



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH RADIO

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Anti-FGM Strategy to accelerate efforts towards Zero GBV and Ending Harmful Practices
- Zanzibar and WHO Restores Production of Medical Oxygen
- Community dialogues and awareness-raising sessions - The pathway towards sustainable societies
- Young people's voices to be included in the new School Curriculum



Neema Hamis, a tailor and mother of one from Ileje district, Songwe region, listens to Ileje FM which was established with support from UNCDF. Neema engages in small-scale subsistence agriculture and has been able to turn her farming into an income-generating activity thanks to information on farming methods that she learnt listening to Ileje FM. © UNCDF Tanzania

Neema Hamisi is a tailor and mother of one from Ileje, a remote district in Tanzania's Southern Highlands. Ileje is one of four districts in Songwe region encompassing 71 villages with a total population of close to 110,000 people. Like most other residents in the district, Neema engages in small-scale subsistence agriculture.

Rural communities like Ileje face major challenges in communication and access to information. Farmers have trouble finding correct and timely information about good agricultural

practices, techniques to boost farming productivity, and fair market prices for their goods.

In 2015, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) partnered with the Ileje District Council and the Ileje East Environmental Conservation Group to set up the district's first community radio station. UNCDF helped Ileje FM purchase and install the radio communications equipment. For the first time in its history, the Ileje community radio station is providing residents with local and national content

critical for social and economic development.

The new Ileje community radio has meant that subsistence farmers like Neema can now access information that helps them increase their yields.

Neema has been able to expand thanks to the community radio. "Ileje FM has changed the way I farm and the way I do business. I tune in and listen to people who teach us better methods of farming, seasonal planting, weeding and harvesting. *Continues on page 2*

Continued from page 1

This has helped me grow more than just what my son and I need to eat. I grow maize and beans and now sell them in the market," said Neema.

The community radio also supplies a marketing platform for small businesses. Small-scale entrepreneurs like Neema can now advertise their products and services for a small fee and reach potential customers beyond their own village and immediate network. As the first community radio in the area, Ileje FM draws listeners from the entire Songwe region, parts of Mbeya region and even as far as Malawi.

"Advertising on Ileje FM is af-

fordable, easy to do and it works. I just write down the message I want aired, pay a small fee and the guys at the radio station produce and air the ad. This has worked well for me - I even had customers from outside Ileje call my number and place huge orders. I've managed now to buy my own sewing machine, and I intend to buy another one soon to meet demands," she added.

The radio station has also been a catalyst in the empowerment of women across the district and in rural areas by addressing social and reproductive health issues. According to Neema, "Oftentimes as we work, the other ladies and I will have Ileje FM playing in the background.

There's a show we like that addresses women's issues and our group of tailors is one of the most active groups of women who call into the show."

Through this investment, UNCDF aids communities to take part in improving their local economy by empowering them with a free flow of communication and information. The radio station also supports the local Government authorities in their public service delivery and is a new source of revenue for the district.

Ileje District Commissioner, Mr. Joseph Mkude, noted that, "Ileje FM community radio are partners to the Government in driving development and social



Ileje residents listen to Ileje FM during a town meeting. The community radio, which was established through support from UNCDF, airs programmes that provide residents with information to support their social and economic activities in areas such as agriculture. The community radio also provides a marketing platform for small businesses to advertise their products and services for a small fee. © UNCDF Tanzania

Continues on page 3

Continued from page 2

change. I have built a strong relationship with the producers and presenters because I use the radio to speak directly to citizens, listen to call-ins on current issues they are facing and share the vision we have for bringing about the change our district needs."

With its multidimensional impact on the thousands of farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs like Neema, and its direct support of the district's development agenda, the Ileje FM project is an excellent demonstration of how information and communication technology (ICT) can improve access to information and empower communities.



Neema Hamis, a tailor and mother of one from Ileje district, Songwe region, listens to Ileje FM, which was established with support from UNCDF, while she farms. Neema engages in small-scale subsistence agriculture and has been able to turn her farming into an income-generating activity thanks to information on farming methods that she learnt listening to Ileje FM. © UNCDF Tanzania

UNCDF TO LEVERAGE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

It is 5am and 23-year-old Annet Skoyo is checking in to work. Unlike most people, she already has customers queuing outside her office even at this early hour. Annet is a bus booking agent at Kibaha Bus Terminal on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. The station, which is in Kibaha district, Pwani region, services 14,000 passengers per day which was not the case few years ago as the terminal did not have adequate infrastructure, such as shaded seating areas and toilet facilities, to accommodate so many passengers.

"At the old stand, I was not able to move around, I had to stay inside the office because I was an employee. Being self-employed I can move around and connect with my customers," said Annet.

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) provided Kibaha Town Council with seed capital and technical assistance for the development and construction of the recently-opened bus terminal. Labor for its construction was sourced from the local community, giving them job opportunities and

boosting the economy even before the terminal started operating.

The new facility gives Kibaha the opportunity to fully capitalize on the town's strategic location as a transit point for all vehicles travelling to and from 29 regions of Tanzania and the neighboring countries of Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Zambia. Since its opening, the local authority has seen its revenues double.

Kibaha Municipality Officer, Mr. Innocent Byarugaba said that,

Continues on page 4

Continued from page 3

“In addition to the fact that we have seen increased revenue to the local and national Government, more jobs have also been created. There are young people that can sell products like fruits and biscuits. These youth have employed themselves instead of turning to petty theft. Now they have a place to earn money and take care of their families.”

Baraka, a petty trader at the terminal, previously relied on casual daywork for which he got paid daily. He has now been able to generate a steady income thanks to the increased

traffic at the terminal. “There is a lot of activity at the station with people travelling to different regions across the country. I make a decent income from the goods I sell to them and I’m able to provide for my wife and child. Previously, I would go up to one week without earning any money,” he said.

The increased activity led to additional investment of complementary infrastructure by the central Government into Kibaha. This included new roads and more connections to electricity and sewage lines. The town’s strategic location has also led to investment in a new

market for agricultural goods which is now under construction just across the road from the bus terminal.

Through strategic investments in sustainable local projects, UNCDF lays the pipeline for larger public and private investments for communities like Kibaha town. The terminal supports localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 1 on Ending Poverty, Goal 5 on Gender Equality, Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities.



Travelers at the Kibaha Bus Terminal, which is on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, buy goods as they wait for their bus to begin its trip. UNCDF provided Kibaha Town Council with seed capital and technical assistance for the development and construction of the recently opened bus terminal which services 14,000 passengers a day. © UNCDF Tanzania

ANTI-FGM STRATEGY TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS TOWARDS ZERO GBV AND ENDING HARMFUL PRACTICES

February 6th marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). FGM is a harmful practice involving the cutting or removal of the external female genitalia. It does not have any health benefits but causes serious risks to women's physical and psychological health.

On November 9th, 2021, Tanzania launched a four-year National Anti-FGM Strategy towards ending the harmful practice in the country as stakeholders and activists continue to march to end FGM. The strategy will include campaigns to raise awareness on the adverse health effects of FGM, the recruitment of change agents from within communities to advocate against the harmful practice and strengthening of the enforcement of legal mechanisms to respond to instances of FGM.

During the launch of the National Anti-FGM Strategy, cultural and religious leaders, and elders from 22 FGM hotspot communities pledged to partner with the Government, civil society, UN and other stakeholders in eradicating the outlawed practice. They made a strong commitment to ensure FGM is abolished and promised to provide girls with safe environments where they can thrive and develop without the



"I underwent female genital mutilation (FGM) when I was ten-years-old. It hurt so much that I cried and cried. One day when I was twelve, my aunts examined me and declared that the mutilation was not performed well. They took me to the mutilator ('ngariba' in Kiswahili) again. I tried to run away and screamed for help, but they held me while I was mutilated again." - **Janeth, an 18 year-old survivor of FGM from Tarime district, Mara region.** © UNFPA Tanzania

fear of undergoing mutilation. They also pledged to create awareness within their communities on the need to promote education and the girl-child's wellbeing.

More young girls are engaging in the campaign to end FGM. Scholastica Maridadi recently became a peer educator in her community. "My experience inspired me to work on issues affecting girls in my community. Too many are subjected to harmful practices such as FGM, early marriage, and teenage pregnancies, and they end up dropping out of school. I decided to become a peer educator at the anti-FGM safe shelter managed by the Association for the Termination of FGM (ATF-

GM) close to my village. I know that all girls have rights and I want to ensure that other girls know this too, as well as fight for their rights," she said.

National statistics show that prevalence of FGM in Tanzania stands at 10 per cent, a sign that there is an uphill task to end the malpractice. Statistics also show that Manyara, Dodoma, Arusha, Mara and Singida regions lead with incidences of FGM.

This year, UNFPA Tanzania is supporting the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Needs together with the Anti-FGM Coalition, to reach another milestone towards the roll-out of

Continues on page 6

Continued from page 5

the national Anti-FGM Strategy. During this year's International Day on Zero Tolerance for FGM, a Symposium was organized in Tarime district, Mara region, to celebrate the very courageous service providers including health care workers, the police force, legal professionals and social work specialists who are on the forefront in the fight to end FGM.

UNFPA Tanzania Representa-

tive, Mr. Mark Bryan Schreiner, emphasized the need for sustained efforts to end FGM. "Joint efforts to tackle FGM in Tanzania have proven successful. UNFPA will continue to protect the rights of women and girls through working together with Government, development partners and communities. Protecting them calls on our significant push to accelerate the abandonment of this harmful practice," he said.

"I laid down in terrible pain and fever for many days, I could not move, and I lost consciousness. I woke up in a hospital ward and I was told that the mutilation caused a serious infection. Once I reached at home, I cried a lot and asked my mother and my aunts: 'Why did you do this terrible thing to me?'"

Janeth, a survivor of FGM

UNFPA DONATES TEN MOTORBIKES TO POLICE FORCE FOR GBV RESPONSE

The Tanzania Police Force (TPF) has received ten motorcycles from the United Nations Sexual and Reproductive Agency (UNFPA) to enhance their ability to provide quality and prompt support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).

Speaking at the handing-over ceremony in Dar es Salaam, the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Simon Sirro, said the donation will improve the ability of police gender & children's desks to reach out to survivors of GBV.

The IGP said that UNFPA has significantly contributed to efforts to end violence against women and children (VAWC) noting that it has decreased. "Let us stop practicing outdated



The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Simon Sirro (centre), hops onto one of 10 motorbikes that UNFPA has donated to the Tanzania Police Force (TPF) to enhance the ability of police gender & children's desks to provide quality and prompt support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). © UNFPA Tanzania

customs and norms. We need collective efforts to end GBV. The donation will further help our officers in charge of desks to reach the community for awareness," he said.

UNFPA Officer-in-Charge, Ms.

Georgette Kyomba, reminded participants that acts of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women, girls, children and older persons are still prevalent and occur on daily basis. She said in Tanzania,

Continues on page 7

Continued from page 6

as in many countries around the world, too many women and girls live in fear of violence and abuse adding that four in ten women and girls aged 15 to 49 will experience GBV in their lifetime and three in every ten

girls will marry before their 18th birthday.

In Tanzania, UNFPA and other UN agencies support the Government to implement the targets set by the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against

Women and Children and this includes supporting the TPF at the national, regional, and local levels to improve its ability to reach out to the survivors of GBV and harmful practices.

ZANZIBAR AND WHO RESTORES PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL OXYGEN



The Director of Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, Dr. Marijan Msafiri (standing), addresses the biomed trainee team during the official opening of the training which was held in December last year. © WHO Tanzania

In an effort to avert serious sickness and death caused by COVID-19 and other serious conditions, the World Health Organization (WHO) in Tanzania has been working with the Government to improve the

capacity of medical oxygen production. The pandemic has increased the demand for oxygen and underscored gaps in its supply nationwide.

A countrywide assessment

supported by WHO in 2020 revealed that Tanzania does not produce adequate amounts of oxygen because most production plants either underproduced or operate below capacity because of disrepair.

Continues on page 8

Continued from page 7

In Zanzibar, the assessment found that one plant was dysfunctional and one that needed repairing for it to restore production to capacity. As a result, hospitals had to procure medical oxygen from commercial suppliers, at more expensive prices.

With technical and financial support from WHO, Zanzibar

was able to restore the production of medical oxygen at its sole plant at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital. WHO supported the purchase of spare parts, hired consultants to train technicians on proper maintenance of the plant and financed the purchase of 27,000 litres of liquid oxygen. Medical oxygen from the plant will cover seven health facilities in three regions in Unguja, and two regions in Pemba

The repaired medical oxygen production plant in the Islands means that critically ill patients in need of supplementary oxygen are more likely to recover from their illnesses. To ensure that oxygen production in Zanzibar does not relapse, the Ministry of Health and WHO used the opportunity to chart a long-term plan to build more modern oxygen production plants.

NUTRITION AND AGRICULTURE FOR GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to increase the income of smallholder farmers in Kigoma region by putting place a value chain centric approach that will increase investment in agriculture and improve the nutritional status of the communities. These joint efforts are part of the UN's Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) which brings together the collective efforts of 15 UN agencies to support the development of communities that are hosting refugees in Kigoma region.

At a ceremony held at the Regional Secretariat's Office in Kigoma in early February, Assistant Representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization, Mr. Charles Tulahi, handed



Assistant FAO Representative, Mr. Charles Tulahi (right), hands over a laptop to the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) in Kigoma, Mr. Rashid Mchatta (left). Capturing agriculture data and reporting on sector developments in support of digitizing the sector. © FAO Tanzania

over 14 television sets and flash drives containing nutritional messages and information, to the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Mr. Rashid Mchatta, in support of the region's efforts to improve nutrition. The FAO official also handed over nine laptops to support the digitalization of the sector

through capturing agriculture related data and reporting on the sectors development. Mr. Mchatta thanked FAO for the materials and urged regional officials to use them for their intended purposes.

The handover was also attended by the Kasulu District Com

Continues on page 9

Continued from page 8

missioner, Col. Isaac Mwakisu, and Government officials from the Health, Nutrition and Agriculture Departments of the Regional Commissioner's Office. Mr. Tulahi emphasized that the materials will help to increase access to nutrition and agriculture related information, as part of efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Two on Zero Hunger and

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are at the core of FAO's mandate.

Expressing his appreciation for the materials, the Regional Medical Officer, Dr. Simon Chacha said, "The provision of these tools comes at a crucial moment when the Region is focused on improving the well-being of our communities, including by improving their health status by addressing malnutri-

tion and the like. The Regional Secretariat will ensure the tools are appropriately used and the initiatives sustainably maintained by the Health Centres and Councils."

Funded by the Government of Norway, the initiative is part of the UN's continued effort to address challenges hindering the agricultural sector development and malnutrition in the Region as part of the KJP.



Regional Medical Officer, Dr. Simon Chacha (right) receives a television from RAS Mr. Rashid Mchatta (left), on behalf of 14 Health Centres in the region. The televisions and other materials that were handed over to the regional Government authorities through the UN Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) will help to increase access to information on nutrition. © FAO Tanzania

COMMUNITY DIALOGUES AND AWARENESS-RAISING SESSIONS - THE PATHWAY TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES



Community members engage in a discussion after watching a locally produced film on human trafficking. IOM Tanzania and Wote Sawa are using the film as a tool for social behavior change communications. © IOM Tanzania

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tanzania and its implementing partner Wote Sawa, recently held community dialogues raising awareness on prevention and response to human trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV). The dialogues were held in four districts of Kigoma Region (Kasulu District and Town Council, Kibondo District and Kakonko District) as part of the UN Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP). These activities also contribute to the implementation of The National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017-2022).

The series of community dialogues involved stakeholders

and leaders from the grass roots level of twelve wards across the four districts. The dialogues served as a platform to discuss human trafficking and GBV at the domestic level, their effects, and how to combat them including how good parenting can help to prevent both. In each of the dialogues, the leaders prepared inclusive plans of action for addressing both issues. Another part of the awareness raising sessions involved displaying a local film that was used as a teaching

tool on matters of human trafficking for domestic servitude and GBV.

Ward leaders would gather community members to learn about and discuss GBV and human trafficking and both adults and children were invited to share their understanding of these issues while social welfare, police gender desk and immigration officers from the districts answered questions and provided information about prevention and response services that communities can access.

Continues on page 11

Continued from page 10

Prominent elders also played a key role in the dialogues calling upon the members of communities to protect their children from human trafficking and focus on guiding them with good parenting.

The sessions not only concluded with the commitments from leaders, but also with the pledges from the community to work together towards ending GBV and human trafficking and to share what they have learnt with those who could not participate in the dialogue. Communities also committed to reporting such issues to the proper channels if they see them.



A young woman shares her input with the community leaders during a community dialogue about combating trafficking in persons and gender-based violence (GBV). The dialogues were held in four districts of Kigoma Region (Kasulu District and Town Council, Kibondo District and Kakonko District) as part of the UN Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP). © IOM Tanzania

ZANZIBAR'S PRESIDENTIAL DELIVERY UNIT IS CRITICAL FOR EFFECTUATING GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

In recognition of the importance of efficient and effective public service delivery as a major determinant of Sustainable Development, over the years the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) has invested in creating institutions and systems as well as implementing institutional and policy reforms aimed at improving the delivery of public services in Zanzibar.

The strategic direction of the current Government towards 'Economic Revolution', and the Zanzibar Development Plan (ZADep 2021-2025) further place priority on improved public services. Matching the expectations and increasing



H.E. President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Mwinyi (front row center), graced the Prioritization and Planning Workshop prepared by the Government in partnership with UNDP, the Tony Blair Institute, and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom. © UNDP Tanzania

demand for timely and quality public services of Zanzibaris will require efficient, effective, and responsive public institu-

tions with the capacity to accelerate the delivery of high-quality services to its people.

Continues on page 12

Continued from page 11

It is within this context that the President of Zanzibar and the Chair of the Revolutionary Council, H.E. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, has committed to establishing a Presidential Delivery Bureau with a mandate to coordinate and accelerate the implementation of the Government's strategic priorities and delivery of results for social-economic transformative impacts in Zanzibar.

Speaking at a 'Prioritization and Planning Workshop' orga-

nized by the President's Office in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Tony Blair Institute (TBI) and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of Government of the United Kingdom, President Mwinyi expressed his dissatisfaction with the execution of Government plans and projects. He underscored the importance of prioritization, planning, and timely implementation of flagship programs and priority projects.

A total of 21 priority projects were identified that would contribute to transformative, sustainable, and tangible outcomes and impacts in four broad priority sectors, namely, blue economy; tourism; infrastructure; and social delivery. In closing, President Mwinyi thanked UNDP and TBI for facilitating the workshop and highlighted the next key steps which include the development of a financing plan, formulation of implementation plan, and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation plan.



Participants listen to presentations during the Prioritization and Planning Workshop held in Zanzibar. The workshop identified blue economy, tourism, infrastructure and social delivery as key priority areas. © UNDP Tanzania

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY BOOSTS CAPACITY FOR TESTING COVID-19 IN ZANZIBAR



Public Health Laboratories (PHLs) are the cornerstone of health emergencies and alert and response mechanisms. WHO and the Government are working together to increase the capacity of the PHL at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar. © WHO Tanzania

Like in many countries in the continent, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed significant gaps in the health care system - one of them being that of a lack of a Public Health Laboratory (PHL) in Unguja, Zanzibar. By providing the data required to detect, confirm, and monitor epidemic and pandemic events, PHLs are a cornerstone of health emergencies alert and response mechanisms.

Without a PHL, Zanzibar had to send COVID-19 test samples to Dar es Salaam. "This was costly in multiple ways. It inconven-

iened COVID-19 suspects, including tourists who had to wait for several days for the results," observed Dr. Ali Nyanga, the Director of Preventive Services at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

During the early responses to address this challenge, the

World Health Organisation (WHO) and the health authorities in Zanzibar worked together to increase the capacity of the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital (a tertiary level facility) to be able

to test for COVID-19. "Testing at Mnazi Mmoja was helpful but exerted enormous pressure on the clinical laboratory that is meant to deal with testing for routine patients and not dealing with outbreaks," said Dr. Nyanga.

Through financial support from the Swiss Government and technical support from WHO, Ifakara Health Institute and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), a Public Health Laboratory was established at Binguni in Unguja. WHO was instrumental in building the capacity for SARS-

Continues on page 14

Continued from page 13

CoV-2 testing through hands-on training for laboratory scientists and for the provision of molecular facilities. Since then, the trained laboratory technicians have been deployed to the new PHL in Binguni and another lab in Pemba.

“We decided to invest heavily on strengthening our capacity to test for COVID-19. We have, therefore, extended lab operations to the PHL in Pemba which was primarily for research and control of Neglected Tropical Diseases.” added Dr. Nyanga.

The new Public Health Laboratory in Zanzibar was officially in January 2022 and the fi-



WHO has been instrumental in building the capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing through hands-on training for laboratory scientists and for the provision of molecular facilities through financial support from the Swiss Government and in collaboration with Ifakara Health Institute and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). © WHO Tanzania

nal delivery and installation of testing to begin. The new PHL equipment is expected to be completed by March 2022 for has the capacity to test 1,000 samples per day.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S VOICES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The Government has delivered on its promise to consult young people as part of the ongoing school curricular review process. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups in collaboration with the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), recently organized a special two-day consultative meeting in Morogoro for adolescents and young people to give their views on the ongoing review process for the Pre-Primary, Primary, Secondary and Teaching Curriculum.

The meeting which was held in early February under UNICEF’s support was attended by



UNICEF@75 Champion and NAAIA Young Champion, Najma Mohammed addresses children, young people, and stakeholders at the Children and Young People Consultative forum which enabled them to provide their inputs on the National Education Curriculum reform. © UNICEF Tanzania

Continued from page 14

children and adolescents from all 26 regions of mainland Tanzania, as well as seven young champions who presented the Children and Young People's Agenda priority themes to the Prime Minister Hon. Kassim Majaliwa during the climax event of commemorating 75 years of UNICEF in December last year. At the meeting children and adolescents raised their voices on key issues that they would like included in the new school curriculum to improve the quality of education in the country and make it relevant for the needs of the 21st century.

Issues raised by participants include the inclusion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) education as part of a school curriculum, and life skills including digital literacy, entrepreneurship, life skills and vocational skills as well as nurturing young talents. Participants also recommended the abolishment of the Corporal Punishment Law, the establishment of focal teachers for mental health counselling and the provision of food at schools to increase students' overall academic performance.

"This is a very important day for children and young people. Today, you can prove that nothing for you, can be done without you. We are here to listen to you and take forward your opinions. Children's feedback is important because they are the us-



Over 70 children and young people gathered in Morogoro to attend the Children and Young People Consultative forum which was supported and funded by UNICEF. © UNICEF Tanzania

ers of the curriculum," said the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Mr. Amon Mpanju, who was the guest of honor at the meeting.

A 16-year-old youth advocate, Godlisten Boniphace, called for young people to be given more access to digital literacy. "I know too many young people my age that do not know how to use a computer. We want to be equipped with a better and more relevant education. Digital literacy should begin from an early age, so we are not left behind on navigating the skills needed in the 21st century," he said.

Stakeholders who attended the

meeting spoke in support of the children's views and emphasized that the new education curriculum should empower students to gain practical knowledge and skills that make them ready for job markets, self-employment, innovation, and modern technology.

According to the TIE, Tanzania has revised the country's education curriculum five times within its 60 years of independence. At the climax event of marking 75 years of UNICEF, Prime Minister Majaliwa instructed the Ministry of Education to consult children and young people; and collect their views about the school curricular review and ensure their inclusion and accommodation.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

21st March - International Day of Forests

22nd March - World Water Day

24th March - World Tuberculosis Day

7th April - International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide
against the Tutsi in Rwanda

7th April - World Health Day

22nd April - International Mother Earth Day

25th April - World Malaria Day

28th April - World Day for Safety and Health at Work

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