



# Newsletter

UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

March 2016 Issue: featuring events from 2015 August - December

## A Message from the Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

*"Empowering individuals and societies to drive change towards Sustainable Development "*



*Mr. Mohamed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa discuss with colleagues on achievements and challenges by collectively reflecting on the previous biennium to further deliberate on improving programme delivery. © Masakazu Shibata*

Dear friends, colleagues, partners,

The year 2015 was a milestone for UNESCO, as the Organization celebrated **70 years** since its founding. Globally the year also marked the adoption of Paris Agreement on Climate Change at the 21st Conference of Parties, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNESCO will continue to work with Member States from East Africa to implement the agreed international objectives, with the Africa Union's Agenda 2063, especially the quality access to education for all and the critical role of science in accelerating Africa's development.

Of the many accomplishments last year, one should recall the increasing political stability in some the countries of Eastern Africa, allowing greater efforts, initiatives, projects, and eventually, growth.

Nevertheless, 2015 also witnessed tragic events revealing serious gaps that threaten the descent life of Africa citizens. Students, teachers, journalists, and civilians remain a target for terrorism.

In terms of education, the quality access to education was highlighted during the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Conference on Education post-2015 in Kigali to strengthen capacities of Member States in evidence-based planning and monitoring and evaluation. Also, the ICT Competency Framework for Teachers has been successfully piloted in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. Learning from these experiences, a regional colloquium on ICT and Teacher Training in Eastern Africa was organized in 2015 where regional and national priority interventions were identified.

In Natural Sciences, UNESCO continued to highlight the environmental and health impact of abandoned mines in Sub-Saharan African countries and to build institutional and professional capacities of policymakers and researchers on formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining; a regional workshop in Arusha, Tanzania culminated to a policy brief on the legalization and formalization of artisanal mining in the region.

In Social and Human Sciences, the first Management of Social Transformations Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern Africa countries was organized, adopting the Nairobi Declaration on Global Justice from 13 Eastern Africa countries.

Continuing with UNESCO's commitment to provide capacities to African Member States to better protect its underwater cultural heritage, a first technical workshop was organized involving cultural officials and experts from Eastern and Southern Africa. Participating policy makers and experts from the Member States, reaffirmed their commitment in the ratification and implementation of the UNESCO 2001 Convention. And as the only organization with the mandate to promote the right for information and freedom of expression, several capacity building initiatives were organized in Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan to address the issue of safety of journalists and impunity. UNESCO's Media Development Indicators have also been finalized in publishing in-depth assessments of the media environment in Madagascar and South Sudan

Finally, knowing that all of this could not be possible without efficient partnerships and mutual trust, we would like to thank all our partners and donors for another year of exceptional backup and continuous support to UNESCO.

We share with you in this issue a number of our office' memorable highlights, while we welcome together another year of special challenges and promising opportunities.

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# Quality Education for All

## Skills for Life in Somalia Improving Literacy Levels and Life Skills among Youth and Women



Adult learners participating the ILD event in Hargeisa ©UNESCO

Acquisition of literacy and life skills is important for the strengthening of inclusive, equitable and sustainable societies. In the framework of Skills for Life in Somalia Project funded by El Maktoum Foundation, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa is facilitating the development of a set of teaching and learning materials aimed at enhancing the quality of literacy education in Somalia. The learning materials include syllabi, teacher's guides and a learner's book for literacy, numeracy and a number of modules on life skills. [Read more...](#)

## Promoting Health and Sustainable Livelihood for Adolescent Girls in Kibera

UNESCO with the support of Government of Azerbaijan and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) are implementing a project to promote behavior change practices to improve health literacy among adolescent girls in Kibera. The project focuses on improving the effectiveness of the delivery of health information in classrooms to adolescent girls. Since the commencement of the project, a need assessment conducted during the month of September 2015, has been compiled and validated by the stakeholders including teacher and student representatives from Kibera. [Read more...](#)

## Fast-track Plan: UNESCO supports National Efforts to end HIV/AIDS among adolescents and youth in Kenya

UNESCO together with UNADIS, UNICEF, UNFPA and other health education stakeholders comprising of the technical working group for the National AIDS Control Council (NACC), developed an operational plan that could enhance fast track initiative to accelerate interventions among young people towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. The operational plan launched by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, is a revolutionary HIV/AIDS prevention roadmap that recommends evidence-informed combination approaches to avert 100,000 new infections in Kenya and AIDS related deaths among adolescents. [Read more...](#)

## Creating educational and professional training opportunities for out-of-school rural youth in Madagascar



UNESCO is strengthening the capacity of TVET sub-sector by providing trainings and creating educational opportunities for out-of school rural youth, accompanied by a participatory process under the National Policy of Employment and Professional Training (PNEFP) programme in Madagascar. © UNESCO

In the framework of the CAPEFA project, UNESCO and UNDP have been working together to build sustainable livelihoods programme for community resilience functional literacy and capacity building of vocational training centers in Madagascar. The intervention led to improved access to functional literacy services in concerned localities for youth in vulnerable situations, and strengthening of the technical and teaching skills of trainers. [Read more](#)

## Rwanda World Teachers' Day Celebration: Empowering teachers in building sustainable societies



Rwandan teacher engages with students for quality of education ©UN in Rwanda

The World Teachers' Day celebrations in Rwanda were conducted in all the 416 administrative sectors in the country. While quality teachers have always remained at the heart of quality education, there have been gaps in the provision of quality education due to less empowered teachers. In this regard, the Ministry of Education has reaffirmed the government's commitment to improve the delivery of quality education to create a more enabling environment for teaching and learning. [Read more...](#)

## Solar electrification program lights up rural schools in Madagascar



Mr. Mohamed Djelid UNESCO Regional Director for Eastern Africa accompanied by his team in Madagascar and Mr Osman Benchikh, Chief of the Section on Innovations and Capacity Strengthening for Science and Engineering. © UNESCO

Within the United Nations framework for an "International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All" 2014-2024, UNESCO has implemented a solar electrification program of rural schools by mobilizing both international and national communities. This initiative was supported by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the Panasonic Company. The project brought lighting to classrooms and school playgrounds through installments for solar panels in five different regions of Madagascar. Internet facilities were also installed to promote the use of ICT in the classrooms. [Read more...](#)

## A platform for knowledge transfer and capacity building: Second International Indian Ocean Expedition



Waves rushing to shore in the East African coast. Ocean waves are caused by wind moving across the surface of the water. The friction between the air molecules and the water molecules causes energy to be transferred from the wind to the water, also having impacts to global climate. ©Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

The Third Western Indian Ocean Planning meeting for the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2) was organized by UNESCO-IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA) in Catembe, Mozambique. The meeting gathered ocean experts from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Reunion, Seychelles, South Africa, and Tanzania. The meeting organized research projects under the IIOE-2 science priorities, and ways of enhancing participation of member states from the region. [Read more...](#)

## Sustainably managing Africa's natural resources through the formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining in Eastern and Southern Africa



Mining stakeholders examine the Merelani Tanzanite Mine, an ASM site near Arusha as part of the UNESCO-SIDA funded project "Mapping and Assessing the Environmental and Health Impacts of Abandoned Mines in Sub-Saharan African Countries" © Hyemin Lee/UNESCO

Key players representing main mining countries in Africa shared their experiences and lessons learnt on how to formalize the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) activities so as to transform the sector into a vibrant tool for local sustainable development. The discussions were held at the workshop organized by UNESCO on 2-5 September 2015 in Arusha, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) as part of the UNESCO-SIDA funded project "Mapping and Assessing the Environmental and Health Impacts of Abandoned Mines in Sub-Saharan African Countries". [Read more...](#)

# Inspiring Youth in STEM for Gender Equality

Inspiring girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in Kenya



Students visited the Department of Applied Physical Sciences and Industrial Chemistry at Maseno University, and took part in its laboratory exercises, where the Dean together with female researchers participated by mentoring the students ©Masakazu Shibata

UNESCO's Scientific Camp of Excellence aims to increase female enrolment into engineering and applied science courses to increase women's participation in science-based professions. In the Camp, students were introduced to women scientists and engineers who serve as role models across multiple science-based disciplines, such field included experts in ocean science, aerospace engineering, bio-chemistry, agro-forestry and telecommunications. By interacting with the role models, students received not only mentorship on STEM, but also on life skills and survival techniques affecting women and girls in schools and workplace. Over 100 students were mentored at Kisumu Girls High, including 20 teachers from a gender responsive perspective. [Read more...](#)

Africa Engineering Week shows that it's cool to be an engineer in Kenya



Secondary school students from across Nairobi undertake a STEM orientation at the School of Engineering of the University of Nairobi. © Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

On the occasion of the Africa Engineering Week, UNESCO in partnership with Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and the University of Nairobi, organized a 3-day mentoring event to advocate for future engineers and their role for sustainable development. UNESCO strongly believes the important role that engineers play for a secure and sustainable future. The event was designed to encourage girls and boys to pursue engineering studies and inform them of career opportunities in the STEM fields. The mentoring session provided secondary school students to interact with engineering professors from various STEM fields and students at University of Nairobi. [Read more...](#)

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## Women in Science: Empowering African girls to be the next generation of STEM leaders in Kenya



High school girls for USA and eight African countries participating to the UNESCO YouthMobile mobile app training ©Her2Voice

The three weeks training in Computer Science, Robotics, and Design/Art/Culture brought together a diverse group of 30 female American high school students and 90 African students from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. A strong gender imbalance exists internationally, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, in regards to women's presence in the STEM fields. Given the rapid expansion of IT in Africa, UNESCO believes that by targeting young women and providing them with the necessary 21st century skillset they will become powerful agents of change to achieve gender equality. In partnership with the Rwandan NGO Her2voice, UNESCO also conducted a 1-day mobile app training consisting of a mobile apps development to further develop the awareness that mobile computing power can be used for directly addressing challenges faced by young people challenges and problems faced by their local communities. [Read more...](#)

# Social Inclusion and Transforming Societies

African Cities and UNESCO fights against all forms of discrimination



Nada Al-Nashif, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment, within the context of its International Coalition of Cities against racism (ICCAR), to continue working closely with African cities to fight against all forms of discrimination. ©UNESCO

UNESCO in partnership with the City of Durban, South Africa, and under the auspices of UNESCO's International Coalition of Cities against Racism (ICCAR), organized a panel discussion entitled "Global Solidarity for Diversity, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination", to examine issues of racism, discrimination and xenophobia in cities worldwide during the 7th Africities Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 1 December, 2015. Nada Al-Nashif, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment, within the context of its ICCAR, to continue working closely with African cities to fight against all forms of discrimination. She particularly lauded the leadership of the City of Durban, and their efforts to keep the ideals and aspirations of the Coalition alive. "UNESCO will accompany you every step of the way" as we all work towards creating a world that is truly "inclusive, fair and underpinned by universal principles of solidarity, social justice and human rights". [Read more...](#)

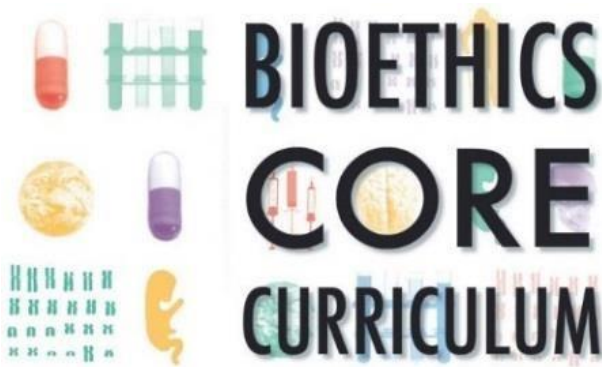
UNESCO Clubs movement: Promoting UNESCO ideals of peace and sustainable development in Kenya



Professor Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MoEST, Kenya and Mr. Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director celebrates the cake cutting for the renewed UNESCO Club movement. ©Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

UNESCO and Kenya National Commission for UNESCO has revitalized the Kenya Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association (KEFUCA) during the sensitization workshop on 13-14 October, 2015 at Kenya School of Monetary Studies. Representatives from MoEST, World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association, U.S Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Association, National Cohesion Integration Commission, patrons from high schools and universities, university student leaders and high school students also joined the event. UNESCO Clubs movement demonstrates how ordinary citizens can influence decision-makers in promoting UNESCO ideals of peace and sustainable development. The UNESCO Clubs consist of groups of volunteers of all ages and socio-professional status who advocate UNESCO ideals. UNESCO Clubs support UNESCO priorities by using community experiences, skills and outlook to foster peace and sustainable development. [Read more...](#)

Ethics Education in Africa: Progress in the life sciences is giving human beings new power to improve our health and control the development processes of all living species



UNESCO Ethics Teachers' Training Courses offers a unique opportunity for participants in the region to enhance their teaching and professional capacities in Bioethics and Ethics. ©UNESCO

Two Ethics Teachers' Training Courses (ETTC) were held in Eastern and Southern Africa. The ETTC offered a unique opportunity for participants to enhance their teaching and professional capacities in Bioethics and Ethics by advancing pedagogical capacity for ethics teaching and improving the quality of ethics education, using UNESCO's normative instruments. [Read more...](#)

# Protecting Our Heritage and Fostering Creativity

## Promoting the World's Underwater Cultural Heritage in Africa



Experts and cultural officials from across Africa gather at the historical Mombasa shipyard to reflect on underwater heritage management mechanism. © A. Rey /UNESCO

Continuing with UNESCO's commitment to provide capacities to African Member States to better protect their underwater cultural heritage, UNESCO, together in partnership with the National Museum of Kenya organized the first UNESCO training workshop that took place in Africa from 10 to 20 December 2015 in Mombasa, Kenya, following up on the two previous trainings which was held in Turkey for the African Member States respectively in 2011 and 2015. Cultural officials and experts from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa took part in the training. The course ran for a period of 10 days combining theoretical classes with practical sessions. It followed the training schemes and standards collected in the UNESCO Foundation Course Manual on the Protection and Management of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO Manual for Activities directed at Underwater Cultural Heritage.

[Read more...](#)

## Adoption of African World Heritage Day

The 38th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a resolution proclaiming May 5th as African World Heritage Day, in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of UNESCO's decision to create the African World Heritage Fund. This Resolution, in line with UNESCO's Priority Africa programme, is aimed to increase international awareness of African heritage by fostering cooperation at local, regional, and global levels. [Read more...](#)

## Climate Change the Conversation



Together with Alliance Française, the Goethe-Institut, UNESCO launched a documentary and a music video seeking to reframe the complexity of climate change and motivating individual and collective action towards taking measures to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change. The documentary 'Climate: change the conversation' weaves together extracts from the multidisciplinary performance presented in June (that used live music, theatre, spoken word, multi-media and installation art to raise awareness on climate change) with expert interviews and practical solutions and strategies being implemented in Kenya to tackle climate change. [Read more...](#)

## 70 Years Later - Atomic Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki Exhibition at the UN Headquarters in Africa



Students from Kenyatta University visiting the exhibition folds an origami paper crane to relay their wish for world peace ©Masakazu Shibata/UNESCO

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations at the end of the second World War, it also marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945 and on Nagasaki, three days later. In commemorating this occasion, UNESCO in partnership with sister agencies from the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) have organized a temporary poster exhibition entitled 'the 70 Years Later - Atomic Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki' at the main lobby of the UN compound from 6-10 August 2015. The event was also supported by the Embassy of Japan in Kenya, the city of Nagasaki and Nagasaki University. [Read more...](#)

## Taking the Qingdao Declaration forward: Seizing digital opportunities in East Africa



Mr Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director, Mr Juan Ignacio Ponelli, President of POSITIVO BGH Africa and Ms Patti Swarts, Director of Programs from GESCI discuss regional trends in ICT in education policies ©Xue Li/UNESCO

UNESCO held a Colloquium on ICT and Teacher Training in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2015. The Colloquium concretizes the principles of the 2015 Qingdao Declaration in Eastern Africa, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on Education, and SDG 9 on Innovation. The event brought together over 80 representatives from five countries as well as IGOs, NGOs, foundations, and the private sector. [Read more...](#)

## Strengthening capacities of local community radios in Rwanda with ICTs

UNESCO organized 2 two-day workshops in Kigali, Rwanda and Kampala, Uganda to lay the foundation for support to four local radio stations in the country. The workshops aimed at community radio practitioners contributed to reconfirm priority needs, mobilizing local involvement and leadership while strategizing for the smooth running of the project. The project will be implemented from 2015-2017 in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. [Read more...](#)

## ICT competencies for teaching staff at the University of Djibouti

UNESCO supported the University of Djibouti in establishing an ICT Competency Framework for teaching staff. A two-day workshop was held in order to align higher education initiatives in ICT with the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers to determine priority training needs of the teaching staff in ICT and to plan for the establishment of an online course for the teaching staff on ICT integration in Education. [Read more...](#)

## African countries to develop national policies to adopt Open Educational Resources (OER)

UNESCO organized a two-day regional seminar to spearhead the development and implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) policies for Kenya, Ghana, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Djibouti. The regional seminar was aimed at ensuring the various member states understand the potentials of OER to achieve Education 2030 and harness policies towards its implementation. [Read more...](#)

## Africa Forum: Building capacities of visually impaired African students



More than 400 participants from over 50 countries participated to discuss means for persons with disabilities to access to information and knowledge. ©UN Photo/Albert González Farran

The 6th Africa Forum, organized by international development partners to empower Africans who are blind and visually impaired, took place in Kampala, Uganda, from 4 to 8 October 2015. "Beyond 2015: Delivering on the Agenda for Persons with Visual Impairment in Africa" was the theme of the Forum, which brought together 400 participants from over 50 countries. The event offered a good opportunity to sensitize participants on the importance of digital inclusion to empower persons with disabilities and the possibilities that it may offer to access information and knowledge. [Read more...](#)

## African Ministerial officials reiterate calls for a strong PUSH: ICT and Quality Education

UNESCO and UNESCO IICBA organized a session entitled 'ICT Innovations for Building African Teaching Capacity' during Innovation Africa 2015 in Kampala, Uganda with the goal of discussing the importance of teacher training in rolling out ICT in Education initiatives. The session was attended by over 60 participants, including: Hon. Ministers of DRC, South Africa, Uganda, and Ministerial staff from a number of countries. [Read more...](#)

## Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development: The 8th Kenya Internet Governance Forum

The 8th Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KIGF) was organized by Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) in cooperation with Kenya Network Information Center (KENIC), Telecommunications Association of Kenya (Tespok) and UNESCO. Over 120 participants took part in the forum where experts from their respective fields discussed on the concept of multi-stakeholder cooperation in building inclusive knowledge societies, cyber-security, internet economy and Internet governance that are all pertinent to the proliferation of socio-economic, political, cultural development for Kenya. [Read more...](#)

# Do you know about?

## Muzibu Azaala Mpanga - Royal burial grounds



*Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi. @Lazare Eloundou Assomo, UNESCO*

## UNESCO World Heritage Property in Danger

The Kingdom of Buganda, once the largest of all the traditional kingdoms in East Africa, bears an eloquent witness to the living cultural traditions of present day Uganda. The Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi cover almost 30 ha of hillside within Kampala. Most of the site is agricultural, and the hilltop is the former palace of powerful King Muteesa I, built in 1882 and converted into a royal burial ground when he died in 1884. Four royal tombs now lie within the *Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga*, the main building, which is a masterpiece of Ganda traditional architecture.

*Muzibu Azaala Mpanga. @Sébastien Moriset, CRA-terre*



After the fire in 2010 the main building of Muzibu Azaala Mpanga was completely destroyed, which led to the monument being inscribed on the [World Heritage List in Danger](#). UNESCO mobilized the international community to help safeguard and renovate both tangible and intangible aspects of this unique cultural monument of [Outstanding Universal Value](#). With the financing of a Japan Funds-in-Trust project to UNESCO for 'Technical and financial assistance, the reconstruction work is currently taking place. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.



*Chief drummer Kawuula playing at Drumm house. Most of the drums are more than hundred years old, only the skin has been changed. @Sébastien Moriset, CRA-terre*

The site is the major spiritual centre for the Baganda where traditional and cultural practices have been preserved. The Kasubi Tombs are the most active religious place in the kingdom, where rituals are frequently performed. The site represents a place where communication links with the spiritual world are maintained. [Read more...](#)

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