

Kenya Red Cross Society Plants Tree Seedlings in Garissa and Mombasa.

Tuesday, 15 November 2016, Daadab, Garissa County, Kenya. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) through Sustainable Environment Restoration Programme (SERP), mobilised community members and humanitarian agencies -including the UNHCR, to plant a total of 12,500 indigenous tree seedlings on IFO2 refugee camp in Daadab, Garissa County.

The exercise that took place on Friday, 11 November 2016, saw community members both from the host and refugee communities come together for a common cause turning up in the thousands.

“This is a noble cause that has enabled us, educate, mobilise and create awareness around environmental issues especially tree growing,” said Sahal Abdi, Head of Refugee Operation, KRCS, Daadab.

“This activity has brought together not just the community members, but humanitarian agencies working in Daadab, to participate in an activity they consider very important,” Sahal added.

Growing trees is a key component under SERP with the programme aiming to plant, nurture and sustain a total of 2.5 billion trees and wood shrubs in Kenya by the year 2020.

“We are targeting the degraded ecosystem, said Dr. Halima Saado, KRCS Programme Manager, Environment and Climate Change Adaptation. In the case of Daadab, this was a forest 20 years back, we want to restore it to what it was before,” Dr. Halima added.

The exercise was carried out on a twenty hectares piece of land on the new green belt site in Daadab’s IFO2 Refugee Camp.

“We are glad and impressed that the Kenya Red Cross Society has taken up the lead in restoring the environment,” said Abdi Nassir, Chairman Daadab host community. “Degradation of the environment has been a source of conflict between the refugee and the host community and this will go a long way in curbing that,” Abdi Nassir added.

KRCS targets to plant 39,500 more indigenous tree seedlings in Dadaab before the end of the month, bringing the total number of tree seedlings projection to 52,000.

A similar exercise was also carried out in Mombasa and Garissa University where 5000 and 7000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted respectively.

For Editors

SERP is an initiative developed by KRCS, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRC). It was launched in 2014 with the overall goal of contributing to the



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achievement of a sustainable natural environment in the country. The crowning jewel of the program will be the planting, nurturing and sustenance of 2.5 billion trees and wood shrubs by 2020.

This initiative will contribute immensely to the attainment of Kenya Vision 2030 as well as increase capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change, combat desertification, guarantee water, food security and livelihoods.

The SERP initiative has four components: Tree growing and restoration of water catchment and river basins; Waste management; Climate information and early warning systems; and Public awareness and education on environmental issues and practices.

For more information and updates on SERP, please visit the SERP website on www.serp.or.ke

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