

UPHOLDING RIGHTS IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19

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HIGHLIGHTS

- UN Tanzania Supports Seaweed Farmers with Electricity in Zanzibar
- FAO, SUA and Kansas University train front-line experts in Covid-19, Ebola fight
- Drawing on Ebola lessons to protect Tanzania camps from coronavirus
- Equality Generation for Tanzania's current and future development



Women and girls' rights must remain at the forefront and centre of the COVID-19 national response in Tanzania. Photo | UNFPA Tanzania

Angelina has been a midwife for 30 years and is now based at Bariadi District Hospital in Simiyu Region, a facility recently renovated and equipped by UNFPA to provide quality maternal and child health care including emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Angelina says that even after three decades she still feels an enormous sense of pride and joy when she sees a smiling mother holding a healthy

baby for the first time... and relief. Angelina's mother did not survive childbirth.

With the first case of the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) confirmed in Tanzania in early March, Angelina is worried. There have not yet been any reported cases in Bariadi District, but she says that the community is 'alert' and she is concerned about how she will continue to protect mothers and their newborns if there is an influx of COVID-19 patients and she is

reassigned to care for them.

Neema, a colleague of Angelina's at Bariadi District Hospital, has been a midwife for seven years and is also concerned. "Watching the news, I think what will happen if people are not allowed to leave their homes? How will we get pregnant women to the health facility for antenatal, delivery and postnatal care?" she asks. In spite of Angelina and Neema's resilience and courage

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to continue to provide life-saving services for pregnant women and newborns, both women are also worried about their personal safety.

UNFPA is working with the Ministry of Health to put measures in place to ensure that quality and safe maternal health and other sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services are prioritized as part of national COVID-19 response efforts. National reproductive commodity needs, including modern contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines, have been predicted

to ensure uninterrupted supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential supplies for infection prevention have been procured for regional, district and health centre level facilities in Simiyu, Kigoma and Dodoma Regions and Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar both Uguja and Pemba Islands; training and resources are also scheduled for targeted facilities in these regions.

Additional nurse-midwives and clinical officers are being recruited for the anticipated surge in demand for health-care. And knowing this is an extremely stressful time for

frontline health workers, including nurse-midwives like Angelina and Neema, UNFPA is working to set up dedicated counselling services for caregivers online and through the existing national toll-free helpline in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

UNFPA will continue to prioritize the protection of Tanzania's health workforce, and ensure that the rights of women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, remain at the forefront and centre of the COVID-19 national response leaving no one behind is now more urgent than ever.

UN TANZANIA SUPPORTS SEAWEED FARMERS WITH ELECTRICITY IN ZANZIBAR



25th March 2020. On the left is the factory building at night with lights switched on. On the right is the three-phase circuit breaker installed for Ukweli Ndio Njia Safi group to support increased production. **Photo | UN Tanzania**

As part of the United Nations Day celebrations on 26th October 2019, the UN system in Tanzania was able to

support the Seaweed processing group 'Ukweli Ndio Njia Safi group' based in Bweleo, Zanzibar with funds amount-

ing to TZS 2 Million shillings to finance the installation of a three-phase electricity point.

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The aim of this support was to improve the production capacity of the seaweed processing plant in Bweleo, and thus improve the value chain of seaweed products.

As a result of this support the factory is now producing more soap for instance from the in-

itial 100 bars to 300 bar per day. Similar increase in volume is expected for the other products that are processed there. To note, the Seaweed industry is a major income earner in Zanzibar after tourism and cloves and employs over 24,000 farmers of which 80 per cent are women.

The Zanzibar Joint Programme (ZJP), was launched by the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, in 2018 and one of its four themes is Women's Economic Empowerment through Seaweed Value Chain Development.

FAO, SUA AND KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU) TRAIN FRONT-LINE EXPERTS IN COVID-19, EBOLA FIGHT

A total of 55 front-line experts from selected high-risk districts in the country have been trained on COVID-19 and Ebola diseases prevention, rapid detection and sampling using the One Health Rapid Response Team approach.

The training was conducted in Dodoma last month (March) and was coordinated through the One Health (OH) Coordination Desk under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the USAID-Funded Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) project. This was in partnership with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) through its Veterinary Education Establishment Twinning Project by the Kansas State University (KSU) and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

The FAO's Country Team Leader for the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) Programme, Mr. Fasina Folorunso, said that the training will help strengthen the multi-sectoral coordination mechanism at sub-national levels, and strengthen capacities to advance One Health and facilitate a coordinated approach for prevention, detection, and response to priority zoonotic diseases (PZDs) including COVID-19 and Ebola.

"In recent times, the health systems globally have been challenged by emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases like Ebola in West Africa and the Congo DRC, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and many other endemic zoonoses, among others.

Here in Tanzania we aimed to empower the human and

animal health experts in the selected high-risk regions of Kagera, Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa, Songwe and Dodoma in dealing these diseases," he said.

According to him, effective prevention, detection and response to priority zoonotic diseases require a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism and response hence a need for the One Health approach.

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**Mr. Fasina Folorunso,
Country Team Leader for
the Emergency
Centre for Transboundary
Animal Disease (ECTAD)
Programme**

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“This is in recognition of the roles played by different stakeholders in addressing prevention, detection, mitigation, preparedness and response to public health event

and emergencies,” Fasina added.

The planning and implementation of the activity took cognizance of available experiences and resources within

the Ministries of Health, Livestock, the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO, SUA and KSU as well as the ongoing global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.



Prof. Rudovick Kazwala of Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) explaining to the training participants how Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn (donning and doffing). **Photo | Fasina Folorunso.**

DRAWING ON EBOLA LESSONS TO PROTECT TANZANIA CAMPS FROM CORONAVIRUS

When an outbreak of Ebola stalked West Africa five years ago, Miata Tubee Johnson, a former refugee from Liberia and now a public health officer with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, played a key role in reducing deaths in the community from the deadly

virus that claimed more than 10,000 lives.

Now facing the spread of COVID-19, she is taking her knowledge of virus wars to protect thousands of highly vulnerable refugees living in camps in Tanzania. “The last thing we want is for there to

be an outbreak in the camp,” says Miata, who spends her days between her office and three different refugee camps in Tanzania’s Kigoma region.

More than three quarters of the world’s 25.9 million refugees live in developing countries.

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The planning and implementation of the activity took cognizance of available experiences and resources within the Ministries of Health, Livestock, the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO, SUA and KSU as well as the ongoing global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. To prevent avoidable deaths and suffering, UNHCR, is prioritizing steps to curb potential COVID-19 outbreaks that would put extraordinary strain on already fragile local health-care services. “The last thing we want is for there to be an outbreak in the camp,” said Miata.



Miata inspecting drug and medical supplies in Mtendeli refugee camp. Photo | UNHCR Tanzania/ Deogratius Dyumushi

With 245,000 refugees in Tanzania, Miata is working around the clock to implement steps to prevent an outbreak in the camps and the host communities that surround them. First on her agenda is chairing a COVID-19 preparedness meeting with 20 staff from a number of different organizations and the government, sitting at least one meter apart under a tree – physical distancing in practice.

Next, she will hand over a much-needed digital X-ray machine recently procured with donor funding, to a nearby district hospital serving the host community. The machines are useful diagnostic tools for COVID-19, as they can detect lung damage. “We are always working to build

capacity in the local health facilities when we identify gaps. It is important for coexistence between refugees and host communities,” adds Miata.

So far, there are no reported cases in Tanzania of the new coronavirus among refugees, most of whom are from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Part of Miata’s focus is to ensure refugees are included in the national surveillance, preparedness and response activities. “If there are any cases of COVID-19 in the camp, they will be referred to government designated health facilities,” she explains.

While COVID-19 has a different transmission and aetiology to Ebola,

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Miata draws broadly on her experiences fighting Ebola in Liberia to provide lifesaving public health messaging and call for the integration of refugees into the national coronavirus response. “My experience in Liberia actually prepared me for where I am today.”

The Tanzania refugee response is one of the least funded in the region, receiving only 25 per cent of the requested funding for 2019-2020. Basic services are severely over-stretched and unable to meet the needs of refugees.



Miata briefing partners on health programs and interventions to mission members in Nyarugusu refugee camp. Photo | UNHCR Tanzania/ Maimuna Mtengela

SPECIAL REPORT (I): EQUALITY GENERATION FOR TANZANIA'S CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

**All pictures by UN Tanzania/Grace Mongi & UN Women/Tsitsi Matope.*

This year the International Women’s Day was launched on 27 February by the Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Anne Makinda in Dodoma. This year’s global theme was “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights” while the national theme was “Equality Generation for Tanzania’s current and Future Development” (Kizazi cha Usawa kwa Maendeleo ya Tanzania ya Sasa na Baadae). The launch was attended by more than 2,000 people, who included women entrepreneurs who showcased their businesses

at an exhibition centre. The Dodoma launch was among a series of events building-up to the climax which took place in Simiyu region on March 8.

UN Women Representative, Ms. Hodan Addou was among the speakers, representing the UN in Tanzania. She said that the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action presented opportunities for all stakeholders to take stock of the progress made in realizing the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home,

in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities.

“By 2030, we should live in a world where women and girls have access to education, healthcare and decent work. By 2030, we should to live in a world where women and girls live free from violence and are equally represented in political and economic decision-making processes”

**Mr. Zlatan Milisic,
UN Resident Coordinator**

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The first President of the Pan African Parliament, Dr. Gertrude Mongella and the first female regional commissioner in Tanzania, Hon. Anna Margareth Abdalla urged women and men to vote more women into parliament in this year's national elections. Hon. Makinda expressed dissatisfaction with the progress made so far in gender equality, 25 years after the signing of the BPfA. She said women who form 51 percent of Tanzania's population should at least have 20 percent of women elected in parliament.

Dr. Mongella used the platform to announce the launch of the African Women Leaders' Network, which she said will bring together women leaders regardless of their political affiliation, social and economic background. The Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Ummu Mwalimu said the government is implementing a series of policy reforms, guidelines and regulations seeking to advance the rights of women and children.

In Simiyu, more than 5,000 people joined senior government officials, government and private institutions, women business operators from Simiyu and other regions, students and local communities to cele-



UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Zlatan Milisic, reaffirms the UN's commitment to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls in Tanzania by 2030 as called for in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

brate International Women's Day.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan was the guest of honour at the climax event in Simiyu. She emphasized the need to continue prioritizing higher levels of education for women and girls to close the gender gap in sectors such as politics, governance and the judiciary. In Tanzania Mainland, she said, only 126 women are members of parliament (36.7%) while in the judiciary where out of 72 judges in the court of appeal, only 27 are women.

On his side, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Zlatan Milisic, highlighted the need to accelerate implementation of SDG 5: Gender Equality in order to achieve this goal by 2030. "By 2030, we should live in a world where women and

girls have access to education, healthcare and decent work. By 2030, we should live in a world where women and girls live free from violence and are equally represented in political and economic decision-making processes," said Mr. Milisic.

UN Women Representative, Ms. Hodan Addou said that despite significant gender equality gains in Tanzania, there was still ground to cover in order to fully realize women's rights. To reach that goal, she said there was need to work harder to ensure that poverty no longer has a woman's face and ensure that women truly have equal opportunities to own land and property, to engage in decent work, and to promote better sharing of unpaid care work.

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Vice President, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, hears about some of the work that UNFPA is doing in Simiyu during her visit to the UN booth at the International Women's Day Exhibition in Simiyu. On the far right are UNFPA staff and centre-right is UNFPA Representative, Ms. Jacqueline Mahon.



The High Commissioner of Canada to Tanzania, Her Excellency, Ambassador Pamela O'Donnel delivered her remarks on behalf of the development partners working in Tanzania. She advocated for increased collaborative efforts with the Government for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in Tanzania.

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(from left to right) The High Commissioner of Canada to Tanzania, Her Excellency, Ambassador Pamela O'Donnel; Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Seniors and Children, Hon. Umyy Mwalimu; Vice President, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan; UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Zlatan Milisic; and Simiyu Regional Commissioner, Hon. Anthony Mtaka receive a march to celebrate the achievements of women and girls in Tanzania in line with IWD.



A variety of different institutions including the government, UN, NGOs and other partners march to celebrate women during the IWD commemorations. The march also aimed to demonstrate that women are more than capable of doing a variety of different activities that are typically male-dominated such as driving trucks and other activities.

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Faustina Mfinanga, famously known as Nandy 'The African Princess', bongo flava music artist performing a special song on women's empowerment during IWD commemorations in Simiyu.



Hundreds of Simiyu Residents were in attendance during the commemorations.

SPECIAL REPORT (II): INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS, ZANZIBAR



Ms. Julia Broussard, UN Women Deputy Representative, gives remarks during International Women's Day commemorations in Zanzibar on behalf of the UN System. Photo | UN Women

“I am a superwoman; I am a superwoman”. This was the vibe on the beautiful Sunday morning during the climax of the International Women's Day Celebrations at Idriss Abdul Wakil Hall in Zanzibar. The guest of honor was the Deputy Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, Ms. Mgeni Hassan.

The celebrations were in line with the global Generation Equality campaign and extended to a local Zanzibar theme which was Maintain Actions to bring Equality: Stand for Women Rights (“Endeleza vuguvugu la kuleta usawa: Zingatia Haki za Wanawake”). To this effect, The Ministry of Labor, Empow-

erment, Elders, Women and Children (MLEEWC) organized a symposium which was centered on the assessment of the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action in Zanzibar. The symposium focused on 4 areas - Women and Education; Women and Health; Women Economic Empowerment; and Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls.

Speaking on behalf of the UN in Tanzania, Ms. Julie Broussard, UN Women Deputy Representative said, “The UN reaffirms its commitment as a strong dependable partner in promoting gender equality and ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.”

Ms. Sabra Machano, Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) Managing Director encouraged women not to stay in abusive relationships for the sake of their children, but rather to stand up against violence with the intention of protecting oneself and one's children.

Some of the recommendations emanating from the symposium included: 1) An encouragement of GBV survivors to use One Stop Centers to obtain health and non-health services; 2) Emphasis on the continued efforts in empowering women to know their human rights; and 3) a proposal to have a special court that can work to fast track reporting and resolving GBV issues. In addition, there was a call for making available and using statistical data on women and girls in Zanzibar.

The symposium was closed by Ms. Mgeni Hassan, the deputy speaker who was also the chairperson of the symposium and used the opportunity to motivate women to actively compete and participate in the upcoming elections.

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Participants taking a picture with the guest of honor Ms. Mgeni Hassan- Deputy Speaker of the Zanzibar House of Representatives (front center). Photo | UN Women



Ms. Sabra Machano, Managing Director Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) encouraging fellow women to stand up against Gender Based Violence. Photo | UN Women

UN STAFF IN SOLIDARITY WITH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ZANZIBAR IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In early April, UN staff based in Zanzibar handed over a small donation to the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar to meet some of the essential needs of the COVID-19 isolation and treatment centre based in Kidimni, Unguja. In a brief statement from the UN, Mr. Ali Shaib, UNDP Finance Assistant, mentioned that UN staff were moved by the ongoing national efforts in response to COVID-19 infection in Zanzibar, and this donation was an indication of their continued personal commitment to the fight against COVID-19 in Zanzibar.

The donation was received by the Chair of Ministry of Health National Task Force for COVID-19, Dr. Jamala Taib who expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Ministry. The donation addressed immediate needs for staff and patients at Kidimni centre, including soap, handwashing stands, sanitary pads and chairs.

The UN is supporting the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar in its coordinated response to COVID-19 across the sectors, including the national health sector task force on COVID-19. In addi-

tion, the UN is providing technical and material support to emergencies, that include provision of personal protection equipment (PPE), Viral Transport Medium (VTM), triple packaging materials, training and establishment of National and District Rapid Response Teams (RRTs), training on COVID-19 case management, laboratory specimen collection including infection prevention and control and implementation of risk communication and community engagement initiatives.



UN staff delivering essential items to Dr. Jamala Taib, MOH Director General to support the COVID-19 Isolation & Treatment Center in Zanzibar. Photo | *UN Tanzania*

ILO CONDUCTS A REFRESHER TRAINING FOR YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE KJP



Participants sharing a light moment during a SIYB ToT session. Photo | ILO/Cressida Mwamboma

In March, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP)'s Youth and Women Economic Empowerment theme, conducted a refresher training that targeted young Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs), Local Government Officials and representatives from the Kigoma Regional Secretariat Office in order to ensure that young BDSPs continue to deliver up to standard trainings to youth and women entrepreneurs during and beyond KJP programming cycle.

The training focus was to enhance capacity of youth BDSPs in collaboration with LGAs to deliver entrepreneurship training to youth and women entrepreneurs

and thereby facilitate generation of viable businesses and enhance sustainability of youth and women led enterprise through use of the ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme. To achieve this, several business topics including buying and stock control, costing, marketing, people and productivity, planning as well as record keeping encompassed in the ILO Improve your Business (IYB) tools were covered.

Also, through this workshop, participants reviewed implementation of developed work plans which were endorsed during the first training of trainers (TOTs) held in August 2019. Part of the review involved issuance of a brief questionnaire to the trainers. From their responses, since

the first training in August 2019, the trainers have been able to reach over 1,000 youth and women entrepreneurs who managed to develop business plans for the group enterprises and improve business operations. Following this some of the groups supported by the trainers have accessed local government loans targeting youth and women. The trainers admit that there have been improved business operations and monitoring of groups has been made easier.

As a way forward, the programme plans to continue mentoring the trained BDSPs and LGA officials including to facilitate them as certified trainers.

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Mr. Lawrence Ambokile, ILO Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) trainer, facilitating an SIYB ToT Session in Kigoma as a means to enhance the capacity of young Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) and LGA officials to deliver entrepreneurship education to youth and women in Kigoma. **Photo | ILO/Cressida Mwamboma**



Ms. Godliver Mtaheba, one of the participants of the SIYB training making a presentation on how to improve trainings to beneficiaries in programme Districts. **Photo | ILO/Cressida Mwamboma**

UNICEF SUPPORT PROVISION OF (PPEs) AND HELP PEOPLE PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST COVID 19



Dar es Salaam women reading a poster with key messages on COVID-19 at a bus stop. These are among the posters being distributed by the Red Cross with through UNICEF support. Photo | UNICEF Tanzania

As Tanzania is battling the COVID 19 pandemic, UNICEF is supporting the Government of Tanzania's response by providing critical technical support to help to save lives and engaging multiple influencers from faith leaders, to media and online influencers as advocates for key behavioral change to prevent the virus spread.

To ensure safety of health workers, UNICEF has ordered PPE kits and other emergency supplies worth US\$ 550,000 that are expected in country before May ends. Additionally, locally procured PPE kits worth US\$ 910,000 will be available in early June.

As co-chair of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar

group with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, UNICEF have helped bring together over 70 partners to join forces (local and international CSOs, professional associations, bilateral organizations and UN agencies) in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

Through RCCE, UNICEF has supported the Government to roll out a national mass media campaign with key targeted prevention messages including to the most vulnerable. Around 120 different contents reached 15 million people in their homes through national and community radio, TV and live media. Social media platforms, and the engagement of celebrities and online influencers continue to reach a

further 3-4 million audiences every week.

To understand message reach and changes in knowledge, attitude and practice UNICEF has initiated an ongoing survey in 8 regions across mainland and Zanzibar. While U-Report SMS polls and WhatsApp complement the myth tracking system to inform improvements to ongoing intervention.

Partners such as the Tanzanian Red Cross are helping UNICEF support community-based activities in major cities in which around 10,471,594 people (59%) out of a total population of 17,682,684 have been reached, while motorbikes and megaphones have been used to reach hard areas especially during this rainy season.

UNICEF is supporting community-based surveillance in high-risk regions in Mainland through training of Community Health Workers (CHWs) who will be mobilized from mid-May. And through UNICEF support, 192,288 refugees in three camps of Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtenдели are practicing hand-washing following the distribution and installation of buckets

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and liquid soap. The hard work of the C4D team from all sections within the RCCE Pillar structure has ensured important issues such as child protection, VAC, GBV are addressed, expertise and resources such as WASH are utilised, and the needs of marginalized groups are not overlooked with the RCCE

response.

Capitalizing on the influence of religious leaders as a powerful channel to promote COVID-19 prevention messages, guidance on safe worship practices and safe and respectful burial, thoughtful advocacy with Christian and Muslim faith leaders resulted in worshipping from home,

handwashing and physical distancing being promoted. The two webinar sessions with Muslim and Christians leaders in Tanzania, Africa and India have generated solid leadership commitments to step up and advocate across their worshippers and communities at large.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

May 22nd - International Day for Biological Diversity

May 23rd - International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

May 29th - International Day of UN Peacekeepers

June 5th - World Environment Day

June 7th - World Food Safety Day

June 8th - World Oceans Day

June 13th - International Albinism Awareness Day

June 20th - World Refugee Day

A STRONGER UNITED NATIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD



**UNITED NATIONS
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