PRESS RELEASE

UNFCU STAFF MEMBER ORGANIZES MT. KILIMANJARO CLIMB TO ENCOURAGE SAFER ENVIRONMENTS WITHIN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

The term “moving mountains” is often used as a figure of speech. However, Tim Challen, a UNFCU Member Service Representative from the Geneva Representative Office, is literally taking on the phrase by raising awareness about crime in East African communities and empowering individuals to affect positive change -- for themselves and for their neighborhoods. To this end, Tim has received support from UN-HABITAT, UNEP, NGOs and local authorities in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam to launch the Kilimanjaro Initiative.

Specifically, from 25 February through 1 March 2006, Tim will be leading 35 climbers to the summit of Africa’s highest peak. The goal: raise funds to support several new community-based crime prevention projects which are part of UN-HABITAT’s local Safer Cities Programme.

A Personal Mission

Nearly three years ago while working in Nairobi, Tim sustained serious gunshot wounds to his left leg during an armed robbery. Since then, he decided to channel his energies into bringing attention to some of the problems facing East Africa’s cities and combating the underlying causes of crime via the Safer Cities Programme. Launched in 1996, Safer Cities is creating a culture of safe urban environments across Africa and is comprised of youths, community groups and local law enforcement officials as well as the private sector.

Symbolically, 10 young people from disadvantaged areas in Kenya and Tanzania will join Tim, staff members from UN-Habitat, UNEP, additional UN agencies, UNFCU, as well as Michael J. Connery Jr., president and CEO of the credit union, on the climb to the “Rooftop of Africa.” General Sarakikiya, a retired Tanzanian general and diplomat who was the first to plant the Tanzanian flag on the mountain’s summit following his country’s independence, will escort the team up the Marangu Route.

“I wanted to help make East African communities safer places in which to live,” says Mr. Challen, who has long had a dream to reach the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, a 5,896-meter high sleeping volcano. “If this climb can inspire one person not to give up on their dreams and to believe that their life can improve, I feel our climb will have succeeded,” adds Challen, who hopes to raise US$50,000 through donations to further Safer Cities.

Funds generated from the climb will support grassroots projects, including the renovation of a soccer field in Kibera, Nairobi which is currently a hotspot for crime; start-up small businesses run by youths with ensuing profits going towards establishing nightly, neighborhood patrols, thereby deterring crime; and a water project in Kiluvya Ward Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam whose sales will help fund a security-watch group.
UN-Habitat, which helped select the young people for the challenge, will also oversee the distribution of funds for the various projects.

“This is the first effort of its kind on behalf of Safer Cities and we are proud to work with Tim and UNFCU to continue to strengthen civic responsibility within communities, engage youth and prevent crime,” said Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. “The climb represents a mission of hope and a true lesson in overcoming adversity.”

Said Eric Falt, Director of Communications for UNEP and Director of the UN Information Centre: "Most people would have reacted negatively to the kind of trauma experienced by Tim when he first visited Nairobi. Under these circumstances, it takes intellectual courage and intelligence to understand the root causes of crime and poverty, and Tim has turned this defining event in his life into an inspired leadership initiative."

Climb Embraces UN Goals
The launch of the Kilimanjaro Initiative in November 2005 coincided with the UN International Year of Sport, Development and Peace Conference – itself a prime mover in enhancing safe spaces through sports and youth development. A major focus of the climb is to encourage youth leadership through sport. To this end, UNFCU has donated funds to sponsor Outward Bound Training to prepare the youths for the physical and mental demands of the ascent. Additionally, UNFCU will be picking up the cost of equipment, lodging and travel expenses for them to participate.

“UNFCU staff, management and our Board of Directors supports Tim’s remarkable climb and his ability to transform a harmful experience into building hope and a brighter future for others,” said Mr. Connery. “In taking up Tim’s cause, we are also realizing the Credit Union spirit of ‘People Helping People’ and furthering our commitment to the UN and UN agency communities in East Africa.”

Sponsorship
To assist Tim’s fundraising efforts, the credit union established a special UNFCU account, The Kilimanjaro Challenge Fund. If you are a member of UNFCU and wish to make a donation, please visit the UNFCU website, www.unfcu.org, and click on Internet Banking. Select the Online Forms link on the top menu and choose the Member-to-Member Transfer Request Form. Enter Kilimanjaro Challenge in the Beneficiary Last Name and First Name and 803330 in the UNFCU Beneficiary Member Number fields.

To learn more about the Kilimanjaro Initiative, please visit www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org.

More information about Safer Cities can be obtained via the UN-Habitat website: http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/safercities

We wish Tim and the entire Kilimanjaro Initiative team every success in their challenging endeavor and look forward to providing you with an update!

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For further information, please contact: Sharad Shankardass, Spokesperson & Head, Press & Media Relations Unit, or Ms. Zahra Hassan, Media Liaison, Tel: (254 20) 7623153, 7623151, Fax: 7624060, E-mail: habitat.press@unhabitat.org, Website: www.unhabitat.org
PRESS RELEASE

Profile of Tim Challen

Name: Timothy Challen
Age: 33
Nationality: British
Organization: United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU)
Area of Residence: Geneva, Switzerland

Short history:
Tim was shot during an armed robbery in Nairobi, in May 2003. He has wanted to climb Mount Kilimanjaro from a very young age and now wants to do it with the added incentive of raising awareness towards crime prevention. During the past two years, Tim has worked on this initiative during his free time and has self-financed his travels to East Africa in preparation for the climb and its aim of reducing crime.

PROFILES OF ‘YOUTHS’

Name: Gabriel Kerario
Age: 22
Group/Organisation: Sadili Oval
Area of residence: Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya

Short history:
I am 22 year old boy, who has completed Form 4 at Malezi School, where I was under sponsorship. I live in the sprawling slums of Kibera with my uncle since my mother passed away. My father lives in Kuria District near the border between Kenya and Tanzania, and its often too far away for me to visit him. I enjoy soccer and never miss a chance to play it at Sadili Oval, which is the ideal play area for me, because it is safe and close enough to the slums. I am privileged to play soccer at Sadili, for most of my peers back in the slum, this is just a pipe dream. The coaches there have been instrumental in assisting me improve my soccer skills, which has grown in leaps and bounds since I started playing there. I would like to see more young people like myself get inducted into the program, as it will help them get away, albeit momentarily, from the hardships of the slum where there are no proper playing areas for any kind of game, let alone soccer. Sadili keeps me fit and away from bad stuff like drugs, it helps me use my time better.
Name: Gracie Anthonie Akinyi Ochuodho  
Age: 24  
Group/Organisation: Sadili Oval  
Area of residence: Langata, Nairobi, Kenya  

Short history:  
I am a 24 years old girl brought up by a strict mother whose motto was "pray, get focused and aim higher". As a young girl, I was taught to respect everyone regardless of their position, status, tribe, gender or age, to never undermine anyone and anything as this was how you show the awareness of God. I was introduced to soccer by my brother when I was in preschool. I love the sport because you can enjoy it wherever you are, play it with anyone and space is never a hindrance. Due to its demand (use of the whole body) it needs one who doesn't use drugs, who loves associating with others and love teamwork. I have participated in many camps, tournament and individual competition like the famous Nairobi Coca Cola Pepeta thriller, where I represented Langata. Soccer is my third passion after God and my studies. I hope to be a computer programmer one day. I completed my O-levels in 2000 and my A-levels in 2003.

Name: Justin Nyabula  
Age: 23 years  
Group/Organisation: Pendo Moja Self Help Group  
Area of residence: Eastlands, Nairobi, Kenya  

Short history:  
He is an ex mugger at the railway area in industrial area. He is now reformed and has been practicing boxing. He joined the Pendo Moja Self-help group two and a half years ago. He has now started a laundry business, where he works as the manager at the workshop. His main clients in the business are truck drivers. He has actively participated in crime awareness campaigns through the Pendo Moja Self-help Group. They recently organized a music concert in Makongeni area with the theme ‘Youth For A Safer Nairobi.’

Name: Felix Oduori  
Age: 19 years  
Group/Organisation: Soweto Youth Group  
Area of residence: Soweto, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya  

Short History:  
Felix was brought up in Soweto village in Kibera informal settlement. He went to school in Kibera and is a volunteer with the Soweto Youth Group in Kibera that has been involved in empowerment of youth in the informal settlement. The group is involved in HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns through theatre, organizing sporting tournaments, environmental management and drug awareness campaigns. He is the current chairperson of the group. The group is planning to undertake garbage recycling as a means of generating income for the group members and improving the surrounding environment. The group is also working towards forming a conglomeration of all the youth groups in Kibera. Currently they are working with 15 other groups working in Kibera slums.

Name: Judy Waithera  
Age: 21 years  
Group/Organisation: KISUG Youth Group in Silanga, Kibera, Kenya  
Area of residence: Silanga, Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya  

Short History:  
Judy was born in 1984 in Kibera slums and brought up by a single parent. She is a first born in a family of four and stays with her mother in Kibera. Having finished her secondary education, Judy who is unemployed helps her mother in her vegetable selling business. She is a very active youth and has been involved in various community based project in Kibera through KISUG (a community based self help group). Through the group she participates in community clean ups and garbage collection. Judy is the secretary of the committee that is facilitating the rehabilitation of a soccer field in the Silanga area. Together
with other youth she helped organize a friendly football match and the second ‘Youth for a Safer Nairobi Concert’ during the launch of the Kilimanjaro Initiative and Ground Breaking Ceremony for the rehabilitation of the soccer field. She likes traveling, making new friends, playing football and reading books. She has previously toured various places like Thompson falls and Nandi Hills during study tours.

Name: Godfrey Ten  
Age: 27  
Group/Organisation: Tandika Youth and Handicraft Group  
Area of residence: Tandika, Temeke, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:  
I grew up in a family of six children and a single parent (My father passed away when I was 9 years old). I got my education to standard seven, I didn’t manage to proceed with secondary education due to poverty, hence find myself engaged in a business of selling and using drugs in order to get basic needs. Year 2002, I was lucky to get a seminar of STEPSTONE from PASADA and get awarded with a certificate of taking care of people living with HIV/AIDS. Same year me and my friends and I established a group called TAYOHAG. The aim of the group was to fight against AIDS, and participate in fighting against drugs abuse. With the small capital from Safer Cities the group also works on handcrafts for income generation, making metal chairs, traditional necklace, mail cards, animal cartoons etc. In the group I am Vice Chairman.

Name: Abel Lisokime Cholobi  
Age: 39  
Group/Organization: MMSK  
Area of residence: Kitunda, Ilala, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:  
I was a normal resident of Kitunda, and in the year 2000 major crime happened within the area where two people were killed during that criminal incident. Mr. Komba and I advised the Ward’s Security and Defense Committee to establish a Sungusungu group within the area. I then joined Militia training, which is organized under Tanzania People’s Defense Forces (TPDF), where I passed the junior and senior militia courses. After I graduated I joined the Sungusungu group in Kitunda and at the moment I am a trainer of militia trainees within the area. We have played a pivotal role in making Kitunda the center for training Sungusungu and militia in Dar es Salaam and managed to eliminate crime incidents in Kitunda area. Apart from Sungusungu activities we are also engaged in development activities for income generation, like keeping poultry, goats, a vegetable garden, carpentry, fruits grinding and small food outlet etc. Initially the group got the capital fund for Poultry from Safer Cities and material support from Ilala Municipality, now the project has grown.

Currently crime incidents dramatically went down, we have widened our services by providing security guards (militia trainee) to security companies and to other private institutions like Schools.

Name: Rahim Niah  
Age: 27  
Group/Organization: Kilimani Youth Development Group  
Area of residence: Temke, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Short history:  
I got my education to form six, I didn’t manage to proceed with higher education due to engaging my self in criminal activities. I am now a changed man, I need to study more in order to widen my contribution in the development of Kilimani Youth Development Group and to the whole community at large. Our group known as ‘Kilimani Youth Development Group’ deals with night watch activities, sensitizing youth to stop criminal behavior like theft and robbery, also convinced the guys to join the group and participate in development activities of the group (i.e. Carpentry, tent and chairs renting, Chips kiosk etc), especially after
getting support from Safer Cities Dar es Salaam. Also our group provides HIV/AIDS education and effects of using drugs to the neighboring community.

**Name:** Eliwaza Martin  
**Age:** 25  
**Group/Organization:** Matimba Arts Group  
**Area of Residence:** Mwananyamala, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Short history:**  
I am a fourth born in a family of 9 children, and I am still leaving with my parents. I got my primary education in Ndago Primary School in Singida, I didn’t manage to proceed with secondary education because my parents had no enough money to pay school fees. I am interested to study more (especially Computer Studies and English Course) in order to widen my contribution in the development of MATIMBA ARTS GROUP and to the whole community at large. I joined Matimba Arts Group in 2002 as actress, later the group expanded their activities to play tradition drums in which I participate as a dancer, singer and a drummer. Matimba Arts Group is currently involved in playing drama, traditional dances while addressing to the community issue like domestic violence, effects of HIV/Aids etc. The group was established four years ago in order to reduce number of unemployed youth in our community, and also participates in night watch activity “Sungusungu” in order to prevent crime. The group received support from Safer Cities Programme, technically and financially that helped a lot in strengthen the group in the field of income generation, now we are operating Mobile Phones’ Accessories Kiosk and rent Chairs. The group has good organization, having a constitution and its own leaders, I am currently holding Group Treasure Post.

**Name:** Happy Ladslaus Kanje  
**Age:** 20  
**Area of Residence:** Moshi, Tanzania

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14/02/2006, Tuesday</td>
<td>Youth leave start Outward Bounds training at Loitoktok, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/02/2006, Monday</td>
<td>Press conference and talk shows in Dar-es-Salaam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/02/2006, Tuesday</td>
<td>Press Conference and chat shows in Nairobi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/02/2006, Thursday</td>
<td>Travel by minibus from Nairobi to Marangu, Tanzania.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/02/2006, Friday</td>
<td>Rest day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/02/2006, Saturday</td>
<td>Climb begins, flagging off event at Marangu gate. Will be in Attendance: Anna Tibaijuka; Tanzanian Ministers, Representatives from local Authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/02/2006, Tuesday</td>
<td>Reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/03/2006, Wednesday</td>
<td>Climbers arrive back at Marangu gate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/03/2005, Friday</td>
<td>Return to Nairobi</td>
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THE KILIMANJARO INITIATIVE

Tim Challen’s Experience
Tim works as a Member Service Representative for the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) in Geneva. In 2003, while on mission in Nairobi, Tim was shot below the left knee during an armed robbery at his flat. After extensive surgery and a long period of rehabilitation back home in Switzerland, Tim felt confronted by a dilemma: he could choose to move on with his comfortable life in Geneva, distancing himself from the harsh criminal realities encountered in Nairobi, or help confront some of the ills of East African communities. He chose the second option.

The Vision of the Kilimanjaro Initiative
The vision of the Kilimanjaro Initiative is to offer hope to people who have been affected by crime, highlighting for them that crime should not dictate a life and that hardships can be overcome. The Kilimanjaro Initiative hopes to sensitise the communities in East Africa on their safety needs and help form partnerships that will secure better urban environments.

The Objectives of the Kilimanjaro Initiative
The main objectives of the Kilimanjaro Initiative are to raise awareness of the problems linked with crime and collect funds to support various crime prevention initiatives in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative seeks to use sports as a tool for fighting crime in East Africa as a means to promote education, health, development and peace.

Sport is a valuable tool in enhancing youth participation and empowerment. It has been used across the world in various campaigns on issues aimed at development. It is through sports that the youth can be engaged in Crime Prevention Initiatives, HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign, and Environmental Awareness Campaigns among others.

Safer Cities Programme
In order to better understand the causes of crime, the Kilimanjaro Initiative has approached UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme coordinators and local authorities in Kenya and Tanzania for their advice and support.

The Safer Cities programme aims at addressing the underlying issues contributing to crime, including problems of unemployment, poverty and exclusion. It does so by initiating income generating projects and integrating the youth into local authority decision-making framework.

Crimes, and the fear of crime, are serious threats to the stability and social climate of cities. Sustainable and economic development need a decent quality of life and full recognition of human rights. Urban violence erodes the social capital of the poor. Insecurity affects the poor more intensely, breaks down socio-cultural bonds and prevents social mobility, thus contributing to the development of urban ghettos and stigmatized neighbourhoods.
Safer Cities Survey on Crime in Nairobi
It is estimated that about 3 million inhabitants live in the city of Nairobi, of which over 60% are the urban poor living in informal settlements. A victimization survey done in 2001 has showed that:

- 37% of all Nairobi residents had been victims of robbery in 2000
- 40% of all victims were injured as a result of violence used in the robbery
- 29% of all homes had fallen victims of burglary
- 30% of commercial enterprises were victims of burglary
- 25% of all women in Nairobi have been physically, economically, sexually or emotionally abused
- 75% of all respondents felt unsafe in their homes during the night
- 54% of all Nairobi’s residents felt unsafe during the day and 94% during the evening in the City Centre
- 72% of all residents avoid travelling and working after dark

The surveys indicated that crime is more prevalent in Nairobi than in other similar cities. In terms of the types of crimes that are most prevalent, and the circumstances in which they occur, Nairobi is similar to Tanzania. However, what is interesting to note is that the general public believe that there is little or nothing that can be done about crime in Nairobi. From the findings of these surveys, it was suggested that decision makers need to urgently address the social and institutional cause of crime by embarking on an inclusive strategy of crime prevention, which centers on establishing action groups that focus on the key areas of crime against women and youth. At the same time, urgent steps need to be taken to strengthen the capacity of the local authorities and the police to handle criminal cases.

Safer Cities Survey on crime in Dar es Salaam
The City of Dar es Salaam is the economic capital of the United Republic of Tanzania. It has a population of more than 3 million inhabitants. From a survey conducted in March 2000:

- 43% of victims said their houses were burgled over the previous five years
- 32% of the people have been victimised
- 20% of the respondents were involved in cattle theft in the city’s rural districts
- 16% of the people were assaulted
- 67% of the people said they felt unsafe in the residential areas after dark.

From the survey, the most prevalent crime in Dar es Salaam is burglary. Violent crimes were reported less often than property crimes. The rate of assault in Dar es Salaam was high compared to South African cities.

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro
The Kilimanjaro Initiative plans to organize an annual ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, the ‘roof of Africa’, as a main feature in its efforts to raise awareness and combat the underlying causes of crime. The first climb is scheduled to take place between 25 February 2006 and 01 March 2006. The participants of the climb will include: ten youths from Kenya and Tanzania UNHABITAT, ILO, ICTR and other UN agencies; as well as volunteers who have been helping with the Kilimanjaro Initiative. The climbers will be escorted by General Sarakikya, a retired Army General and diplomat who planted the Tanzanian National flag on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro when the country gained its independence in 1961.

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro offers not only a personal challenge but also acts a powerful symbol in overcoming adversity.
Fundraising
The Kilimanjaro Initiative plans to raise a minimum of US$50,000 for various crime prevention initiatives supported by Safer Cities Programmes in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. Here are examples of these projects:

- **Kibera sports Field**

The sports field is located in Silanga, in the southern part of Kibera slum. Kibera is the largest slum in sub-Saharan Africa, with a population of approximately 800,000 people. Currently, the football pitch is in a bad condition and it is difficult to play on such a surface. At night, the field is a hotspot for crime. The renovation of the field will encourage more young people to channel their energies in a positive way and it will become a convenient meeting place for the community. Moreover, lighting at night will turn the area into a safer place and reduce the level of crime.

- **Water project in Kibamba sub-ward, Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**

The aim of the project, proposed by a community group called ‘Kiluvya’, is to pump water from a natural source, located 3 km away from the centre of the Community, into a large water tank that will be more accessible to all. Reliance on the water provided by the city’s water board is not always viable, as it is scarce and not always readily available. Instead, the water from the source, which freely belongs to the community’s authorities, can be sold at nearby water-kiosks to local residents and may also be distributed to adjacent homes. The income generated from selling of water will help fund a watch group that can patrol the ward at night time and hence help prevent crime in the area.

- **The TAHOYAG youth group, Temeke, Dar es Salaam**

The TAHOYAG youth group is made up of young people who have encountered various problems in their lives. The men have been involved with drugs, either through habitual consumption or selling illegal substances. Some went as far as being ‘mules’ between South America and Africa, transporting illegal substances in the hulls of cargo ships. The women are mainly ex-prostitutes. Together, they have formed an association where they can put their energies together and overcome their problems through legal trade. The group I visited opened a batik shop and sell items of clothing within the community. The income they collect not only helps them with their basic financial needs but also sponsors their night-watch scheme.

Other Information
The following groups have assisted with the Kilimanjaro Initiative:

- **Outward Bounds Trust of Kenya (They are training the young women and men)**

Outward Bound Trust of Kenya is the largest provider of Experiential Based Training in East Africa. They are the only one with global affiliation; Outward Bounds being a world wide organization. They also do excellent Team Building, Corporate Culture Change, Change Management, Leadership Development etc. for corporate clients. They have over seven youth programs covering ages 11 to 25 years.

- **Sadili Oval (two 'youths' are coming from their camp)**

"Nature and Sports Camps", provides 600 children in communities in Langata (a middle class area), 4000 in the adjoining Kibera (a slum area) in Nairobi City and 2400 in Manyatta area (low-income area) in Kisumu town with an opportunity to aspire, be trained and be environmentalists as well as act as role models for other children in their communities. It also seeks to recognize the outstanding quality of children by providing educational opportunities for some of the children in camps. The camps provide
sport training and involve them in weekly environmental projects including community cleanup, recycling and tree planting.

The Nature and Sports Camps are part of a concerted effort by The United Nations Environment Programme, Sadili Oval and other partners, in supporting environmental leadership and sports training amongst the youth.

- **Street expressions** (set up by Musician Gidi Gidi, who will be climbing with the Kilimanjaro Initiative group)

The aim of street Expressions is to send out positive and constructive messages into the community through Hip Hop Music and Graffiti displays.

For more info on the Kilimanjaro Initiative, please visit our website: [www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org](http://www.kilimanjaroinitiative.org)

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Media Invitation

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director
wishes to invite Nairobi based journalists to attend a

Press Briefing on the Mt. Kilimanjaro Initiative
11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m., Wednesday 22 February 2006
The Norfolk Hotel, Swimming Pool Area

Speakers to include Tim Challen of the UN’s Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) and Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, who will talk about their upcoming walk to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro as a way of highlighting the urgent need for safer cities in East Africa.

“This is the first effort of its kind on behalf of Safer Cities Programme and we are proud to work with Tim and UNFCU to continue to strengthen civic responsibility within communities, engage youth and prevent crime,” said Anna Tibaijuka, Under Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat. “The climb represents a mission of hope and a true lesson in overcoming adversity.”

Nearly three years ago while working in Nairobi, Tim Challen, a UNFCU Member Service Representative from the Geneva Office sustained serious gunshot wounds to his left leg during an armed robbery in Nairobi. Since then, he has decided to channel his energies into bringing attention to some of the problems facing East Africa’s cities and combating the underlying causes of crime through UN-HABITAT’s Safer Cities Programme.

Specifically, from 25 February through 1 March 2006, Tim will be leading 35 climbers to the summit of Africa’s highest peak. The goal is raise funds to support several new community-based crime prevention projects which are part of UN-HABITAT’s local Safer Cities Programme. 10 young people from disadvantaged areas in Kenya and Tanzania will join Tim, staff members from UN-Habitat, UNEP, additional UN agencies, UNFCU, as well as Michael J. Connery Jr., president and CEO of the UNFCU, on the climb to the “Rooftop of Africa.” General Sarakikya, a retired Tanzanian general and diplomat who was the first to plant the Tanzanian flag on the mountain’s summit following his country’s independence, will escort the team up the Marangu Route. Gidi Gidi, one half of the Kenyan hip hop group, Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, will also join the climbers.

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka will flag off the team at Marangu Gate in Tanzania on 25 February 2006.

UN-Habitat, which helped select the young people for the challenge, will also oversee the distribution of funds for the various projects. Launched in 1996, UN-HABITAT’s Safer Cities Programme is creating a culture of safe urban environments across Africa and is comprised of youth, community groups and local law enforcement officials as well as the private sector.

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