

### **Kenya Red Cross Society Launches a Waste Management Project in Daadab.**

**Monday, 28 November 2016.** Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (ICRC) launched a pilot project on Waste Management, on Friday, 25 November 2016, in Daadab.

The three main objectives of this project include: Establishing a functional waste return scheme system that will facilitate the collection and recycling of plastics that find their way into Dadaab, Establish a strong community plastic waste recycling program that will contribute to a healthy and united community and improve community's livelihoods through creation of employment and income generation.

To officiate the launch was the Secretary General KRCS, Dr. Abass Gullet and the Head of the Regional Delegation, ICRC, Thierry Meyrat.

“This project will go a long way in improving the overall health and environment in Daadab and at the same time create job opportunities for the youth in the area,” Said Dr. Abbas Gullet, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society.

Effective and sustainable waste management is lacking for the local community in Daadab. Polythene bags along the road side is often a sight you encounter when one travels to the north eastern counties.

“One often sees trees covered in polythene bags, a sight that is not pleasant for individuals passionate about the environment,” said Dr. Halima Saado, KRCS Programme Manager, Environment and Climate Change Adaptation. “With this project, a lot of that should change especially in the project areas,” Dr. Halima added.

Despite the existing traditional approach to solid waste management within the communities in Daadab, waste management still remains a great challenge. Community members use methods like burring and burning which are done after a period of time. More often, dump sites are left uncovered and pose a great health threat to people and domestic animals living around these areas.

The bulk of the waste is non-biodegradable and remains in the environment for years in more or less the original form. Plastic bag in particular don't biodegrade, they instead photodegrade meaning they break down into smaller toxic bits that are released into the soil.

“With proper segregation and recycling system, significant quantity of plastic wastes can be recovered and converted into a useful resource that could be utilized to generate revenue.” said Dr. Halima Saado,

Two plastic waste collection points and recycling units have been set up at with a shredder in place. The shredded waste materials will be sold to Premier Industries in Nairobi. Ten community members; six from the host community and four from the refugee community were selected and trained on basic plastic waste recycling skills including the operation of the Shredder.



## Press Release

### **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 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 namely: 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](http://www.serp.or.ke)

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