



NOTE FROM THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM IN KENYA

The UN Kenya Country Team (UNCT) is composed of: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP, IOM, UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNIC, UNIFEM, UNODC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNON, WHO, ICAO, ILO and UN OCHA. Other UN bodies also attend; these include UNDP-Dry Lands, the Millennium Center, and the Bretton Woods institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Significant changes have taken place in the composition in the UN Kenya Country Team members in 2006 with the arrival of 9 new heads of agency.

The UNCT is currently in the process this year of developing their new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) that will run from the year 2009 to 2013. The next UNDAF will integrate the decisions of the High-level Coherence Panel Report on UN System Wide Coherence, “Delivering as One”, and as before focus on national development priorities as well as aligning itself with the Development Partners Kenya Joint Assistance Strategy that was launched in early September 2007.

The UN system in Kenya is working on several joint initiatives in the spirit of “Delivering as One”. Notable successes this year include the establishment and launch of the Joint UN Programme of Support on HIV/AIDS and the Joint UN Programme for Humanitarian Response and Disaster Management. There is ongoing work on a Joint Strategy for Sustainable Food Security; a Joint Strategy on Gender Equality; a Joint UN Initiative in Kibera Slum to improve the living conditions and to expand livelihood opportunities of the urban poor; and the setting up of an Integrated Information Management Network that links humanitarian and development information.

POLICY ENVIRONMENT

The Government of Kenya must be congratulated for the progress made in the following areas:

1. The current economic growth rate was recorded at 5.8% indicating a more robust economy in comparison to the 4.9% growth rate recorded in the previous year; the Central Bank of Kenya attributes this performance to improved macroeconomic stability, greater investor confidence and lower interest rates.
2. Its renewed commitment to address corruption; to enforce the rule of law; to improve the management of public resources; to address public safety law and order; and to implement public service reforms.
3. At the regional level special recognition must be made of Kenya’s role at the forefront of resolving regional conflicts, especially Sudan and the Somalia crisis.
4. On MDGs, Kenya is one of the four African countries that have piloted the Millennium Project since 2004. The country has also developed an Action Plan to mainstream the MDGs within the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation processes which have also been influenced by the collective and continuing advocacy of the UNCT. For example, the national health budget rose from 11 billion Kenya Shillings to 32 billion as a result of MDG based budgeting and planning.
5. Enactment of key legislation included:
 - The Sexual Offence’s Act, a milestone towards gender equality and protection.

- The Refugee Act now affirms Government's obligations and commitment to issues related to Refugees.
- The draft Deposit Taking Micro-finance Bill (2005), which is aimed at promoting access to credit by micro-enterprises and promoting a vibrant micro-credit financial system
- The Employment Policy which aims to remove the bottlenecks that continues to hinder employment growth in the country.
- The HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Bill, which provides measures for the prevention, management and control of HIV and AIDS, and also specifically deals with discriminatory Acts and policies.
- The Children Act which provides a legal framework for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children in Kenya.

UN IN KENYA COMMITMENTS

Following the opportunity for the UNCT to meet with the UN Secretary-General on 31 January 2007, the following commitments were made by the UNCT:

- To implement UN Reform in Kenya. As we begin to prepare for the next cycle of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, we will continue to strategically position the UN System in Kenya towards supporting national priorities and fostering cohesive and effective development and humanitarian interventions.
- To integrate the recommendations that will emerge from discussions of the High-level Coherence Panel Report on UN System Wide Coherence, "Delivering as One".
- To involve and include all our staff in the implementation of the High-level Coherence Panel Report, "Delivering as One", and the overall process of UN Reform
- To strengthen our collective efforts and work together for better productivity and efficient use of the limited resources with which we work today.
- To ensure gender balance in our management of UN agencies, and to ensure gender mainstreaming in our support to national development.