough review mechanisms of UN programmes in line with the SCF; the absence of South African government representation in appropriate structures at the UN; the incongruousness of planning cycles; the translation of global agendas/multilateral agreements into national ones; limited resources available from the government for UN-supported programmes; the absence of a rigorous coordination structure within the government; shortage of staff at UN agencies; limited incentives for joint programming between UN agencies; and, a high-level of transition in government and at the UN.

REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to these challenges, the report recommended that although individual UN agency programmes were well coordinated within the mechanisms established with lead or sectoral government departments, overall, the UN needs to engage more often and in a more coordinated way with government and, as a first step towards this, that entry points are determined and various government portfolios are consistently approached for their advice and involvement with SCF programmes.

One of the overarching recommendations of the JERC was for the UN to 'deliver as one', hence the UN Country Team put measures in place to ensure that UN agencies organize and coordinate their activities in a more synchronized and harmonized manner while avoiding duplication.

Holistically, the UN's focus in South Africa to support the government in addressing the triple challenges of the country's



development framework, the National Development Plan (NDP), to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and address unemployment. The UN has worked with various government departments on multiple programmes since the roll-out of the SCF in 2013.

The UN has also worked closely with civil society, the private sector and other partners to advance this shared agenda through the four SCF pillars: inclusive growth and decent work; sustainable development; human capabilities; governance and participation. Most of the outputs as envisaged in the SCF are on track. Detailed contributions made by the UN and progress to date at an output level are provided in the Annexures.

UN CONTRIBUTIONS

The UN has contributed to the discussions, formulation and implementation of government policies the knowledge and research products supported by various agencies operating in South Africa.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DECENT WORK

The UN supported the first pillar through interventions across provinces and, to some extent, within local and national government spheres. Many of the interventions focused on technical support and addressed unemployment issues through Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). These included the Supplier Development Programme (SDP), which implemented in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

and the Department of Small Business Development (DSBD).

The SDP is an in-depth programme that provides mentorship to selected SMMEs and businesses that show the potential, with support, to become suppliers to larger companies. The goals of the SDP are to enable SMMEs to participate in global markets, to generate and release capital for the investment in fixed assets and to contribute to the industrialization of the country's strategic sectors.

The UN has also provided technical support to the DSBD in formulating the National Informal Business Strategy approved by cabinet in the first quarter of 2015, as well as the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to develop key policies and legislation on land reform as a key to address inequality. The UN further assisted the government to develop relevant tools to assess the employment impact of its public investment programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Community Works Programme.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The second pillar supports South Africa's ambition to achieve an environmentally sustainable and equitable transition towards a low-carbon climate resilient economy, as expressed in the NDP. Following a request from South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs in 2013, the UN commissioned a study to assess potential opportunities and options to promote a green economy, with a focus on key economic sectors set out by the NDP. The assessment shows that strengthening natural resource management and environmental protection was key to sustained economic growth and wellbeing.

After the 2008 Libreville Declaration on Health adopted by 52 countries, including South Africa, the country developed a Climate Change Health Adaptation Plan and conducted a situational analysis and needs assessment on health and the environment with technical support from the UN. Following this, the UN put together a set of indicators for monitoring purposes.

HUMAN CAPABILITIES

The third pillar focuses on promoting equality and equity in access to early childhood development, basic education, health, nutrition and social welfare services aimed at combatting poverty. The UN provided support to advance women's and girls' empowerment and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, children and adolescents.

Programmes to strengthen human capabilities focus on generation of evidence, including through pilot and demonstration initiatives. They also aim to strengthen the capacity and to provide expert technical support to improve the quality of basic education, the quality of mother, newborn and child health, as well as sexual and reproductive health services, and access to social protection in South Africa.



UN agencies assisted in developing, implementing and reviewing national policies. These included reviewing the Maternal Nutrition, Children's Health Strategy 2012-2016, implementing the new National Contraception and Fertility Planning Policy and Guidelines, and developing the National Youth Policy 2015-2020 and the National Early Childhood Development Policy. The UN also supported research and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of implementing existing policies, including, for example, the Child Grant Exclusion Study in close cooperation with South Africa's Social Security Agency, as well as analyzing policy options in extending social

protection to informal workers, among others.

GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

In addressing the final pillar, the UN contributed substantive technical support, programme implementation and coordination to the Department of Public Service and Administration in its bid for institution building, professionalizing the public sector, strengthening integrated service delivery, and improving employment conditions and labour relations.

At the same time, the UN facilitated a knowledge-exchange programme, which contributed to a national consultative process led by the Public Service Commission, which developed a Concept Paper on building a capable, career-oriented professional public service to strengthen a capable developmental state. The UN

also assisted government to improve access to land and quality health services through health systems strengthening.

These initiatives include development of the National Strategy to prevent HIV drug resistance; support for the Department of Health in reviewing the Medical Male Circumcision policy; technical support in the revision of the HIV Counselling and Testing policy; and support for the review of the changes on infant HIV-testing indicators.

Overall, UN agencies in South Africa have provided technical and advisory support to national partners in their efforts to develop, improve and implement enabling policies that meets that meets the objectives of the SCF. In the future, this support can be strengthened through better coordination with government, allowing for regular consultation, engagement and information sharing. As outlined in communications between South Africa's National Treasury and the UN, this would avoid the challenges of fragmented approaches, ad hoc and infrequent reporting, duplication of efforts both within the UN and between the UN and government departments, and reduce transaction costs. ■

INTERVIEW

Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed

The Deputy Director of the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Kazumi Ikeda-Larhed, recently visited South Africa and sat down with *InFocus*' Zeenat Abdool for an interview on FAO's internship programme for South African youth.



Q: Could you explain what your role entails as the Deputy Director of Partnerships and South-South Cooperation for FAO?

A: Our division is responsible for consolidating and expanding our multi-stakeholder partnerships. South-South cooperation is a very important means to expand partnership relations. South Africa is one of the key partner countries for FAO. My division's task is to reach out to different stakeholders such as governments, the private sector, civil society, organizations for farmers and women, the academia and the media. We are trying to forge partnerships on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the goal on partnerships.

What brings you to South Africa?

It is part of my strategic outreach missions. I have lived in South Africa before and I know how important this country is in terms of engagement, not only within the southern African region or African continent, but also beyond. South Africa is an important player in ending hunger and also in ensuring nutrition and food security for all.

You said one of the objectives of your visit is to engage with youth in attaining food security or achieving SDG 2 on zero hunger. How do you plan to achieve this?

My division recently re-launched the FAO's global internship, volunteers and fellows programmes with youth as our primary target, especially university students and high school graduates. This is one concrete way that FAO can work with the youth. There is vast talent within the South African youth. But so far FAO has not really been harnessing this potential among young women and men. These internship and fellowship



Right now, only 10% of the internship programme participants come from Africa and we have none from South Africa. This is obviously not working and I would like to bridge this missing link by reaching out to local youth through support to the FAO country office in Pretoria so that we can really see a difference.

participants come from Africa and we have none from South Africa. This is obviously not working and I would like to bridge this missing link by reaching out to local youth through support to the FAO country office in Pretoria so that we can really see a difference. The average period of internships in FAO is three to eleven months which is combined with class rooms learning and real-life learning opportunities that give students exposure to the work of the UN and the prospects of career opportunities. We accept applications from anybody interested in the internship programme and I would really like to encourage students in South Africa to apply through the FAO website. Applicants are required to apply online, together with a motivation letter.

programmes could be a channel through which South African youth could be mobilized to become agents for change to assist in attaining SDGs on poverty and hunger. We had a very good discussion with the acting director-general of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. As one of our key partners in government, his department is fully supportive of our programmes. Unfortunately, FAO has not been working closely with South African youth, so we need to change that.

FAO has held outreach seminars at universities. What are they about?

We recently restructured the FAO internship programme to make it more globally inclusive. We looked at the trends over the past five years and found that 71% of participants in the internship programme come from across the globe but consisting of mainly Europeans and Americans. This is good but we would also like to see more African students coming to work with FAO through this programme. Our priority now is to generate more interest among youth from universities in South Africa and other parts of Africa. Right now, only 10% of the internship programme

Is there a plan to extend these outreach seminars beyond Pretoria and Cape Town?

We work with faculty members and senior management of the universities who help us to disseminate information throughout the country. This is just the beginning. We have also discussed the programme with our government counterparts. We plan to have nationwide engagements through workshops and seminars. We have already received more than a thousand applications so far but not one from South Africa. ■



Farm inspection with Dr. Lewis Hove (in glasses), FAO Regional Director for Southern Africa and Acting Country Representative in South Africa.

Investments in family planning reinforces gender empowerment

More than 500 young men and women from South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province recently attended a youth camp on sexual reproductive health and rights as part of activities to mark the annual World Population Day. The function was organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with South Africa's Department of Social Development and the Siyakhwazi Youth Network.

In his remarks at the ceremony, which was held at the Edendale Lay Ecumenical Centre in Pietermaritzburg, the UNFPA Officer-In-Charge, Barnabas Yisa, acknowledged the leadership role played by the South African government in promoting sexual reproductive and health rights, women's empowerment and advancing the agenda of the 1994 International Conference on Population Development (ICPD). The 1994 conference articulated a bold new vision about the relationships between population, development and individual well-being.

Mr. Yisa further commended the government for taking strong action to address the challenges facing young people, particularly girls, and its commitment to focus on adolescents and youth, women and girls. He assured that UNFPA would "continue to walk with the South African Government on [the] path towards making access to family planning a reality for every woman and girl".

In her keynote address, the Minister of Social Develop-



Access to safe, voluntary sexual and reproductive health services is central to gender equality and women's empowerment.

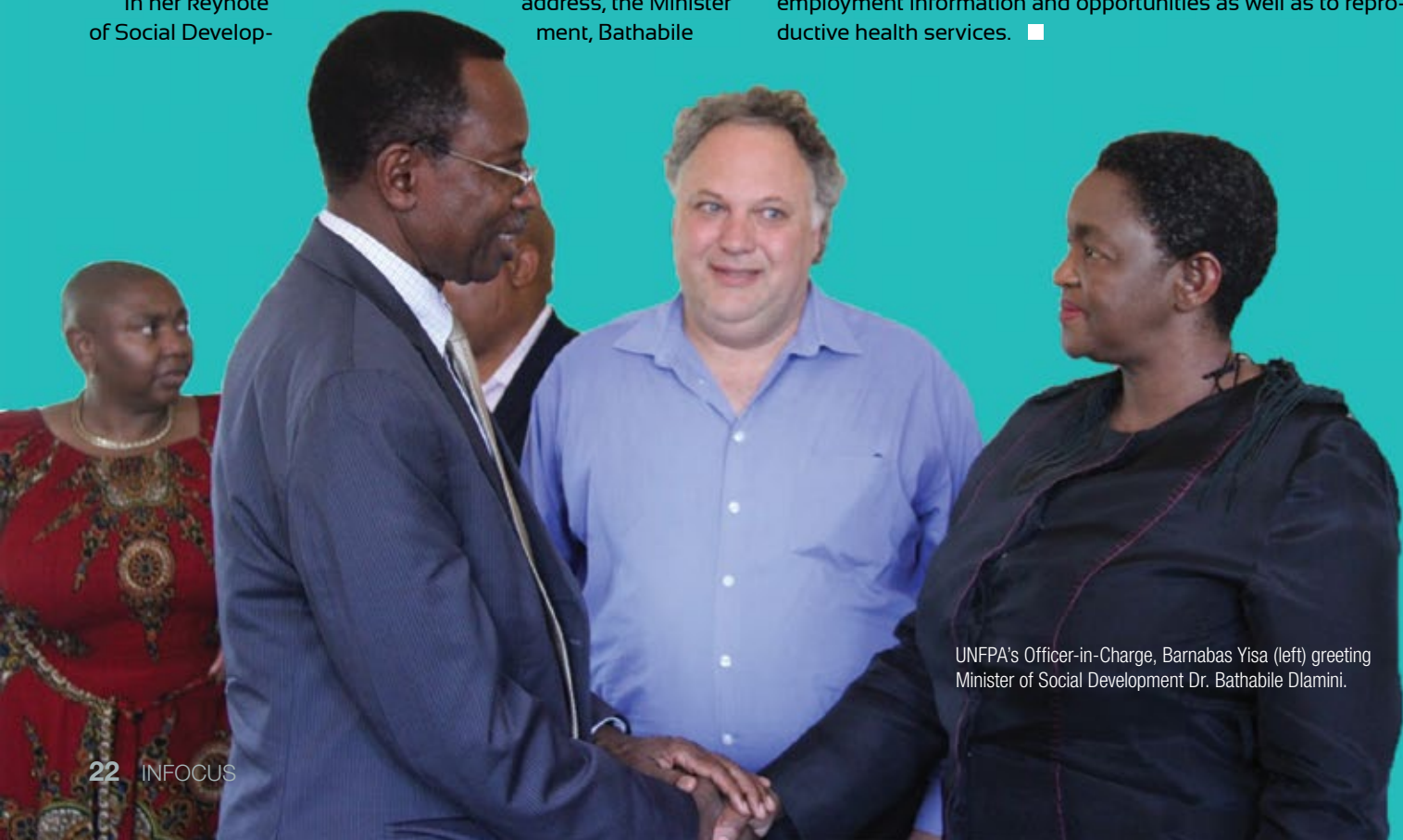
ment, Bathabile

Dlamini, reminded people to consider the practical ways of optimising the youth bulge and the necessary investments needed to reap the demographic dividend, including through access to health care, quality education, employment and business opportunities for young people.

"Access to safe, voluntary sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, is central to gender equality and women's empowerment, and is a key factor in reducing poverty," Minister Dlamini noted. "Investments in family planning thus create a reinforcing cycle of empowerment, supporting healthy, educated and economically productive women and families."

She appealed to young people to define their own destiny, have a set of priorities and goals to advance their lives and to seek family planning services so that their education is not disrupted. The Minister's address was followed by an interactive discussion with the young people on social and economic issues affecting them.

The successful commemoration of the 2017 World Population Day and the youth camp was based on the organizers' intention to not only raise awareness on the issues that affect vulnerable groups but also to develop their competencies and self-esteem, by focussing attention on promoting healthy habits, ensuring access to education and employment information and opportunities as well as to reproductive health services. ■



UNFPA's Officer-in-Charge, Barnabas Yisa (left) greeting Minister of Social Development Dr. Bathabile Dlamini.



OHCHR

Working towards attaining human rights

By Jean Fokwa Tsafack and Tshepo Tlhacoane

It's difficult to get people to respect human rights in an environment where little is known on what exactly those rights entail. In many countries, civil society organizations play a key role in educating people and raising public awareness around human rights.

The role of raising awareness is one of the major responsibilities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In South Africa, this role is played by the OHCHR's Regional Office for Southern Africa based in the capital, Pretoria.

As part of its Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme, the OHCHR

recently teamed up with the local office of UN Women in organizing a two-day workshop in Johannesburg to sensitise representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the UN Human Rights Treaty System. It also aimed to raise awareness on the role of NGOs in the processes of the treaty body. Participants included representatives from NGOs such as the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the Tswaranang Legal Advocacy Centre, People Opposing Violence Against Women and the Foundation for Human Rights.

At this workshop, delegates learned how to prepare a shadow report on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and how NGOs could work with UN human rights treaty bodies. Further, the delegates also learned how to use the CEDAW convention and the concluding observations in their advocacy to promote and protect the rights of women and achieve gender equality in South Africa.


These workshops are invaluable as they not only educate participants on the UN Human Rights Treaty System, but also inform them of the various avenues available to achieve their goals in protecting human rights in their societies. ■





UNODC

Sports trainers empowered to build risk resilience youth in South Africa

LULU certified trainers.  UNODC

To keep young people from getting into trouble, one needs to keep them busy. With this in mind, the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the South Africa's Western Cape Province's Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, started training sports coaches in September 2017 to implement a new curriculum dubbed, "Line Up Live Up" (LULU) whose aim is to prevent crime and drug abuse by youth.

The training is part of UNODC's global programme on implementing the 2015 Doha declaration on crime prevention and criminal justice. The programme emphasizes crime prevention initiatives targeting youth most at risk of committing offences. It also is also tied to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 16 on promoting peace, justice and strong institutions.

In early 2018, UNODC plans to start a pilot project designed to implement its LULU curriculum for youth in Cape Town and Johannesburg. The project will be run through a process whose impact would be assessed and efficiency measured. Currently UNODC is implementing

the project's pre-pilot phase to evaluate its feasibility.

So far, under the LULU curriculum, organizers have trained 15 coaches from South Africa's Western Cape's "Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and growth" (MOD) Programme. The training involves a set of interactive sessions consisting of theoretical lessons on risk and protective factors that instil positive social behaviour in youth, the impact of sports, and some practical exercises.

The coaches are viewed as "after-school game changers" who provide sports coaching to youth at public schools from the rural West Coast and urban Kraaifontein districts in the Western Cape Province. Both areas have relatively high crime and drug-abuse rates.

During the training, the coaches are taught processing and debriefing exercises, which allow youth to link knowledge and skills acquired through various activities to challenges faced in everyday life. This offers the coaches the opportunity to use sport as a vehicle of social and personal skills development by addressing individual crime and drug risk factors.

"It is great to interact with such motivated trainers and talk about risk and protective factors related to youth crime and drug use," said Oihana Rementería, a life-skills training expert supporting UNODC in the design and delivery of LULU. "They work in communities that experience difficulties, they know the problems that exist there, and are well-placed to provide safe spaces for young people to develop healthy lives, free from violence and drug use."

Ashlin September, a MOD centre participant, noted: "In some places, children are so used to gang shootings they don't even duck anymore. As sport coaches, we want to be part of the solution to the gang problem in our society and we think this course helps us to do just that."

The certified trainers will teach the LULU curriculum to youth in their districts as part of the pre-pilot project, while they receive mentoring support from UNODC. During the 2018 pilot project, UNODC plans to raise awareness and provide non-governmental and community-based organisations an opportunity to use the LULU curriculum in their daily work. ■

Handwashing: Keeping children healthy

“Washing hands time!” announces Isaac Mazibuko, the Principal of Sishila Primary School, outside Nelspruit in eastern South Africa.

His call is met within seconds by a long and orderly queue of students outside a modest brick structure on the school grounds. It is this structure that houses a three-metre long pipe, with 17 nozzles. And it is under a tin roof where little hands are washed and teeth are brushed prior to the student’s daily meal provided by the National School Nutrition Programme.

With funding secured by UNICEF from Kimberly Clark Corporation, a U.S. multinational personal care company, a water station was built on the school grounds and soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes provided in partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Education and the non-governmental organisation, MIET Africa.

With capacity to provide water to up to 17 children simultaneously, the hand-washing and tooth-brushing exercise is a key part of the daily routine of the children, most of whom are from economically-deprived households where clean running water and other hygienic products are a luxury. The exercise is expected to go a long way in reducing school absenteeism due to diarrhoea and respiratory infections—two of the biggest killers amongst school-going children in South Africa.

Based on a system used by UNICEF in Zambia, the water taps are relatively inexpensive (costing around R3,000 or \$230 to install) and durable, and play a critical role in promoting health and hygiene at schools in under-resourced communities. Located two-hours’ drive from South Africa’s iconic Kruger National Park, Sishila Primary School now has handwashing and oral hygiene as part of the daily routine of its students who diligently and meticulously clean their hands and brush their teeth at ‘hand-washing time.’ Through this exercise, and the slow drip of water, children are also

reminded of the value of water and the need to conserve it.

The process of hand-washing is itself a learned practice and part of the social behaviour the children are taught in groups by their teachers on the proper way of washing hands—from wrists to fingertips. Students who do not wash their hands properly or are eagerly rushing are gently reminded by their teachers to do it properly. The teachers receive training on hand-washing from learner support agents funded through a UNICEF-administered grant from Kimberly Clark.

The sound of nature’s greatest gift, water, accompanied by the laughter of healthy, happy children is a tangible example of a positive partnership in action. By

making hand-washing and oral hygiene a practical part of the school day, UNICEF, the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Kimberly Clark and MIET Africa are making hygiene and sanitation a reality for children, giving rise to the observation that meaningful, sustainable behavioural change begins with children. ■

Based on a system used by UNICEF in Zambia, the water taps are relatively inexpensive (costing around R3,000 or \$230 to install) and durable, and play a critical role in promoting health and hygiene at schools in under-resourced communities.



South Africa marks 16 Days of Activism with focus on preventing gender-based violence

The United Nations in South Africa marked this year's 16 Days of Activism in November with a series of activities held in Cape Town that included, among others, a "Take Back the Night March", a lecture by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and a dialogue with the youth.

UN Women teamed up with Ilitha Labantu, a non-governmental organization that provides emotional support and practical advice to victims of gender-based violence, for their annual "Take Back the Night March" held in Gugulethu Township, where the rate of violence against women and girls, including rape and murder, is high. More than 300 community members walked through the streets calling for an end to violence. They also called on community members to stand together in making their neighbourhood safe for all, especially during the night when women and girls are more vulnerable.

The march culminated in a gathering at the Gugulethu Sports Complex where a memorandum of demands was handed over to members of the South African Police Services. The Provincial Minister for Safety and Security, Dan Plato, pledged to set aside a budget to help end gender-based violence.

The march was followed by the delivery by the deputy secretary-general of the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture on 25 November. The lecture, whose theme was "Centering gender: Reducing inequality through inclusion", coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism. More than a thousand delegates, including about a hundred young women from the Soul City Institute's Rise Young Women's Club, attended the lecture.

Ms. Mohammed commended South African women for being leaders of change and called for investments in women to ensure equality for all. She called on authorities to invest "in the missing 50% of our human asset base, in the potential of our women to unleash their power for good," adding that it was important to attain the Sustainable Development Goals starting with Goal 5 on gender equality.

Following the annual lecture, Soul City and the Nelson Mandela Foundation hosted an inter-generational dialogue with more than 40 girls from the Rise Young Women's Club in Khayelitsha, a township in Cape Town. Participants reflected on the lecture, undertook a visioning exercise which allowed them to imagine a future of safety and empowerment.

The dialogue included a high-level women panel comprising Ms. Mohammed; Grace Machel, the former First Lady of South Africa and humanitarian and women's rights champion; Anne Githuku-Shongwe, the UN Women head for southern Africa; Naledi Chirwa, the national spokesperson of the Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command; and Trudi Makhaya, the chief executive officer of Makhaya Advisory, a research and advisory company.

These activities were part of the global initiative "Orange the World: End Violence against Women and Girls" on behalf of the UN Secretary-General's global campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women*. In recognition of the orange the world theme, South Africa's Table Mountain was lit in orange on 25 November to mark the start of 16 Days of Activism and again on 7 December to spotlight violence against women in rural areas who are often left behind in prevention and survivor support initiatives. As an iconic landmark in South Africa, lighting the mountain reflected the collective commitment from government, civil society and the private sector to attain a society free from violence against women and girls.

The 2017 theme, "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls," highlights the unifying nature of one of the essential principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while underscoring the world's endeavour to "reach the furthest behind first".

In recent years, the UNiTE campaign has used the colour orange as a unifying theme running through all its global activities. Orange is one of the official colours of the UNiTE campaign and in the context of its global advocacy, is used as a symbol of a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls. ■



UNAIDS:

The challenge is to prevent new HIV infections

South Africa has the largest UNAIDS country office, a reflection of the scale of the local AIDS epidemic and the degree of commitment by the Government and its partners, including the 11 UNAIDS co-sponsor agencies, to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

The UNAIDS Joint Programme works with the Department of Health and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), among others, to implement the new 2017-2022 National Strategic Plan on HIV, tuberculosis and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). South Africa has the largest free HIV treatment programme in the world, with 3.9 million people living with HIV on treatment as of the end of 2016. However, there are an estimated seven million people living with HIV in the country, all of whom are eligible for treatment.

South Africa is committed to providing treatment to an additional 2 million people living with HIV by 2020. UNAIDS recently supported negotiations to secure cheaper, simplified treatment options which should help the Government in meeting its targets.

A particular focus for UNAIDS in South Africa is to prevent new infections and to support the participation of civil society. It also seeks to challenge complacency among people who may be at risk of infection and among people living with HIV who need to commence and maintain treatment. South Africa recently joined a new Global Prevention Coalition and is committed to significantly reduce new HIV infections by 2020. This includes eliminating the transmission of HIV from mothers to their unborn and infant children.

A particular concern in the country is service delivery within communities, including expanding community health worker programmes and encouraging communities in the planning, monitoring and delivery of services. South Africa also needs an additional 400,000 men living with HIV to have been tested by 2020. Moving more men into treatment will also benefit younger women who are at greatest risk of HIV infection, since people living with HIV who receive effective treatment are very unlikely to transmit the virus. ■



MODEL UN

South Africa Model UN debates finals held in Johannesburg

By Suniti Kala-Hooper



Sliver medal winners of the Model UN debate competition



Suniti Kala-Hooper Operations Director at Education Africa,

with essential skills. In South Africa, the debates are organized by Education Africa, an education advocacy, with cooperation from UN offices in South Africa. What makes the South African Model United Nations (SAMUN) unique is its concept of twinning resourced and under-resourced schools within the same debating team.

This unique pairing means that participating delegates acquire much more than just research, writing and public speaking skills. Aside from contributing to 'social cohesion', the project additionally provides practical life lessons in the sharing of educational resources, academic capacity and importantly, given the South African context, learning to overcome cultural and economic disparities in order to work together as an integrated and unified team.

More than 750 students from all the provinces participated in the 2017 competition, which commenced with workshops taking place during the month of May. These were conducted by SAMUN alumni and covered the basics of debating and an introduction to the various structures and protocols of the UN.

In August, the provincial conference debates took place in the legislatures of the nine provinces. Several UN staff were involved as adjudicators, including Kanae Tada, Anjali Patel and Inviolata Chinyangarara from the International Labour Organization, Noloyiso Tsembeyi and Ethel Maringa (Resident Coordinator's Office) Lindiwe Dhlamini (UN Development Programme), Ziyanda Ngoma and Siziwe Jongizulu (UN Population Fund).

The programme culminated in the winning team from each province, together with two international teams from School Without Walls in Washington DC, attending the Education Africa SAMUN International finals from 12-14 October in Johannesburg. Against the impressive backdrop of the Metro Council Chambers, delegates engaged in vigorous debates on the two

The 2017 South African Model United Nations debates kicked off in Johannesburg amid much excitement and fanfare. More than 40 students from across South

Africa's nine provinces gathered in the commercial capital to compete in the debates.

Model UN debates take place in countries all around the world and have been globally credited with equipping students



Model UN debates 2017 winners.

selected topics on the funding of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Three notable alumni returned to contribute to this year's competition: South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Executive Producer Krivani Pillay and media personality Gushwell Brooks as adjudicators, as well as advocate Steven Budlender as guest speaker at the SAMUN international finals prize-giving ceremony.

The high-level adjudication panel further included Masimba Tafirenyika, the Director of the UN Information Centre, Kai Crooks-Chissano, the executive director of Camp I Am and Albert Geldenhuys from the South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO). The entire proceedings were chaired by Abdullah Verachia, another trailblazing alumnus who has experienced the benefits of the programme firsthand.

"SAMUN prepared me for a career in the United Nations in ways that, nearly two decades later, I continue to appreciate," says Sudeshan Reddy, a communications specialist at UNICEF's country office and one of SAMUN's first tutors who has remained deeply committed to the programme ever since, adding, "From empathy to tolerance, consensus-building to negotiation skills, my SAMUN experience invaluable helped shape my awareness and participation as

a global citizen. It truly is a life-changing programme and for that I am grateful".

Due to the loss of his father, the late Govin Reddy, this was the first year that Sudeshan was unable to attend the final debates, although he continued to provide the organizers with helpful suggestions and support throughout the process, despite his personal bereavement.

As the competition aims to provide students with a memorable and immersive all-round experience, apart from the debates, an interactive workshop at the Holocaust

and Genocide Centre as well as a field trip to the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg formed part of the conference. Both events proved to be eye-opening and thought-provoking lessons for those who attended.

A key strength of SAMUN is its collaboration with several significant institutions, lending the project considerable credibility. These include the Department of Education, DIRCO and of course, the UN. The latter two assists with topic selections as well as the adjudication of debates at a provincial and national level.

Started in 1995, when the first group of SAMUN 'delegates' accompanied former President Nelson Mandela to the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations in New York, more than 11,000 students have successfully participated in the debates during the past 10 years alone. A clear majority of these alumni go on to pursue successful career paths, making significant contributions to fields as diverse as law, medicine, engineering, business, politics, media, the arts, amongst other fields.

SAMUN 2017 was by all accounts a tremendous success, with learners expanding their perspectives and forming lifelong connections while learning the essential art of diplomacy. Education Africa is grateful to have once again collaborated with the United Nations on this crucial project. ■

Suniti Kala-Hooper is the Operations Director at Education Africa, an NGO committed to poverty alleviation through education.



Model UN debates Students at the Johannesburg Metro Council Chambers.

STAFF PROFILES

MBULAWA MUGABE is the new Country Director of UNAIDS in South Africa. He assumed his functions in June 2017 after serving as Director of Country Impact and Sustainability Department at UNAIDS headquarters from 2014 to 2017. Prior to this, he was the deputy director for UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa in Johannesburg from 2010 to 2013. A national of Botswana, Dr Mugabe's career with the UN spans almost 20 years including working for UNICEF in Botswana and Uganda. He was the first UNAIDS country director in South Africa and served from 2002 to 2008, setting up the first UNAIDS office in the country. Dr Mugabe holds a masters' degree and a PhD in medical sociology, specializing in child health, from the University of London. In 1997, he became the first recipient of the Goran Starky Award for Child Health at the Institute of Child Health at Karolinska University in Sweden. He also had a long academic career at the University of Botswana where he was a senior research fellow at the National Institute of Research. He replaces Dr Erasmus Morah who was reassigned as UNAIDS country director in Nigeria.



BARNABAS YISA was appointed Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of UN Population Fund in South Africa since September 2017. Prior to this appointment, he was the OIC at UNFPA Tanzania Country Office for six months as well as UNFPA resident representative in South Sudan, Eritrea and Sierra Leone between 2009 and 2015.



Mr Yisa has a lengthy experience in sexual reproductive health and population development having served as the regional behaviour change communication/advocacy adviser at UNFPA Regional Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as regional population education: information education communication/advocacy adviser with UNESCO in France.

Between 186 and 1990, he held the position of chief technical advisor for population family life education to the Government of Sierra Leone and before then he served as the chief education research officer and head of Population Education Department at the Nigerian educational Research and Development Council. From 1979 to 1986, he was a lecturer in Geography at the College of Education, Minna, Niger State in Nigeria.

Mr Yisa is also the Chairman of Black Box Media Productions Ltd, Nigeria, and an Independent Consultant on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Population & Development.

He holds a Master of Science degree in Population Studies & Manpower Planning from the University of Jos in Nigeria.



A national of the US, **CLAUDIA VELASQUEZ** is the new senior strategic intervention advisor in the UNAIDS Country Office, focusing on HIV prevention. Previously, she was the UNAIDS senior regional strategic information advisor at the UNAIDS regional support team for Latin America and Caribbean in Panama.



DR. ALIFEIZZADEH, an Iranian national, joined the UNAIDS in South Africa in July 2017 as the new senior strategic information adviser and leads on data and analysis. Prior to this, he was the UNAIDS regional support team for Middle East and North Africa based in Cairo, Egypt.



SCOTT MCQUADE, a New Zealand native and citizen of Australia, joined the South African office in August 2017 as the new Senior Advice on management and advocacy. Previously, he served at the UNAIDS Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

TOGETHER: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All

In an effort to engage South African nationals with refugees and migrants to foster dialogue and build social cohesion, the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Pretoria organized and participated in various events throughout the last quarter of 2017. Following the xenophobic violence of 2008 and 2015, and the lingering tensions in various communities that are still present, UNIC partnered with the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) Foundation in producing and broadcasting public service announcements (PSAs) on various radio stations.

The PSAs were translated in five of the official South African languages and were aired on various radio stations throughout the month of October. The positive messages featured local and foreign voices on the positive impact that foreign nationals have played in the various communities in which they reside and the hospitality they were accorded by their hosts.

A key role player in shaping the narrative around any social issue is the media. In partnership with the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism, the UN in South Africa organized and participated in a panel discussion on the role of the media

in building social cohesion. The panelists included Dr. Jean Misago from the African Centre for Migration Studies at the University of Witwatersrand, Ncumisa Willie from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and Veronica Irima Modey-Ebi from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Jacqueline Nzoyihera from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights facilitated the discussion.

Mr. Misago described xenophobia as a "hate crime and, since most people targeted are African immigrants, it is mostly both xenophobia and Afrophobia." He explained that one of the main obstacles to tackling xenophobia and building inclusive communities was the lack of political will.

"There have been so many interventions by local and international NGOs – but the research shows there is often no political will," he noted. "This means impunity for perpetrators. Neither the UN nor institutions such as the SAHRC have the political muscle to hold the South African government accountable and research shows that sometimes violence happens not because of poverty, but because people target foreigners in the hope that government will respond to their concerns."

Ms. Modey-Ebi reaffirmed this observation, adding that "refugees and asylum seekers cannot be scapegoats for service delivery challenges in South Africa. There is a need to build tolerance."

As part of the Global Migration Festival, UNIC and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a screening of the *Voetsek! Us? Brothers?* The documentary details the events leading up to, during and the aftermath of the xenophobic attacks of 2008 and 2015. It details foreign nationals losing their belongings, having their land purged in informal settlements and the reaction of nationals who expressed their frustration with the slow pace of access to social services in their neighbourhoods.

The events to promote social cohesion formed part of the United Nations' global TOGETHER campaign launched in September 2016 following reports of mistreatment, abuse and slavery of refugees and migrants from conflict-torn countries. The campaign aims to change negative perceptions and attitudes towards migrant and refugee communities and to strengthen the social contract between host countries and communities, refugees and migrants. ■

Celebrating UN Day with an exhibition at the Apartheid Museum

A UN in South Africa exhibition opened at the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg in October as part of the organization's commemoration of the United Nations Day. The exhibition, which details the role of the UN in the struggle for freedom in South Africa, chronicles the history of the UN's involvement in the South Africa's political system which began in 1946 when India raised concern at the UN General Assembly about the treatment of people of Indian origin in South Africa.

The timeline displayed at the exhibition details the series of meetings and outcomes of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid formed in 1962 as well as the impact of various declarations and resolutions passed by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

During a period that spanned over several decades, the UN first imposed an arms embargo followed by economic sanctions as well as cultural and sports boycott of South Africa in an effort to force it to abandon its policy of apartheid. Footage at the exhibition shows late South African icons such as former President Nelson Mandela, former African National Congress President Oliver Tambo and singer Mariam Makeba addressing the UN on the oppressive laws passed by apartheid South Africa. They all urged the global body to take a strong stance against the oppressive and discriminatory regime.

Diplomats, media, civil society organizations and many others attended the launch of the exhibition which included remarks by Zaheer Laher, from the

Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) as well as Linda Sangaret, the head of Marketing at Brand SA which partnered with the UN in making the exhibition possible and Emilia Potenza from the Apartheid Museum.

Laher, the Acting Chief Director for the UN Division at DIRCO, praised the UN for its contribution to the fight for freedom and expressed his government's gratitude for the role played by the international community in ending apartheid. Former Resident Coordinator of the UN in South Africa Gana Fofang relayed his personal experiences on learning about apartheid and participating in protests and the international boycott of South African consumer goods during his years as a student at university. ■



Africa



United Nations South Africa



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