



# NVS Newsletter

*A newsletter of the Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme*

## Training of Trainers workshops Held

Issue 1  
27<sup>th</sup> October, 2008

**NEIGHBOURHOOD  
VOLUNTEER**

**JITOLEE KWA  
UJIRANI MWEMA**



*Participants at one of the group session during the NVS training of trainers workshop in Nakuru*

Kawangware, Kangemi, Mathare 4a, Mukuru and Kayole.

The workshop in Nakuru was officially opened by Nakuru District Commissioner Mr. T.N. Miiri. He thanked UNDP/UNV for rolling out the NVS project in Nakuru.

According to Mr. Miiri the project has picked on very well in Nakuru. "We are proud to report that through this initiative we are now seeing results of peace and reconciliation in our neighborhoods. We are of the view that the success of neighborhood volunteerism in Nakuru will influence other districts in rift valley province" Mr Miiri said.

There are 51 neighborhood volunteers working in Kaptembwa and Barut areas of Nakuru District. The volunteers comprise of youth leaders, retired professionals and community opinion leaders.

Through training and sensitization, the neighborhood volunteers and community members are charged with the responsibility of trauma healing, reconciliation, peace building, and humanitarian service support within their communities.

The training approach for the trainers is based on a practical methodology consisting of lectures, group discussions, practicing facilitation skills through presentations and role plays.

253 trainers from 19 districts covered by the Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS) have completed training at workshops held in Nakuru and Nairobi. The training equipped the participants with knowledge on the concept of volunteerism, inculcating the spirit of nationhood and nation building in the community, understanding conflict, conflict prevention, management and resolution, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, basic counseling and trauma healing, humanitarian support, human rights and gender mainstreaming, advocacy, wealth creation, self awareness and emotional intelligence, anger management, group dynamics and facilitation skills. Trainers for 16 districts, in Nyanza, Rift Valley and Mombasa were conducted from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 while the new trainers for Nairobi districts were trained from 7<sup>th</sup> TO 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2008.

The trainers are expected to go back to their respective districts where they will set up and implement a three day training programme for neighborhood volunteers, in conflict resolution and peace building, counseling, humanitarian response and early recovery.

The trainers were recruited from their respective districts on the basis of their qualifications after they responded to advertisements for the positions in the local press.

The districts that are yet to be covered by NVS include: Mombasa, Trans Nzoia East, Trans Nzoia West, Mt Elgon, Kwanza, Koibatek, Molo, Kisumu East, Kakamega Central, Kericho, Borabu, Kipkelion, Sotik, Lugari, Marakwet and Naivasha.

In Nairobi west East and North the project has been up scaled in some areas, and new areas identified. This include

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## NVS in Nairobi extended

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**“ The psycho-social Support aims to assist our community in healing psychological wounds and rebuilding our social structures after the trauma that people experienced during the post election**

The Implementation of the Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS) in Nairobi West, East and North Districts has been extended up to December 2008. UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma said there was need to extend the duration of the project so as to further mitigate the effects of the post election violence and consolidate the gains that have been made so far.

In Nairobi West District Kawangware and Kangemi locations will be included in the scheme. 15 neighborhood volunteers will be selected from each of the locations. In Nairobi North, the scheme has been extended for another 3 months in Huruma, while 23 new volunteers have already been recruited and are being trained for Mathare 4A location. In Nairobi East, 30 neighbourhood volunteers have been identified for Mukuru and Kayole location.

Mr. Chuma was speaking in Kibera after touring the NVS project in Nairobi West District which is implemented in Kibera.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize himself with the NVS project, meet the neighborhood volunteers and review the progress that they have made so far in promoting peace and reconciliation in their neighborhood.

“I am delighted to see that progress has been made and I urge you to continue welcoming people back to their homes because the period of violence is over. The community’s priority should be to restore order, peace and support for the restoration of people’s livelihood. “Mr. Chuma said while congratulating Kibera residents for their efforts to restore peace and order.

Kibera is an informal settlement situated in Nairobi’s South-Western peri-urban zone approximately seven kilometers from the Nairobi City Centre. It consists of villages covering approximately 4000 hectares of land with an estimated population of 800,000 people.

Kibera is densely populated by low income earners. 80% of the population is estimated to live below a dollar a day per household. It was one of the areas that was most affected by the violence that broke out in Kenya after the 2007 disputed elections. The EVS project was launched in Nairobi on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008 by former UNDP Resident Representative Ms Elizabeth Lwanga who has since retired.

The Resident Representative was introduced to the Kibera Community and neighborhood volunteers by UNV Country Coordinator, Ms Annet Mpambulungi – Wakabi. She expressed gratitude for the collaboration from the government through the provincial administration and the role being played by the volunteers “We recognize and appreciate that this project has laid a strong foundation for the establishing structured mechanisms of volunteering at the community level and we are counting on your experiences to inform the direction of national volunteering in Kenya” she said.

Nairobi West District Commissioner Mr. Evans Ogwankwa said the provincial administration would continue supporting the neighborhood volunteers and thanked UNDP and UNV for the decision to extend the mandate of NVS in Kibera. He added that they are now utilizing the energies of volunteers to promote peace and reconciliation. He said most camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been closed

and people have returned home which is an indication that life is getting back to normal.

The neighbourhood volunteers in Kibera have also initiated community dialogue forums. One of the volunteers Mr. Pius Otieno says the objective of the forums is to highlight the effects of post election violence. “We share experiences and emphasize the need for the people of Kibera to put their tribal and political differences aside so that peace can prevail in our community” he said.

The forums provide an opportunity for dialogue, debate, exchange of information and bridge-building among the ethnic communities. The results have been positive. At Toi Market for example 4,500 small traders, whose structures had been burnt down during the skirmishes are back to business, and their children are now attending school.

The neighborhood volunteers have also been engaged in psycho-social support for people who were severely traumatized by the violence in Kibera.” The psychosocial Support aims to assist our community in healing psychological wounds and rebuilding our social structures after the trauma that people experienced during the violence” Otieno said.

## EVS renamed NVS

The Emergency Volunteer Scheme (EVS) has been renamed **Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS)**. The move has been necessitated by the fact that the situation in Kenya following the post-election violence can no longer be considered as an emergency.

The implementation of the EVS and other measures put in place by the government, Non-Governmental Organizations NGOS, and Community based organizations CBOs, have been successful and the result has been a reduction of tensions within the affected areas, hence the decision to re-name the project **Neighbourhood volunteer scheme (NVS)**.



**Nakuru DC Mr. T.N Miiri presents certificates to neighborhood volunteers in Nakuru. He is assisted by Mr. Patrice Chiwota and Annet-Mpabulungi-Wakabi**

## UN Resident Coordinator visits Burnt Forest

UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Aeneas C. Chuma visited Burnt Forest to familiarize himself with the area and the work of neighborhood volunteers.

Mr. Chuma was briefed by the District Coordinator Mr. Wesley Chebii about the progress of the scheme. He later welcomed comments from the volunteers, who were represented by Mr. Yator.

The volunteers thanked the Resident Representative and his entourage for visiting burnt forest and extolled the good work that the NVs have undertaken since the launch of the program.

The volunteers requested that they be provided with training on basic counseling because they sometimes encounter horrific scenes and ugly incidences that are directly related to the post election violence.

The volunteers also cited the need for identification cards and

labeled field jackets to be given to NVs so that they can be identified by the community they are serving. This they said would detar imposters who have been masquerading as neighbourhood volunteers. "The NVs in Rurigi area were sometimes called imposters mainly because they did not have distinctive identification attire Mr. Yator said

Mr. Chuma expressed gratitude for the work of the NVs in the Burnt Forest Neighborhood. He underscored the need for all of them to be committed to the peace process. He added that he was happy with the composition of the NVs because they are drawn from all communities living in the area.

He was pleased that the NVs comprise of persons of talents. Some of the volunteers are athletes, comedians and singers. He asked them all to use their different talents for the sake of peace in the area.



**UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Aeneas Chuma with neighbourhood Volunteers in Burnt Forest, Uasingishu District**

## NVs District Training

Training of neighbourhood volunteers in 16 districts was held between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. According to NVS National lead trainer Ms Josphine Ouko training will not take place in the respective districts due to lack of training facilities and venues in some districts. The districts have now been conveniently merged so that districts that are within the same geographical region can train at one venue.

For example, training for neighborhood volunteers from Marakwet, Mt Elgon and Kwanza will be held in Kitale town while training for the volunteers in Kericho, Sotik and Kipkelion will be held in Kericho town

### First Aid Training

45 neighbourhood volunteers from Kibera have undergone First Aid training at YMCA hostels, in Nairobi. The volunteers underwent the training in three groups. The first group trained from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September, second group on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> while the last group trained from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. As the NVS continues to roll out, a continuous training approach shall be adopted, to further enhance the volunteer's skills in peace building, and reconciliation.

The training aims to provide volunteers with First Aid skills to enable them to contribute to the existing and emerging mechanisms of harnessing the community towards reconciliation, peace building, recovery and supplementing human resource capacity for delivery of humanitarian support

### What is NVS

In February 2008, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in collaboration with the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of state for Provincial Administration and internal security (National Steering Committee on peace building and conflict Management), and the Ministry for Special Programmes, initiated the Neighbourhood Volunteer Scheme (NVS) to respond to the challenges arising from the post - election crisis.

The scheme uses community members from within the affected areas to achieve its goals. The aim is to ensure that all those selected as volunteers see themselves as builders of their community, rather than spectators drawn to the periphery by the varying circumstances. The profile of volunteers includes: influential individuals that need to be transformed, influential opinion leaders that can inspire positive change and those who feel that they have been victimized.

Thus volunteers sourced from their own communities who are influential persons, youth leaders, retired professionals, etc will be central actors in the project. Communities will be charged with the responsibility to reconcile and build each other in the recovery process. Not only because they offer substantive knowledge and familiarity of the community set-up but because they also have a critical role in rebuilding their neighbourhood and the Kenya nation.

The focus at the community level also complements the national call and stance for self-healing amongst Kenyans hence bringing about national ownership, motivation and encouragement.

Before they start executing their mandate, all the neighborhood volunteers are taken through orientation, training and sensitization to prepare them for volunteer action in the areas of peace building and reconciliation, basic counseling, humanitarian support and early recovery.

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### Upcoming Events

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2008

**Event:** Launch of NVS in Kayole (Nairobi East District)

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2008

**Event:** Launch of NVS in Kangemi. (Nairobi West District)

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2008

**Event:** Launch of NVS in Kawangware (Nairobi West District)