



One World in partnership with the United Nations Regional Information Centre

invites you to the screening of

"Good Fortune"

as part of

One World Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

Tuesday, 13 April 2010, 6:30 p.m.



The film will be followed by a Q & A session with

- *Simon Panek (Executive Director, People in Need)*
- *Jean Bakole (Director, UN Habitat, Brussels)*

Moderated by Scott Hudson (Coordinator, One World, Brussels)

Short Synopsis

Good Fortune explores how massive international efforts to alleviate poverty in Africa may be undermining the very communities they aim to benefit. Through intimate portraits of two Kenyans battling to save their homes from large-scale development organizations, the film presents a unique opportunity to experience foreign aid through the people it is intended to benefit.



In the rural countryside, Jackson's farm is being flooded by an American investor who hopes to alleviate poverty by creating a multi-million dollar rice farm. Across the country in Nairobi, Silva's home and business in Africa's largest shantytown are being demolished as part of a United Nations slum-upgrading project.

Interweaving meditative portraits of its characters, *Good Fortune* examines the real-world impact of international aid. With a broad scope and intimate style, the film portrays gripping stories of human perseverance and suggests that the answers for Africa lie in the resilience of its people.

www.transientpictures.com

Landon Van Soest, Director/Producer

Van Soest began his career in New York with Big Mouth Productions during production of the breakout NBC documentary *Deadline*, *Arctic Waltz* and *Election Day*. He gained experience in television documentaries for PBS, National Geographic, and TLC at Engle Brothers Media before going on to work in Original Programming at the Sundance Channel. Van Soest holds a degree in Non-Fiction Film Production from Ithaca College and has completed extensive research on economic development in East Africa with the School for International Training. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in the Creative and Performing Arts to begin production of *Good Fortune* and has spent over two years living in Kenya and working closely with the film's subjects.



Van Soest is director/producer of the award-winning film *Walking the Line*, a feature documentary about "vigilantes" along the U.S.-Mexico border that has been lauded for excellence in production and advocating human rights. The film has screened at film festivals around the world and received national broadcast in six countries.

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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL	

Under the auspices of Jerzy Buzek, the President of the European Parliament, Václav Havel, the former President of the Czech Republic, and Milena Vicensová, the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the European Union.

Between **April 12 - 19, 2010**, One World International Documentary Film Festival and Watch Docs Film Festival, in collaboration with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the European Union; People in Need; the Human Rights Film Network; the Human Rights and Democracy Network; the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts; UNRIC; and the Festival des Libertés, are holding the **4th edition of One World Brussels**.

One World Brussels is giving the general public and invited guests the opportunity to see a selection of the best new documentary films over six days of screenings. The festival opened on April 12th with a screening of the new Iranian documentary *Green Days* by 21 year old Iranian director Hana Makhmalbaf at the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts and will be followed by daily screenings at the Bozar, the Permanent Representation to the Czech Republic, two screenings at the United Nations Regional Information Centre and - for the first time - a day of screenings at the European Parliament. Every screening will be followed by either Q & A sessions with filmmakers or panel discussions with expert policy makers and members of the international NGO community.

In 2010, the films screened at **One World Brussels** will be judged by a jury for the first time to compete for the honour of best film. The prestigious group will include Nicolas Rougy from the Club of Madrid; Catherine Absalom from the International Federation for Human Rights; Martin Demirovski from the Open Society Institute; Willy Fautré from Human Rights Without Frontiers, and Bernard Verschueren from Protection International.

www.oneworld.cz/2010/brussels

People in Need (PIN) is a Czech organization that provides relief aid and development assistance, while working to defend human rights and democratic freedom. At home, People in Need administers social integration programs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and provides informative and educational activities. PIN is one of the largest organizations of its kind in post-communist Europe, and has administered projects in thirty-seven countries over the past fourteen years.



PIN began in 1992 when dissidents and leaders of the Czechoslovak Velvet Revolution teamed with conflict journalists to form the Epicentrum Foundation, renamed People in Need and partnered with Czech Public Service Television 1994. From its beginnings, PIN has aimed to deliver relief aid and development assistance while raising the public's level of awareness of the countries in which PIN works. Over fourteen years, PIN has developed many public awareness campaigns aimed at providing independent and unbiased information for journalists, opinion makers and the general public. Through campaigns, information projects and media supplements PIN believes it is possible to support an informed and empowered civil society both at home and abroad.

www.peopleinneed.cz

UN HABITAT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

NAIROBI, 17/09/2009

Tears of joy as Nairobi slum dwellers move

John Kiarie was ecstatic. For the first time in his life he was going to live in a self contained house with running water and electricity.

"I never imagined that I would one day live in a house like this. Just imagine, my wife and I will no longer have to share one room with my children and now I will have running water and electricity," he enthused.

Mr. Kiarie was one of the 1,300 people who moved from slum shacks to modern apartments built in partnership between the government of Kenya and UN-HABITAT. The scheme under the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme saw residents of one part of Kibera slums move to new high rise flats.

Kenya's Prime Minister who is also the area member of parliament Raila Odinga, also shared in his constituents' joy saying that it was the beginning of good things to come.

"Absence of decent housing means abundance of other problems. Today, we take the first step towards meeting the basic needs and rights of slum dwellers and saying no to slum related problems. This is an initial step towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals," said Mr. Odinga while helping some of the residents move their meager belongings.

Odinga was all praises for UN-HABITAT saying the agency had made what once appeared a distant dream, a reality.

Moving from their one room shacks to modern houses was a huge leap in the lives of the slum dwellers. To make the deal even sweeter, the residents will be charged only about 20 US dollars a month for their new houses, an unheard of bargain in Nairobi where rents are usually exorbitant.

Kibera is situated 5 Km Southwest of the city of Nairobi, within the city boundaries. It is the largest informal settlement in Sub-Saharan Africa. An estimate of the total population in the settlement ranges from 500,000 to 800,000 inhabitants: densities of over 3000 people per hectare, make it one of the most densely populated informal settlements in the world.

The prevailing conditions in Kibera, include a lack of basic urban services like water supply, sanitation, solid waste management as well as power and roads. It is such problems which the ongoing slum upgrading project seeks to address. As Kiarie and his fellow beneficiaries declared, "this is the best thing we have ever seen and we are forever grateful to the government and UN-HABITAT."

As trucks loaded with household goods slowly made their way to the new houses, residents perched on top sang their hearts out. "We are going to Canaan, the promised Land," they sang alluding to the biblical story of how Israelites moved to a new land.

NAIROBI, 13/04/2010:

UN-HABITAT slum upgrading activities in Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

UN-HABITAT is working in Kibera within the framework of the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme, which is a collaborative initiative set up in 2004 between the Government of Kenya and UN-HABITAT. This collaboration aims to improve the livelihoods of people living and working in Kenya's slums, through provision of security of tenure and physical and social infrastructure, as well as opportunities for housing improvement and income generation.

UN-HABITAT recognizes the need to work in partnership with all urban actors which have a stake in slum upgrading for meaningful interventions (e.g. national and local government, civil society, local communities, private sector, and donor community). The national government's commitment is an essential ingredient for the success of any slum upgrading intervention and the Government of Kenya is one of the few governments in Africa that acknowledges the real importance of slum upgrading. It has consequently formulated a specific slum upgrading strategy and established a dedicated national fund that are in line with national policies on poverty reduction and the global Millennium Development Goals. The involvement of the local communities is also crucial for a successful intervention, as only they know what they need, and only they can guarantee programme ownership and sustainability.

Kibera, situated within the city boundaries of Nairobi, is the second largest informal settlement in Africa, with a total area of 256 hectares and an estimated population of 600.000-1.000.000 inhabitants. The settlement is characterized by lack of basic urban services and infrastructure, including water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, adequate housing and roads.

The construction of low-cost housing is only a small component of the major work that UN-HABITAT is executing in Kibera in partnership with the Government of Kenya, the Nairobi City Council, the Settlement Executive Committee (the community planning body), other international institutions, and local organizations. Since 2007, UN-HABITAT is implementing the Kibera Integrated Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure project in Soweto East (one of Kibera's 12 villages or districts), which has an estimated population of 70,000. It aims to improve the livelihoods of people living in Soweto East by supporting small-scale, community-based initiatives in water, sanitation and waste management, and by providing basic services, infrastructure, housing improvement and capacity building. The local community has been fully involved in the project which demonstrates that slum dwellers can take responsibility for their living conditions, and that their contribution is essential in finding lasting solutions.

The project is guided by the following principles:

- Improving water and sanitation conditions through the provision of storm water drains and the construction of seven communal water and sanitation facilities. Additionally, seven facility management groups have been set up and capacity building activities are being conducted for these groups to facilitate the management of the facilities that have been put in place. The facilities were built using community based-labour force and are connected to sewer and water lines, with a ten thousand liter storage tank
- Improving solid waste management through the provision of small-scale door-to-door waste collection and recycling services. A utility bicycle workshop was set up in Soweto East for the design, production, and sale of load-carrying bicycles to be used for the development of self-sustaining solid waste management and water vending businesses and enterprises.
- Improving mobility within Soweto East, by constructing a low-volume road with storm drains and pedestrian walkways. The road upgrade is already facilitating public transport, improving access of fire engines and emergency services previously unable to enter the slum. The road upgrade is in line with the master plan of the Department of Physical Planning in the Ministry of Lands that was subject to wide consultations with Kibera residents. In order to smoothly relocate the families living within the road reserve, a relocation committee was established

by the community representatives.

- Providing household power connections in conjunction with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company. Electricity was extended to 1,000 units in Soweto East.
- Establishing a community and youth resource centre, which will house a satellite one-stop youth centre, a dispensary for small children, a rehabilitation facility for children with disabilities and an additional communal water and sanitation facility.
- Strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of selected key target community groups by conducting training courses. For instance, a Kibera-wide youth training in low-cost construction and carpentry is ongoing.
- Ensuring the formation and registration of housing cooperatives. Most of urban poor are excluded from access to conventional housing finance that would allow them to purchase their own houses, as such finance does not allow for incremental, self-help housing solutions. The finance companies also do not promote rental housing, which represents a large part of effective demand. The cooperative housing approach has a key role in helping to respond to this situation and the cooperative members are very active in saving towards housing ownership.
- Supporting the design and construction of low-cost houses for the residents of Soweto East. To facilitate the upgrading of a portion of Soweto East village and the construction of the new houses, 1,000 families have been relocated to the temporary housing facilities built by the Government at the decanting site, near Soweto East. The relocation was facilitated and supported by a relocation committee established by the community representatives. The families are currently paying a subsidized rent of Kshs 500/unit/month (Euro 5). The architectural designs of the development plan for Soweto East and the new housing units was approved by the community and the detailed designs are being developed for actual implementation. The new plan includes: three community centres, 1 commercial center, 1,300 housing units, infrastructure development, high rise/mixed development.

For more information, please contact: *Graham Alabaster, Chief, Section I, Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi, Kenya* graham.alabaster@unhabitat.org

or

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