



United Nations  
**RWANDA**  
Unity in Diversity



# Partnering *with* Rwanda

Newsletter from the UN in Rwanda • Issue 9 • August 2009

## UN must invest in adolescent girls now

*Kigali 24th - 27th August:* "In many African countries, at least half of all women will become the sole support of their families by age 30," said Ms. Judith Bruce, from the population council at a recent workshop on adolescent reproductive health. According to Judith Bruce, during the next generation, a half of all



*Engaging group work*

African children will rely on their mothers; who were an impoverished girl a few years ago. Yet these girls are virtually invisible in programming. This is why investing in impoverished girls, especially very young adolescents and those who are married or out of school, is the key to achieve health development goals. This workshop was sponsored by UNFPA, and brought together participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. Most of these countries are among the poorest in the world and face rapid population growth.

## UNAIDS Executive Director learns from Rwanda

UNAIDS Executive Director Mr Michel Sidibé paid his first official visit to Rwanda from August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss support to AIDS in Rwanda in the context of the Delivering as One UN reform.

"I would like to congratulate the Government of Rwanda for the tremendous progress made in fighting HIV and AIDS in recent years", says Mr Sidibé. "With access to antiretroviral treatment

for persons living with HIV, covering about 70% of those in need, Rwanda has one of the highest coverage rates in sub-Saharan Africa. Rwanda's per capita expenditure on HIV/AIDS is also one of the highest in sub-Saharan Africa. The UN is proud to be a partner in this work", he adds. "Mr Sidibé's visit to Rwanda gives us a unique possibility to advocate for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to those affected by HIV, says Aurélien Agbénonci, UN Resident Coordinator in Rwanda. During his five days visit, Michel Sidibé visited several projects including the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services and other health services offered by Rwamagana Hospital, HIV and Tuberculosis services in Biryogo's health center and an association of former sex workers in Muhanga District. Michel Sidibé, met with high level officials of Rwanda including President Kagame and the First Lady of Rwanda Mrs Jeanette Kagame to interact on the UN support to Rwanda and learn from the Imbutu Foundation.



*UNAIDS Director with President Jorge Sampaio, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis and Aurélien Agbénonci, UN Resident Coordinator visiting health center with HIV and TB services*

## August Snapshot



*UNICEF Regional Director Elhadj Amadou Gueye Sy flanked by UNICEF Representative to Rwanda Joseph Foubmi and UN Resident Coordinator Aurelien Agbénonci*

### What's new?

**Dr Kekoura Kourama** UN-AIDS Country Coordinator to Rwanda left for a new posting in DRC. He is replaced by Dr Mbaye Amadou Moctar.

**Ms Solange Uwera** joined the Resident Coordinators Office as new Officer for Coordination of Non Resident Agencies. She can be reached on [solange.uwera@undp.org](mailto:solange.uwera@undp.org)

**Dr Jorge Sampaio**, former President of Portugal and UN Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis visited Rwanda and met the UN Country Team.

### Upcoming events

**15 - 18 September** - Joint UN - Government workshop on Communication for Development.

**19 - 21 October** - Global Delivering as One Pilot Conference in Kigali

# Unity in Diversity

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## Volunteerism plays a key role in development

"Volunteers are people with expertise and great hearts" who "are motivated by helping the community to make a difference" said Boniface Rucagu, the National Chairman of ITORERO, the UN Resident Coordinator a.i, Abdoulaye Balde and the VSO Chief Executive Officer Worldwide, Marg Mayne in their opening remarks of the 4th National Conference on Volunteering. The Conference aimed to sensitize government officials about the importance of volunteerism in

development with the view of creating a foundation for the establishment of a legal framework to promote and encourage volunteerism. All participants agreed that "volunteerism is a key role on development" and therefore, developing



*The workshop aimed at creating a legal framework to promote and encourage volunteerism.*

his Legal Framework will help to integrate the different kinds of volunteerism in the country and also to create new opportunities for Rwandan youth. "Volunteering is both an opportunity and an asset for development. It represents a tremendous resource for addressing many of the development challenges of our times" said the UN Resident coordinator a.i. The conference brought together government officials, the private sector, national and international volunteering organizations, development partners and participants from East and West Africa, mainly Kenya and Burkina who shared their countries experiences. The Conference was jointly organized by UNV Rwanda, VSO and Lov Rwanda.

## 17 new million USD for UN Rwanda

At the last Steering Committee for the Expanded Delivering as One Funding Window UN Rwanda's request was acknowledged with an additional 17.219 million US Dollars for 2009. A similar amount is expected for 2010. "These extra funds will be used to think out of the box to come up with initiatives where we can deliver differently. Our intention is to bring out the best in each agency to design a support where we really show that we are truly Delivering as One", says UN Resident Coordinator to Rwanda Aurélien Agbénonci.



*Aurélien Agbénonci uses fresh funds to think out of the box*

## One UN quote of the month

*"If there blows a wind of change some people build wind screens, others build wind mills."*

## Four resolutions adopted by the WHO Regional Committee

The fifty-ninth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa nominated a Regional Director and adopted four resolutions aimed at scaling up action



*WHO Regional Director addressed H.E. President Paul Kagame in the WHO Conference*

in areas that are key to improving the health situation in the Region. The session voted to re-nominate incumbent Regional Director, Dr Luis Gomes Sambo of Angola, to steer the affairs of WHO in the African Region for another five years. The Regional Committee also adopted resolutions on tackling drug resistance related to AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria; accelerating progress towards malaria elimination in the African Region, and strengthening outbreak preparedness and response in the context of the current influenza pandemic. The fourth resolution related to policy orientations on the establishment of centers of excellence for disease surveillance, public health laboratories, food and medicines regulation. The WHO Regional Committee for Africa took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009. The meeting has been attended at high level by President Paul Kagame who chaired the Opening Ceremony, the Director General of WHO, Dr Margaret Chan, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Mr Michel Sibidé, and Ministers of Health and Delegates from 46 Countries of the African Region.

Questions, comments or copies of this newsletter in pdf-format may be directed to: [rcoffice.rw@undp.org](mailto:rcoffice.rw@undp.org)

