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VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Kigoma Joint Programme

Special Edition

MARCH 2019





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UNRC Overview

Introduction by the UN Resident Coordinator

2018 was a very eventful year for the United Nations in Tanzania as we continued implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II (UNDAP II) which will run until June 2021. This special edition of Voices From the Field brings you closer to our work in Kigoma and specifically brings out the voices of the host communities we are working with to implement the Global Goals and local development priorities.

The launch of the KJP in September 2017 was a significant milestone for the UN, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and, most crucially, the communities hosting refugees in Kigoma Region. The KJP applies a comprehensive approach to address a wide range of issues facing both the refugees and migrants in the region as well as the surrounding host communities. It consists of 16 UN agencies cooperating across 6 themes which are Sustainable Energy and Environment; Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment; Violence Against Women and Children; Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and Agriculture with a Focus on Developing Local Markets.

Looking back, we have made good progress in implementation during the first year. There are some visible results already.

We have also learned some good

lessons which will assist on enhancing implementation for the remaining duration of the programme. I commend all UN agencies involved on this joint programmes as well as Kigoma's regional and local authorities for their efforts on ensuring that our interventions contribute to the improvement of the lives of the communities in Kigoma.

I would also like to thank the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) who are currently funding the programme. Without their support, we would not be able to support these communities. I also thank the government of the United Republic of Tanzania for their sustained partnership and we remain committed to continue working closely with them and all stakeholders to ensure that no one is left behind as we continue implementation of the Global Goals in Tanzania.

Alvaro Rodriguez

Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Tanzania a.i.



Kigoma Joint Programme

About the Programme



The Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) is an area-based UN joint programme that cuts across multiple sectors to improve development and human security in the Kigoma region. The programme involves 16 different UN Agencies and was developed in cooperation with the regional and district authorities, based on the development needs of Kigoma and the comparative advantages of the UN in Tanzania.

Kigoma region is one of the poorest regions in the country and it carries the

burden of a protracted refugee situation, hosting over 350,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). KJP applies a comprehensive approach to address a wide range of issues facing both the refugees and migrants in the region as well as the surrounding host communities.

By supporting both, the host population and refugees and migrants, the programme forms part of the New Way of Working (NWOW), focusing on joint analysis, planning and interventions to

FAO Agriculture Officer, Ms. Theresia Massoy (right), explains some of the activities that are being implemented as part of the Agriculture theme of the KJP to Councillor for Political Affairs, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Mr. Hans Corneliussen (second from left) and Senior Programme Officer, Swedish Embassy, Ms. Jenny Akerback (first from left) and UNICEF Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist, Ms. Ophelia Karumuna (centre). *Photo | UN Tanzania*

achieve common outcomes that reduce risks and vulnerabilities, and contributes to a future in which no one is left behind. The humanitarian-development nexus

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About the Programme



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About the Programme



The 16 participating UN agencies are cooperating across 6 themes which are:

- Sustainable Energy and Environment (SEE)
- Youth and Women's Economic Empowerment (YWEE)
- Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC)
- Education with a focus on girls and adolescent girls (Education)
- WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)
- Agriculture with a focus on developing local markets (Agriculture).

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is supported by linking together the UN's existing response to refugees and migrants with an increased focus on developing the host communities.

Expanding and increasing the support to host communities will also help to enhance co-existence between the refugee/migrant population and the host population. Through supporting stability and prosperity in the Kigoma region, the KJP also contributes to stability in the Great Lakes regional context.

The programme currently focuses on three districts namely Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko currently hosting refugee camps although some interventions are also being carried out in other districts. KJP also builds on existing national programmes and lessons from other

sub-national interventions. To the extent possible, KJP builds on national initiatives, such as National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), National Economic Empowerment Policy and Act, Agricultural Sector Development Plan II (ASDP 2), and National Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP). Under the Joint Programme, UN Tanzania can provide a more strategic and coordinated response to the development priorities in the region.

The total budget for implementation of the programme over four (4) years (2017 – 2021) is estimated to be 55 MUSD of which about 19 MUSD has been secured mainly from Norway, KOIKA, Sweden and core funds of UN Agencies involved. This edition of Voices From the Field focuses on select themes of the KJP.

Part I: Youth and Women Economic Empowerment



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Kigoma residents participating in a workshop on value addition that was conducted by UN Women. The workshop focused on improving entrepreneurship skills. *Photo/ UN Women*

About The Theme

The overall objective of the Youth and Women Economic Empowerment (YWEE) theme under the Kigoma Joint Programme is to increase income levels of women and youth as well as enable local start-ups and enterprises to expand their operations. The theme has selected complementary strategies to achieve the goal, including supporting

the Local Governments in Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko to address gender inequality and poverty among youth and women, while also enhancing their local economic empowerment capacities.

The theme aims to improve inclusiveness of economic opportunities by targeting women and youth, as well as to bridge the division between the youth from host and refugee communities. As one of the pilot countries for the global Inclusive

and Equitable Local Development Programme (IELD) joint programme, future lessons from KJP will contribute to global tools and guidelines that will allow effective implementation of interventions that remove obstacles preventing women from entering labor markets and enhance women's economic empowerment at the local level. Agencies working together to implement this theme are UNCDF, UN Women, UNDP, ILO, ITC and UNHCR.



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Youth and Women Economic Empowerment

The Power of Savings Groups – Building Refugee Resilience through Access to Finance



After receiving training from UNCDF as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), this group of refugees were able to open this café that they are standing in front of. *Photo| UNCDF*

When they first started saving their money, the 20 members of 'Upendo' Savings Group never imagined they would one day operate a successful restaurant inside of a refugee camp.

However, after three months of actively participating in the savings group, this group

of refugees was able to make huge strides towards economic self-reliance by opening their own restaurant in Nyarugusu Camp.

Just one of the 290 saving groups established by UNCDF as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme, 'Upendo' is a prime example of the tangible benefits of savings group

participation for rural populations—refugees and host communities alike. After identifying the demand in their community and spending hours planning after their meetings, the group's 14 women and 6 men accumulated savings and opened their restaurant.

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Although the restaurant is temporarily closed due to changing government regulation, while it was operating, the restaurant allowed members to consistently earn profit, improving the lives of each member and better preparing them for future transitions.

The restaurant catered to the camp's NGO trainings and events, and even fed members of the host community who stopped by after a long day of selling goods at the common market. Sarah*, one of the restaurant operators, attributes this success to the lessons learned during her savings group meetings, ***“our savings group taught us how to create a budget so that we could run a business. We had the passion, but now we have the knowledge and the money to run a successful business.”***

Since the program's inception in October 2017, UNCDF has reached more than 2,472 beneficiaries, 70% of whom are women. From the time the baseline survey was conducted in January 2018, to the midline survey, conducted in April 2018, and the average household savings among those surveyed increased from 14,649 TZS to 40,229 TZS (a 25,580 TZS or 275% increase), and 47% have taken loans through the group—allowing them to invest in their businesses, homes, and futures. To date, total deposits accumulated in the groups has reached 46.1 million TZS (\$20,490 USD).

Savings groups have the potential to foster economic resilience among refugee communities in a way that other mechanisms cannot. Incorporating savings groups into livelihoods programming teaches refugees good money management practices and

allows refugees to save what little they have and eventually take loans—putting them in a better position to manage shocks and invest in their futures.

However, the program is not just improving the lives of refugees, it is empowering host community populations as well. Of the 290 groups established as part of the program, 100 are in the host community. Smallholder farmers, and women, are now better able to invest in their futures as well. What's more, increased savings and investment among refugees stimulates regional economic activity, fostering strong relations between refugees and host communities while improving the wellbeing of all involved. The Kigoma Joint Programme aims to expand the initiatives and reach more people in both refugee and host communities.

'I can support my family's livelihoods, and I even paid health insurance'

When Agrippina and other 22 women from Kija Village in Kakonko Kigoma formed 'Mwendo wa Saa' group to produce and process cassava, their vision was to become successful business women. Their vision was not easy to achieve due to lack of reliable markets of raw and processed cassava (cassava grits) at the time. The available market that existed was for selling fresh cassava straight from the farm in form of cassava chips which were sold in kilograms and at a very low price to individuals. Most of the traders for this business were from Burundi. The other challenge they faced

was the inability to sell raw cassava in bulk because they perish fast.

UNCDF is financially supporting BRIMA under the KJP. Through the programme the key focus is on unlocking domestic capital for women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship. BRIMA Food Products Company LTD is a small local company owned by two young men in Kibondo, Kigoma. It started its operations in April 2018. It engages in the production, packaging, and marketing of cassava and maize flour for domestic and export markets. It buys most of its raw materials from women and prioritizes women in its

distribution strategy.

“In July this year, we visited BRIMA, and we had an opportunity to learn on how we can utilize our cassava grits processing machines for increased quality of our products. Luckily our visit exposed us to a more reliable market for our products. BRIMA agreed to supply our cassava grits. We would also like to thank BTC, for linking us with BRIMA as cassava grits supplier” says Agrippina, a 34-year-old and a mother of four children - three of whom are in school.

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Women employed at BRIMA factory, a private enterprise supported by UNCDF through Kigoma Joint Programme, peeling cassava for further processing.
Photo/ Msafiri Manongi/ UN Tanzania

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“Upon return to Kakonko, we started producing cassava grits based on the orientation we got. At first, it was tough for us to produce quality grits, but we were getting lots of support from BRIMA in making sure that the grits we produce are up to the required standard. ‘BRIMA helped improve quality of our cassava grits,’” says Agrippina.

Agrippina explains that though, they have just started selling the cassava grits to BRIMA, all group members are experiencing positive

changes in small ways. **“Before, most women in our group could only afford to sell a few kilograms of (makopa) cassava chips to local traders and middlemen, but because of the presence of BRIMA, as a group, we can now sell up to 3 tons of cassava grits in a month. For example, from July to November, we have sold about 3 tons of cassava grits to BRIMA worth TZS1,950,000. The money we got, we use some to service the loan we have, some for running the office and we will divide the remaining among the members in December”** she adds.

She further adds that **“BRIMA helps us get a stable market for our cassava and brought hope to the cassava smallholder farmers. Before I could not buy school uniform and supplies for my children but look at me now, through this business, I can support my family’s livelihoods, and I even paid health insurance for them this year. Also, I have a plan in place to support my husband to build a good house. If it continues like this, I will accomplish so many things in the future.”**

'I could open an NMB Junior account for my child'

Seven years ago, Anastazia Lameck (36) from Kabanga, Kasulu set up a stationery shop with the support of her husband in Kabanga village, Msambara ward. The shop which also provides passport photo printing services, has been doing well due to presence of the District hospital, and the nursing and teaching colleges. In May 2018 Anastazia along with 7 other women from the same area were introduced to Energy 4 - implementing Partner of UNWOMEN under KJP.

Through the programme, Anastazia was provided with enterprise development, empowerment, leadership and technology training to ensure business development and growth. Following the training she accessed a 400,000TZS loan through 'UPENDO' women group (a Village Savings and Loan Association), which she used to expand her business and start selling cold drinks. This increased her revenues by more than 100,000 a month. She also managed to open a junior account for her child at NMB bank after being introduced to the bank.

In September 2018 Anastazia and the other entrepreneurs from Kabanga village were invited to attend a Focused Group discussion on Business formalization and gender. During the discussion the Trade officer explained the processes and procedures required to formalize their businesses. Having a business license has enabled Anastazia to start selling and processing M-Pesa Sim cards.

"I'm really grateful to the programme for opening my mind through its impactful trainings, mentorship and Focused Group Discussions. With the support that I received I was able to open an NMB Junior account for my child, acquire a freezer and increase my revenue by selling cold drinks. My business formalization process was also made easier and that has been helpful in

starting and processing M-Pesa cards. With your assistance I see the possibility of a smooth growth for my business" said Anastazia.

Anastazia is planning to open a new stationery shop in another village at the end of December 2018 by using a Photocopy machine she has at home. The programme is supporting her in this new venture.



Ms. Anastazia Lameck operates a shop in Msambara Ward, Kasulu District, that supplies stationeries and provides services such as typing of documents, photocopying, scanning, passport size photos and selling cold drinks. *Photo/ UN Women*



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Youth and Women
Economic Empowerment



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Youth and Women Economic Empowerment

The power of Milling Machine, Supporting Farmers through processing



Ms. Mariam Kilahara at her maize mill and flour packaging business in Kibondo which has been supported by the programme. Mariam is providing employment to at least 10 people and is a reliable buyer of maize in her community. *Photo| UN Women*

Mariam Kilahara (54) from Kumweruro village, Kibondo District, started her diesel-powered milling business in 2000 in partnership with her husband. Things were going well until her husband married a second wife, at which point he took control of the business and its profits.

For a couple of years Mariam took on all the hard work, walking 30 km a day with a child in her back to collect maize to be milled. Following her daughter's advice, she started saving to open her own business. Her dream came true in early 2003 when she finally opened her own diesel-powered mill in a small wooden shed at Kumweruro village in Kibondo District.

Mariam wasn't keeping any business records, so she couldn't calculate exactly how much she was earning after expenses. In July 2018, Mariam joined women economic empowerment programme and attended a series of business, empowerment and leadership training which gave her the tools to run her business more professionally. One of the business mentors also visited her regularly to ensure she was on track and to provide support. In September 2018 she was assisted to apply for a UNCDF support (which is also part of KJP) to start a Rice milling and grading industry at Kumweruro Street in Kibondo town.

The programme also helped Mariam acquire a loan from NMB Kibondo branch which she used to buy maize from the farmers. Mariam is currently planning to top-up her loan and

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purchase packaging machines for her products. The Program t will assist her throughout the whole process.

Mariam has been able to identify and reduce unnecessary costs from when she started keeping records of her business sales and expenses. This helped Mariam increase her sales margin – from TZS1,900,000 TZS to 3,828,100 following training and mentorship support. Moreover, with the extra profit Mariam will be able to pay her son’s college fees next year when he starts.

At present, Mariam Kilahara owns two maize milling machines. She is the director of her own company and has employed six other people, one female as a manager reporting to her and five males who operates the machines and do the hard work.

Mariam’s plan is to expand her customer base across Kibondo district, Kigoma region and other parts of the country by starting to package her products for wholesalers, retailers and end-users. She still need support in finding the required machines for packaging, accessing

new markets and marketing her business which the programme will support.

Mariam’s business contributes much to the community: besides producing food for the community she employs more than 10 people who collect maize from the surrounding farms during the harvest season and deliver it to Mariam’s mill for processing.

Mariam’s services are awesome, she is always very keen to meet her customer’s expectation by providing quality services and customer care.



Making a difference through value addition of agriculture produce



Last year UNDP conducted Training of Trainers on Food Processing and Entrepreneurship to Local Government Official and Business Development Service Providers in Kibondo. *Photo/ UNDP*

“After acquiring the skill of adding value to a variety of products, adding value to garlic and producing garlic paste,” says Peter Stephano Msesega a thirty-five-year-old garlic farmer

and employee at Kibondo District council.

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He was one among 21 trainees who attended the three weeks Training of Trainers on Food Processing and Entrepreneurship to Local Government Official and Business Development Service Providers of Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko Districts which was organised in collaboration between UNDP and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) in November 2018. The Training of Trainers imparted skills and knowledge on food Processing, Entrepreneurship and Business Management; Basics of Packaging and Labelling; and Negotiations skills. At the end of the training, the TOTs were able to display the products that they had processed during the training such as Peanut butter, Soya Milk, Flour, Tomato sauce, bread, dried fruits and vegetables etc. Chrisantus Philbeth, participant and university graduate, was very excited to learn how to bake cakes using cassava flour: **“With the plenty of cassava in Kasulu where I come from, we can do wonders”**, he said.

Mr. Steven Jenks, Head of Department of Natural Resources representing the District Executive Director programme emphasized at the closing of the training on the importance of adding value to the agricultural production in Tanzania. He also stressed the need for proper packaging and branding of the products to attract customers and expand markets. He expressed hope that if these skills are used it will be a source of job creation and increase of income for the youth and women in the LGAs.

The participants will now share their new knowledge and skills to other entrepreneurs in the LGAs to reduce the post-harvest losses and increase business competitiveness. Each trainer will train at least 15 SMEs within the first year after completion of the training and therefore it is expected that more than 300 SME will be trained by the end of next year. **“This training really transformed my thinking and attitude, I was very shy and believed that it is very difficult for me to stand in front of the majority and**

transfer the skills I have, but the training methodology used, provided me with the confidence to do what I desire to do in any business perspective”, said Grace Matata, a 27 year old participant.

“This training really transformed my thinking and attitude, I was very shy and believed that it is very difficult for me to stand in front of the majority and transfer the skills I have, but the training methodology methodology used, provided me with the confidence to do what I desire to do in any business perspective,”

- Grace Matata, a participant in the Training of Trainers on Food Processing and Entrepreneurship to Local Government Officials and Business Development Service Providers.

Woman entrepreneur improves livelihood through restaurant business

In 2016 Belita Elia Kinyentama (38) a resident of Muganza village, Kakonko district started her own small restaurant in an unlit room with capital of TZS 5,000 and some spare cups, plates and sauce pans she had at home. After operating for two years, she managed to increase her capital to TZS 1,500,000.

most women come across when starting their business, including limited support from their spouses, Belita persevered. Her problems initially also emerged from other fronts, such as low operating capital, no accounting services for her business, low customer turnover, and a poor working environment.

Belita was able to buy some new equipment, which included 3 new tables, a half set of plastic chairs, cups, sauce pans, spoons and plates. As her restaurant started gaining popularity, she moved to a bigger room, which is connected to the main electricity grid. This enabled her to purchase a refrigerator and started selling some cold drinks. To attract more customers, and ensure they stayed

Despite some normal business challenges

However, after several months of operation,

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Belita Elia Kinyentama is operating a restaurant in Muganza, Kakonko since 2016. Through the Kigoma Joint Programme, she has learnt how to keep financial records and reinvest her profits into her business. She has recently opened M-Pesa shop to take advantage of the rapid growth of the use of mobile money services in Kakonko.

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longer, she also bought a television. By

staying longer, it meant that her customers would take more food and cold drinks.

In June 2018, Belita began participating in activities that promote women economic empowerment as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme. She took part in trainings, workshops, and received mentoring. This gave her new entrepreneurial skills that helped her further improve her business.

For the first time after intervention by the UN Women, she formalized her business; started recording her sales, revenues and expenditures; improved her customer care; and efficiency. The Women Economic Empowerment programme trainings and coaching have boosted Belita's confidence and helped her realise her business potential. She is a new woman entrepreneur who no longer hesitates to grab new business opportunities.

Through her new ways of doing business, she now records an average monthly sale of TZS 600,000. It is a huge leap in terms of profits but also a development that gave birth to a new business idea to reinvest her savings.

She has recently diversified her business by opening an MPESA kiosk near her restaurant and various games that attract potential customers for her restaurant. The sky is the limit for Belita who during a meeting with UN Women expressed her interest to open a furniture stall at the market soon. She was also happy to announce that she had completed renovating her family house in Kakonko and now able to ensure that her children access better quality education and health care.



Part II: Ending Violence Against Women and Children

About The Theme

Programming interventions under the UN Joint Programme Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) theme are grounded in Tanzania’s five-year National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC, 2017-2021)

and directly contribute to achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender equality. Prior to the NPA-VAWC, initiatives to address violence against women and children were implemented through eight different strategies.

These strategies, that have either expired, or nearly expired, reinforced

an artificial dichotomy between gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children (VAC) programming, and created numerous coordination structures, and duplicated training and capacity building initiatives for front line service providers. Agencies working together under this theme are UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and IOM.

“The fact remains that I am in school” – a new chance to study with help of the Wotesawa Shelter

“Call me Vanessa, I come from Kigaga Village in Kibondo District in the Kigoma region. I am nine years old and I lived at the shelter for 6 months and this is my story.”

With her mother’s consent, Vanessa left Kigaga and travelled 150 kilometers to Kasulu where she was employed as a domestic worker. Her daily responsibilities included cooking, washing dishes, cleaning the house, doing the laundry and babysitting. She was paid about TZS 20,000 (approx. 9USD) per month – which she sent directly to her mother.

During her employment, Vanessa was constantly subjected to abuse at the hands of her employer. She received verbal threats of physical harm, she was denied

food, criticized and harassed. **“There is one day I cannot forget. I was beaten raw with a piece of wood because I failed to finish my chores on time. With my injuries, I was lucky that the town centre social welfare office brought me to the shelter.”**

The shelter provided Vanessa food, housing, and counselling. They also helped her file a case against her former employer at the Kasulu primary court. Vanessa was also made aware that she could not stay in the shelter forever, and that she should consider going home and rejoining her family. **“Staying in the shelter gave me education again, improved my ability to read, write, and count.”**

Wotesawa and the town social welfare officer found Vanessa’s family in Kigaga

“There is one day I cannot forget. I was beaten raw with a piece of wood because I failed to finish my chores on time. With my injuries, I was lucky that the town centre social welfare office brought me to the shelter.”

- Vanessa.



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Ending Violence Against Women and Children



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and arranged for her to be reunited with them. **“Going home was a big thing and most important thing was the fact that I was able to make plans for going back to school,”** Vanessa reiterated. The programme through Wotesawa provided Vanessa with resources to make sure she could enroll.

“I am thankful for the visits made to my house and my family in Kigaga, to

check on me. My teachers have even suggested that I should be registered in standard two, as my performance has been better than my classmates. My mother prefers that I remain in standard 1. Right now, the Kibondo social welfare officer is trying to convince my mother that I be permitted to proceed to standard 2. I will continue to study hard, standard 1 or standard 2, the fact remains that I am in school – I am getting an education – I have so much more than others.”

Victims of trafficking and other forms of violence in literacy class at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Shelter in Kasulu. **Photo/ IOM**

*** Names that appear in this story have been changed to protect identities.**



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Ending Violence Against Women and Children

Fit Families: Providing Children with Emergency Family-based Care



Mama Sophia (right) has been trained by the government, through support from the programme, on how to take care of children whose parents are unable to care for them. Mama Sophia is one of over 20 'Fit Families' in Kasulu. In total, the trained families care for over 100 children who are unable to stay with their parents or other family members due to cases of violence. *Photo | UN Tanzania*

Sophia Kamali, 41, a mother of two children aged 24 and 13, lives in a quiet area of Kasulu town. Sophia works for a local NGO, Thamini Uhai, as a

community health worker. Sophia lost her mother when she was just one-year-old. She and her 7-month-old sister were left with a father who was unable to provide

for them. The girls were taken care of by several extended family members in poor conditions with little or nothing to eat. "I

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understand what these children go through because I was one of them,” says Sophia. In 2014, she was identified, trained, and registered as a Fit Person in Kasulu. To date, she has accommodated 26 children in her home.

Through support from the programme, the Fit Family programme has been incorporated into Kasulu Town Council’s child protection system. With the roll-out of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC, 2017-2021) in the four districts where the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) is being implemented. Sophia is now held out as an example for other Fit Families in the four districts. Since the launch of the KJP, 56 Fit Families have

hosted 117 children who were in need of care.

Alternative care arrangements are part and parcel of case management, particularly for children who cannot live with their parents. In such circumstances, a social welfare officer (SWO) removes the child from the harmful situation and places the child in a safe place on short-term basis while family problems are being resolved. To ensure that there are persons available to accommodate children who need emergency care placements on a short-term basis, at low cost and on short notice, the Fit Persons Scheme was introduced.

“When funds are available, the social welfare department gives me some money to support the children I accommodate. When there are no funds, I use what I have.” Sophia does not expect anything in return for the support she provides.

She has accommodated boys and girls as young as 2, and adolescents up to 17 and accepts children who are abled, as well as physically challenged. She remembers all the children who have stayed with her and even keeps in touch with some of them. She narrated the story of a 3-year-old boy, *John, who was abandoned by his mother outside his father’s house for lack of family support. John had tuberculosis and sickle cell at the time. Sophia lived and cared for John for 1 month while the SWO worked with the baby’s parents. Sophia developed a special bond with John and even though the child now lives with his parents in

Kigoma, Sophia still maintains contact with John through his parents.

There are currently eleven 11 fit persons in Kasulu TC. ***“The presence of fit families in the community has been very useful. We are planning to increase the number of Fit Families to 30 in order to have a coverage of 2 Fit Families in each of the 15 wards”*** says Mr. Wabike, the District Social Welfare Officer for Kasulu Town Council. Regular home visits are conducted by SWOs to monitor the welfare and safety of children in their care.

“The presence of fit families in the community has been very useful. We are planning to increase the number of Fit Families to 30 in order to have a coverage of 2 Fit Families in each of the 15 wards”

-Mr. Wabike, the District Social Welfare Officer for Kasulu Town Council.

“When funds are available, the social welfare department gives me some money to support the children I accommodate. When there are no funds, I use what I have.”

-Sophia Kamali, Kasulu town resident.

**** Names that appear in this story have been changed to protect identities.***



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Ending Violence Against Women and Children

Kibondo Child Protection System



Kibondo District Social Welfare Officer, Sophia Gwamagobe (right), explains the nature of her work to the delegation and stresses the importance of the child protection system in Kibondo which has been strengthened through collaboration of UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA and UN Women which are jointly implementing the VAWC Theme. *Photo | Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania*

“*In the past, I was the only Social Welfare Officer in Kibondo. It was difficult for me to manage and follow up on all cases that were brought to my desk because there are many children in need of assistance. I have received cases related to rape which required me to work closely with the police and the judicial system for prosecution. In 2017, we jointly worked*

on a case involving a 12-year old girl who was raped by her uncle. The perpetrator was prosecuted and sentenced to 30 years. My team and I are following up on the girl’s development and I am happy that she recently excelled in her primary school exams and has been selected to join secondary school” says Sophia Gwamagobe, a District Social Welfare Officer in Kibondo.

With UN support, two more social welfare officers were able to join Sophia in April 2018. They now share the work load. Since January 2018, her office has managed over 100 cases of children in need of protection, the majority of whom are children subjected to violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation.

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As a District Social Welfare Officer, Sophia oversees and coordinates the protection of women and children in collaboration with other stakeholders including officers from different sectors including law

enforcement, health, education, community development, immigration, the judicial system and community leaders. Together, all these stakeholders form the District Protection Committee which is a multi-sectoral coordination structure established at the regional, district, ward and village

levels to oversee the implementation of the Five-Year National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children in Tanzania. To date, Protection Committees exist at the district level and are available in all 19 wards and 50 villages of Kibondo.

Working with communities to end violence against women



Community members from Kakonko district engage in a dialogue session on how they can take action against gender-based violence. *Photo | UN Tanzania*

Nathan Naftali Mugaya is a 26 year old peer educator in Muhange ward. Naftali attended a Gender Based Violence (GBV) training through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) in paternity with UN Women. He was introduced to the

community by local government leaders in Luhuru Village, Muhange Ward, Kakonko District.

Naftali's awareness raising sessions started on the streets where youth

usually hang out to socialize (known as vijiwani). He notes that it wasn't easy in the beginning as he was frequently being teased. ***“Eventually, I became popular and now I even receive messages from my colleagues and other people as well where they are asking questions about GBV. I was even asked to do a presentation during one of the public meetings organized by the Local Government Authorities,”*** he recalls.

Local Government Authorities usually hold community meetings on Saturdays to discuss various social issues including women rights. Naftali uses this opportunity to follow up with the community about his outreach activities. He has become well known as the GBV resource person in the community. He gets contacted about GBV at least five times a day by community members.

“I can see some changes in the community. I take note when I see community members taking necessary steps to avoid gender-based violence. Incidents of early marriages have also decreased. More girls are staying in school,” he explains. So far, Naftali has attended to and helped resolve over 90 GBV related incidents in his community.



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Improving the Quality & Quantity of
Agricultural Output for Smallholder
Farmer's in the Region

Part III: Improving the Quality & Quantity of Agricultural Output for Smallholder Farmer's in the Region

About The Theme

The major objective of the agriculture theme is to increase farm income of smallholder farmers in the Kigoma region leading to agriculture development in the region. Aligned with the Government priorities around Agricultural Sector Development Plan II (ASDP 2) and other current interventions in the Kigoma region, the theme focuses on four areas: Increase in production, financial access, market linkages and infrastructure, as well as reduction of postharvest losses. Agencies working together under this theme are. WFP, UNCDF, FAO and ITC.



Mr. Alex Magambo (lead farmer) in Kibondo demonstrating proper planting methods to other farmers. Photo | FAO

Changing smallholder farmers' lives amidst climate change

“We are very grateful for this idea of coming up with the idea of bringing the agro-inputs closer to us through an input market,” says Ms. Lucy Rugano, a small-scale farmer from Kitahana ward in Kibondo district, Kigoma region.

She was speaking during the launch of a farmers' inputs market that was held at the ward on October 20 through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) agriculture theme aimed to improve the livelihoods of host communities in areas that have been hosting

refugees from neighboring countries.

The agriculture theme is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The overall objective of the theme is to offer a value chain-centric approach to address the various bottlenecks in the maize, cassava, beans value chains and also in livestock production so as to increase investment in smallholder farmers, while lowering

investments' risks and increasing private sector engagement.

According to Ms. Rugano, the market had come at a right time when they were preparing their fields for the planting seasons ahead of the rainy season which is due to start in the near future.

The farmers' inputs market was launched by the Kibondo District Administrative Secretary, Mr. Ayubu Sebabili and FAO Representative to Tanzania, Mr. Fred Kafeero. It was attended by local government officials, UN officials and farmers from Kitahana, Lusohoko and



Improved farm input materials being displayed at the launch of the improved farm input market in Kitahana village, Kakonko district. *Photo / FAO*

other neighbouring wards.

Mr. Kafeero said that the main objective of the market was to provide farmers with access to quality inputs that would result in good yields in order to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. **“Besides,”** he said, **“this will also increase their incomes by improving agricultural production and productivity and therefore contribute to achieving SDG 2: Zero Hunger.”**

The launch followed weeks of Trainings of Trainers (ToTs) whereby 135 farmer facilitators from Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu districts in Kigoma Region were provided with skills and knowledge to improve their productivity from farming activity aiming to increase their income and

poverty eradication.

The ToT model by FAO will rapidly expand the knowledge and skills to the over 5,000 smallholder farmers in those districts by orienting them on Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) and integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) through the Farmers Field School (FFS) and Junior Farmers Field Learning School approach.

One of the trainees, Mr. Sixbert Magambo, said that the knowledge that he has been able to gain through the project, strengthened his facilitation skills and ability to grasp and implement the GAP and CSA concepts.

To date, about 10 Ward level FFS demo plots for farmers’ facilitators and 90 Village

level FFS demo plots for farmers’ groups have been established to demonstrate the knowledge acquired during the training sessions. These have been supported with maize and beans seeds, cassava cuttings and fertilizer.

Lead farmers take responsibility for closely following-up with these households to ensure that they also acquire and adopt GAPs and CSA for increased production and resilience to climate shocks!

The project also includes vulnerable people identified within the farmer groups so as not to leave them behind throughout the intervention. They too are among the people that have benefited from the farming inputs support provided under the project.



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Introducing Cassava Postharvest Handling, Food Safety and Packaging to Kigoma Farmers



Women who have received training from UN Women put their acquired skills to work. Here they are in the drying phase of producing cassava flour. *Photo/ Edgar Kiliba/ UN Tanzania*

Bartazari Edison is a farmer from Nyamnyusi village in Kasulu District some 100 kms North West of Kigoma Town in Western Tanzania. Cassava has transformed Mr. Baltazari's life and that of his family. He now produces more than enough of the crop to meet his domestic needs and sells the surplus. However, this prospect has been under threat due to decreasing price of cassava especially in

the last two years.

"The last two years I was selling my cassava for Tsh 1000 – 1200 per kilo; however, this year, the price is Tsh 200 – 300. The Rwandese buyers pay a better price but they require a higher quality cassava. If I can improve my quality, I will be able to sell to them and get a better price." Said Baltazari

during feasibility study on Cassava by ITC in July, 2018.

As pointed out by Baltazari, there is growing demand for higher quality of cassava from the region which the farmers have to compete with. The existing means by most farmers to harvest, process and store cassava are becoming a huge hindrance to the utilization of the regional market which includes the neighboring Burundi and Rwanda.

The challenges faced by most cassava farmers range from limited knowledge to poor infrastructure/equipment required to process cassava. Usually peeled cassava is air dried out in the open on a bed of cassava leaves/twigs, thus exposed to contamination /staining by dust and soil. In the wet season (October – May) the processors have a challenge with drying the cassava gratings. There is also a limited knowledge on the type of chemical to use, quantities in preserving cassava. Some farmers use the same chemicals that they have traditionally used for maize storage.

Capacity building on food safety, postharvest handling and product packaging to support the growing cassava processing industries was therefore found important in addressing the challenges. After consultation with the regional and

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“The last two years I was selling my cassava for Tsh 1000 – 1200 per kilo; however, this year, the price is Tsh 200 – 300. The Rwandese buyers pay a better price but they require a higher quality cassava. If I can improve my quality, I will be able to sell to them and get a better price.”

- Bartazari Edison is a farmer from Nyamnyusi village in Kasulu District

local authorities, ITC under the programme in cooperation with the Local Authorities organized a training workshop from 8th to 12th of October to train trainers will in turn increase the capacity of farmers and other actors in the cassava value chain on improved postharvest handling and postharvest loss reduction.

The participants acquired knowledge on packaging that will enable them to support emerging millers of high quality cassava flour in packaging material selection and package design and labelling as a way to brand the unique features of cassava from Kigoma and thus be able to diversify their product range and attract new markets.

As a result of the training, participants used the tools and skills gained during the workshop to define the gaps in each district, prioritize the areas of intervention

and finally develop action plans (short and medium term). These were presented to the Regional Agricultural Advisor, Mr. Joseph Rubuye, who was present, for adoption and implementation. The short terms actions were designed to produce quick wins with minimal resource requirement to give time for inclusion in the local government overall budget and work plan.

The core group of 20 workshop participants will be the focal points for the onward roll out of the training to their respective extension teams, farmers and other players along the cassava value chain. It is envisaged that the dissemination of the training will result in reduced postharvest losses, improved product quality and subsequently, market diversification through the optimum use of techniques and technologies that will result in improved profitability of all stakeholders or interest groups.

‘I know that my family will now have access to safe food into next year’

Moshi Hihiza Ndijuye is a 48-year-old farmer from Kanazi village in Kasulu District. He, along with 17 others – 12 of them women – make up the Jikongoje Group, one of the farmer organizations that received training on post-harvest handling facilitated by the World Food Programme (WFP) as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP).

Farmers from the Jikongoje group have typically had problems resulting from

traditional grain processing and storage. Often, they would process maize by hitting them with sticks and collecting the grains off the ground. Storage would then either have insect infestations or involve treatment with chemicals.

“We were losing so much to insects and other pests,” said Moshi, a father of seven children. **“It is hard to feed a family when you annually are losing part of your livelihood.”**

Fortunately, this year Moshi and the rest of the group attended the post-harvest handling training and have not only managed to reduce pest infestations but also learned about minimizing the chances of aflatoxin contamination.

Moshi cited the training manual as particularly being a useful tool in that he can use it to share knowledge on reducing losses with other farmers who were not

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Farmers showing officials from the Embassies of Norway and Sweden, as well as UN staff members, an improved method of maize storage that uses hermetic bags which can be sealed very tightly and are waterproof resulting in improved storage. *Photo/ Msafiri Manongi/ UN Tanzania*

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able to attend the training and even his children in the future.

As part of the programme, Moshi also received access to post-harvest loss reduction technologies, including hermetically sealing bags. Moshi

purchased six such bags and used them to store this year's harvest.

“The greatest benefit has been that with this storage, I know that my family will now have access to safe food into next year,” said Moshi.

In addition to maintaining a stock at home, Moshi was also surprised when selling his maize. He was able to sell part of his harvest for 10 percent more than the prevailing price saying that the buyer indicated its cleanliness as to why he was willing to pay more for it.

“The greatest benefit has been that with this storage, I know that my family will now have access to safe food into next year,”

- Moshi Hihiza Ndijuye is a 48-year-old farmer from Kanazi village in Kasulu District.

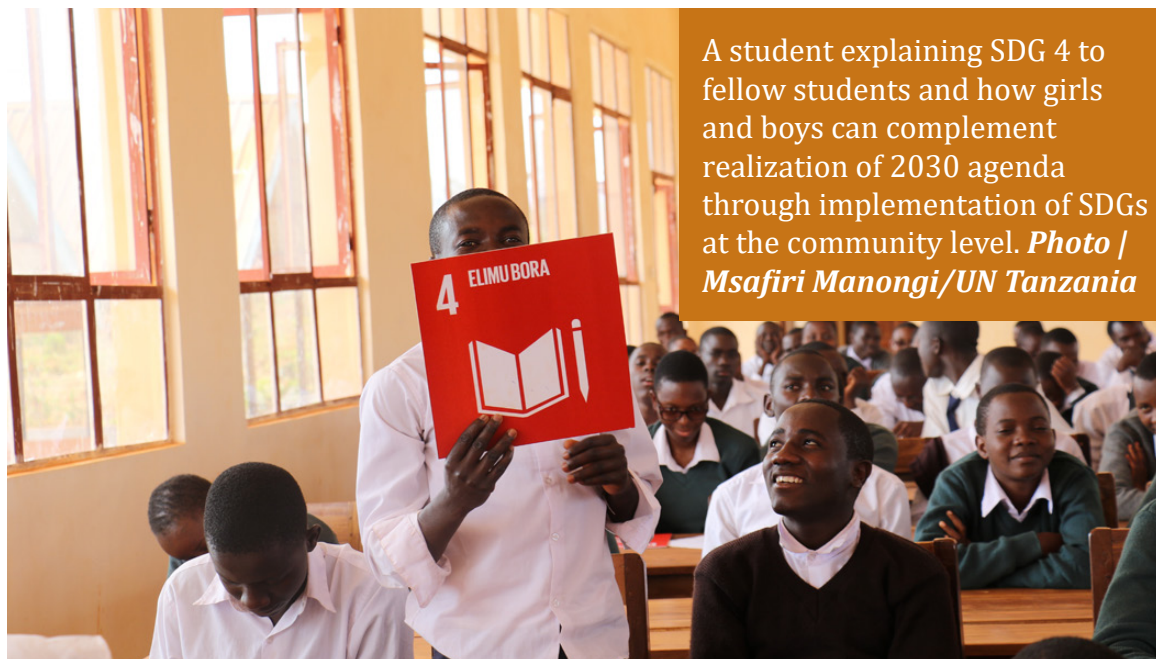
The extra income and positive outlook on home food security has Mr. Moshi already looking forward to next year where he plans to reinvest in better seeds and inputs, now knowing that he will be able to safely store any surplus.

Part IV: Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education in Tanzania

About The Theme

The Education theme aims to provide support to local government authorities to increase their capacity to deliver quality formal and non-formal basic education, as well as vocational training to adolescent girls.

It also seeks to ensure that adolescent girls have access to both information and support related to sexual reproductive health from a wide range of actors both within government and civil society. There are four (4) agencies which cooperate in implementing the theme which are UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and ILO.



A student explaining SDG 4 to fellow students and how girls and boys can complement realization of 2030 agenda through implementation of SDGs at the community level. *Photo / Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania*

“Education is a key to life” Community pull together for girls’ right to education in Kigoma

Community members gathered to stand up for girls’ right to education in Kigoma region. 50 community champions consisting of ward officers, religious leaders, traditional leaders, parents’ representatives, and teachers developed dramas based on a discussion about critical challenges that impede girls’ education in each ward as well as legal and regulatory guidelines. More than 2,000 community members were engaged by theatre performance on girls education performed at markets in Titye, Heru Ushingo, Nyakitonto, Rungwe Mpya and Nyamyusi

wards. Live music and dance enhanced the interest of the spectators.

“Communities have to adhere to the existing by-law that supports girls’ education. The entire community is responsible for supporting girls’ education. It can start with parents at the family level. Parents need to support their kids’ education. It is not enough to let them go to school only, but it is the parents’ responsibility to ensure that they stay in school,

learn and finish school. More active support is required. With support from parents, the whole community can be an ambassador to support girls’ education.” Subira Swai from Heru-Ushingo ward voiced in the open discussion.

While Tanzania is close to achieving universal primary education enrolment, young girls are still facing challenges especially in transition to secondary education. Only 45 per cent of girls transition to lower secondary education

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whereas 60 per cent of boys do. In Kigoma, the situation is even worse. Only 30 per cent of girls compared to 70 per cent of boys transition to secondary education. Cultural norms and practices such as early marriage and child pregnancy, compounded by the common practice of evening markets and lack of family support further erode educational opportunities for girls. Girls are often put in charge of the household rather than sent to school. They have a lower chance of getting an education when the family is extended, and these odds worsen many times more when there are more than eight children in the household which is the average of an ordinary family in Kasulu.

It calls for collective efforts, particularly from community members, to reinforce girls' right to education to ensure that they reach their full potential for successful integration into society. To raise awareness of girls' right to education, UNESCO in collaboration with the Forum for African Women Educationalists Tanzania Chapter (FAWETZ) organised a community-sensitization workshop using the theatre approach in Tanzania. Familiar storytelling approaches to address gender-based violence issues prevalent in the community that continue to hinder girls' education were presented through drama. The performance drew attention from a broad range of audiences, covering several dimensions of the challenges faced. For instance, one story showed how a girl was forced to get married by her parents at an

early age, shattering her dreams for an education as she was thereafter unable to return to school. The drama further provided an opportunity for interactive discussion to draw up community level action plans for girls to be educated.

One champion, Ashura Kibarabara from Titye ward said ***“Education is the key to life. Education has a potential contribution to society particularly for girls education. If you educate women, then you educate the whole society. Therefore we urge the society to collaborate with the government to educate and empower the girl child by providing equal educational opportunities for both girls and boys. A girl child has an equal right to education as a boy child. We need to build a society in which girls are given the same educational opportunities as boys for them to actively contribute in the development of our communities but also of the country.”***



Ms. Subira Swai from Heru-Ushingo ward in Kasulu spoke out on the critical role that the whole community plays in supporting girls' education during an outreach event that was held by UNESCO. ***Photo | UNESCO***

The sensitization activity was part of the KOICA-funded UN Joint Programme, Empowering Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education in Tanzania contributing to the Kigoma Joint Programme. Through the programme, UNESCO is addressing the needs of a very vulnerable group of adolescents girls, teenage mothers and young women in Kigoma, Mwanza, Arusha, and Pemba region where their chances to progress through the education system are lower due to socio-cultural discriminatory practices. The project will benefit more than 20,000 adolescent girls and boys in Tanzania.

Part V: Programme Management, Coordination and Monitoring

The strategic guidance and oversight of the programme is provided by Joint Steering Committee composed of Government and UN entities and development partners. Beneficiaries and their representatives have also been closely involved in discussion and monitoring of the activities. This is being done through Regional Consultative Council (RCC), meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) from the region and Stakeholder's Forums which includes Councilors and Senior Government officials from the region. Advocacy on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Community Mobilization has also been carried out in the programme districts through support UN Volunteers.



Dr. Gabriel Chitupila (Right), Acting DED of Kibondo showing a delegation of officials from the UN and the Embassies of Norway and Sweden around the Mukarazi Cross-Border Market. *Photo/ Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania.*

Visit to Mukarazi Cross Border Market

UN support through the Kigoma Joint Programme promotes Public service delivery by the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) through supporting revenue generating infrastructure projects which have significant economic and social impact to women and young people. The programme provides technical assistance and initial capital and enables the LGAs to attract additional investments from the private sector and access finance from domestic banks. This Mukarazi Cross-border market project exemplifies how the KJP can contribute to

economic empowerment of women and youth through creating business opportunities and providing suitable, secure and safe business premises for women to do business.

Mukarazi village is an area located about 40kms from Kibondo township, it borders Burundi on the entire western part of Kibondo district. It is a gateway to Burundi through Ruyigi Province in Burundi. For years the Burundi people, specifically those in Ruyigi Province, have socially and economically interacted with Kibondo residents, including

exchange of goods and services depending on the comparative advantage of each side. This made them establish a weekly cross-border market at Mabamba area (about 10kms from Mukarazi border) which takes place twice a week on Saturdays and Wednesdays. This market brings together more than 2,000 traders from Burundi and Tanzania trading a sizeable business volume for a duration of 12 hours a day or more. This project will provide needed infrastructure

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The Ambassador of Norway, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen (centre), UN officials and other stakeholders are taken through the design of the Muhange Cross Border Market. Once operational, the market will contribute to a more conducive environment for Tanzanian traders, especially women. *Photo / Edgar Kiliba/UN Tanzania*

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and services to release the potential of the cross-border trade. The project is implemented in phases. In the current phase, the project deals with the construction of the main market shed, food vending building and the construction of the toilets for females and males. Also, this phase ensures that water services are available for use in the market. This phase is mainly financed by UNCDF as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme. The Mukarazi villagers have provided land and have participated in clearing the site and providing some of the building materials like the building blocks. The Kibondo District Council (KDC) has surveyed the area and prepared the drawings for the market.

Unlike many markets structures in Tanzania,

this Mukarazi market will be jointly owned by the KDC (51%), Mukarazi village (20%) and women traders and entrepreneurs through their association (29%). This innovative modality is the first in Kigoma and it is likely to inspire more LGAs to also enter into such an arrangement. This approach is more inclusive as the villagers and women will be doing business in a market they own.

In addition to owning the market, the women entrepreneurs will occupy about 70% of the market stalls. This market will enable small farmers and business people (mostly women) to conveniently have access to local and regional market at a fair price. As most of the business will be transacted at the market, KDC will earn more revenues from levies, fees and local taxes and in this

way reducing its dependency on the central Government transfers which are increasingly insufficient and untimely disbursed.

Visiting the site in November 2018 The Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Brig. Gen (RTD), Emmanuel Maganga, stated that **“the construction of the cross-border markets will be of great significance to the market traders along the borders of Burundi and Tanzania and highly boost the returns on agricultural products”**. He reiterated that **“the government is pleased to see efforts being undertaken by the UN agencies under the KJP towards unlocking the economic potentials in the region”**.

This is one of several markets which are being built under the programme. **“While the construction of Mukarazi cross Border Market is at advanced stages, construction of Muhange Cross Border Market in Kakonko has also begun while construction of Mvugwe Market and rehabilitation of Sofya Market in Kasulu is under way,”** Said E Vance Siangicha, UN Area Development Coordinator during the visit.

There is huge trade potential between the population of the two countries through these cross-border markets. The current lack of necessary infrastructure and services significantly limit the trade potential for people to trade, create incomes and improve lives and eventually contribute in the local economic development of region and their counterparts in Burundi.

Visit to Vocational Training Centres and Multipurpose Training Centers

Vocational Training Centres and Multipurpose Community Centres have been established in the three districts where the Kigoma Joint Programme is being implemented. The centres, run by Good Neighbors' Tanzania, currently provide trainings in carpentry, tailoring and soap making although soon will expand to include ICT and other skills.



Honorable Brig. Gen (RTD) Emmanuel Maganga, Kigoma Regional Commissioner (Right) exchanging comments with students of sewing class at Maloregwa Multipurpose Community Center (MPCC). *Photo | Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania*

Visit to BRIMA Food Products

The BRIMA Food Products programme promotes local investments supporting small companies which have significant impact in the lives of women and young people. The programme provides technical assistance and seed capital and enables these companies to access and use commercial finance. BRIMA Food Products is a good example of how the Kigoma Joint Programme contributes to the economic empowerment of women and youth through stimulating local value addition which ultimately provides a stable market for smallholder farmers and creates

business opportunities and jobs for the host communities in Kigoma.

BRIMA Food Products Company LTD is a small local company owned by two young men. It started its operations in April 2018 and it is engaged in production, packaging and marketing of maize and cassava flour for domestic and export markets. The installed capacity is 4MT/day and 1MT/day of maize and finished cassava respectively and its respective utilization stands at 100 and 60 per cent respectively.

The business idea of BRIMA is to produce high quality cassava and maize flour for sale around Tanzania and neighbouring countries. The business philosophy of the company is built on women economic empowerment by integrating women throughout its value and supply chains. It buys most of its raw materials from women and prioritizes women in its distribution strategy. This approach enables women to take active role in business which in turn increases their incomes and ultimately

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improves their livelihood.

“We have organized and trained women to do semi-processing of cassava. Using simple tools, they got from another programme, these women groups produce cassava chips and sell it to us for further processing. Though this arrangement is just

starting, we have already bought 5MT of cassava chips worth TZS3,750,000. There are 55 women currently involved in this arrangement. The company is identifying and training more women to participate in this,” said Innocent Fabian, Plant General Manager during the visit.

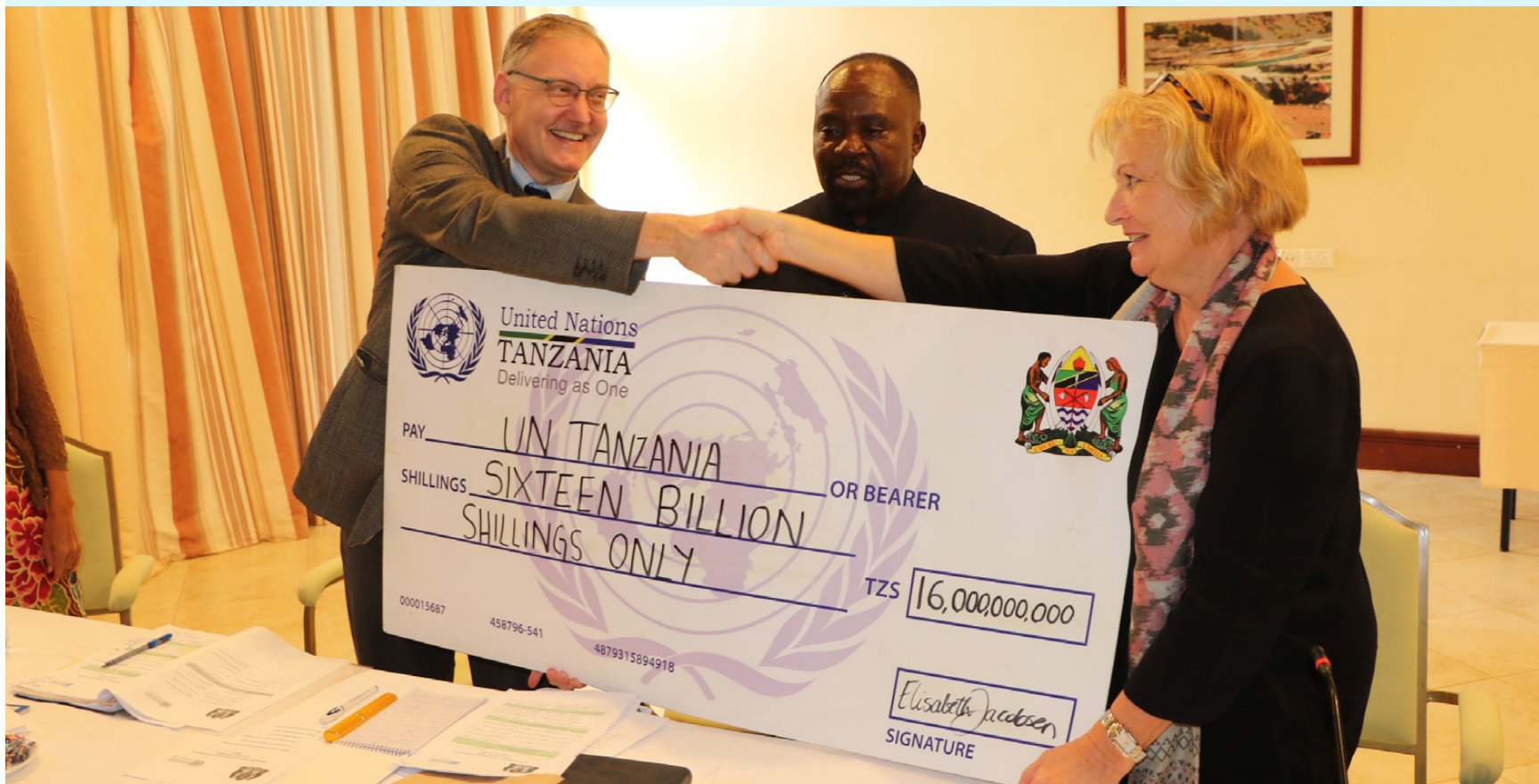
Despite its small size and the fact that it is just starting operations, BRIMA has

already made significant impact in the local economy of Kibondo. The company has bought a total of 68 tonnes of maize (July-Sept) and 5 tonnes of grated cassava and dried chips and 24 tonnes of fresh cassava from women. The company employs 8 people, 4 of them women. On production days, the company employs up to 4 casual labour and all of them are women.



Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General Emmanuel Maganga (right), examining a cassava drying shelter at BRIMA factory. *Photo | Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania*

Second Steering Committee of UN Kigoma Joint Programme held in Kigoma



The Ambassador of Norway, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen (right) hands-over USD 7 million (approximately Sh. 16 billion) to the UN to support implementation of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) and the National Plan of Action to Combat Violence Against Women and Children. The support was received by UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez (left) on behalf of the UN system in Tanzania. Between them is Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General Emmanuel Maganga, who thanked Norway and the UN for their support to the region. *Photo | Edgar Kiliba/UN Tanzania*

In late January, the United Nations Tanzania in close collaboration with Kigoma Regional Government organized the second Joint Steering Committee Meeting for the Kigoma Joint Programme. The meeting followed a

two day monitoring mission in Kakonko, Kibondo and Kasulu districts. It was held in Kigoma Town and was co-chaired by, Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General Emmanuel Maganga and UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Mr.

Alvaro Rodriguez.

The meeting was an opportunity for stakeholders to receive updates on the implementation status of the KJP;

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endorse various new initiatives for the project, including the new component on Health+; as well as issue strategic guidance to UN agencies and government officials on KJP implementation. Additionally, the Royal Embassy of Norway announced an additional USD 7 million (approx. Sh16 billion) of funding for the UN in Tanzania which will support the KJP and the National Plan of Action to Combat Violence Against Women and

Children.

Mr. Maganga opened the session by highlighting the importance of KJP to the region on ensuring its sustainability. He appealed to the donor community to continue supporting KJP and other development initiatives in the region. Moreover, the Kigoma RC stated that the inclusion of the Health+ component, which focuses on maternal and infant health, will boost the health sector and improve living standards.

Mr. Maganga reiterated that the government is already addressing the challenges facing Kigoma through efforts to improve the infrastructure, with a special attention to roads and railways connecting strategic areas in the region. Recently, the Government of Tanzania and Burundi set aside funds to upgrade some of the roads in Kibondo, Kasulu, Manyovu, Rumonge and Gitaza. These

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Norwegian Ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen is received by community anti-GBV champions in Kibondo District who have been trained by UN agencies. The champions are taught about the negative impact of GBV in their communities and advocate against gender-based violence. *Photo | Msafiri Manongi/UN Tanzania*

roads are expected to improve trade and regional integration in the East African Community.

Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Rodriguez highlighted that KJP is a programme under the current UN business plan dubbed 'the UN Development Assistance Plan II (UNDAP II)' which is aligned to the Five-Year Tanzania National Development Plan (FYDP II). He emphasized that the meeting and its deliberation will enhance the implementation of the programme and ultimately contribute to the government's effort in dealing with socio-economic challenges facing Kigoma residents.

During the committee meeting, the Norwegian Ambassador in Tanzania, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen announced an additional funding agreement with the United Nations in Tanzania in which Norway will contribute USD 7 million

(approximately Sh. 16,000,000,000) to the UN to support implementation of the KJP and the National Plan of Action to Combat Violence Against Women and Children. "In Kigoma region it has been important for Norway to support local communities that are hosting refugees from other parts of Africa - we know that this is key to preventing tension and conflict," said the Ambassador.

In the days leading up to the meeting, Ambassador Jacobsen; Mr. Rodriguez; UNICEF Country Representative, Ms. Maniza Zaman; UNFPA Representative, Ms. Jacqueline Mahon; WFP Deputy Country Representative, Ms. Wendy Bigham; and government and UN Officials visited Kakonko, Kibondo, and Kasulu Districts to monitor KJP projects.

In Kakonko, the delegation laid a foundation stone at Muhange Cross Border Market; handed over cold chain equipment for livestock vaccination

training to farmer's groups; and visited Kasanda Multipurpose Community Center where they met community members who have been trained on soapmaking.

In Kibondo, the mission visited Kibondo District Social Welfare Office which has been supported by the programme through the provision of furniture and IT equipment. The mission then met with anti-gender-based violence (GBV) advocates before visiting the district's Gender and Police Children Desk and farmer's groups.

They then proceeded to Kasulu where they met and saw the products of Youth and Women Groups supported under Youth and Women Economic Empowerment theme of the programme. The monitoring mission concluded with a visit to an IOM Shelter which hosts victims of violence.

Members of Parliament engaged on KJP

In 2018, Members of Parliament (MPs) for Kigoma region, the Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Regional Administrative Secretary for Kigoma and UN officials, including the UN Resident Coordinator met to discuss the KJP. The meeting was held as part of the implementation of the decisions of Kigoma Regional Consultative Council which had requested for a session for the Members to discuss the KJP.

In his opening remarks the Chairperson of Kigoma Members of Parliament Hon. Daniel Nswanzugwanko, thanked the United Nations for initiatives in the region and appealed for continued cooperation with all stakeholders especially the Members of Parliament and Regional Authorities to ensure the programme leads to the intended results. "We are keen to follow up closely the implementation of the programme so as to ensure that it leads

to the intended results. Our cooperation and support at all stages to achieve this is assured," said Hon. Nswanzugwanko.

Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General Emmanuel Maganga, pointed out that the Government is committed to cooperating with all stakeholders who are willing to support

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Kigoma South Member of Parliament, Honorable Hasna Mwilima (left), requests that the UN consider adding health as one of the KJP thematic areas during the meeting with Kigoma MPs on the KJP. She also suggested that the UN should expand the programme to other districts in Kigoma Region. *Photo | Zainul Mzige*

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the region. “We as the representatives of the Government are ready to cooperate with all the stakeholders who are willing to support us. I understand Members of Parliament have a huge mandate and represent the views of the community so I hope you will use opportunities like this to spearhead development agenda of the region,” he emphasized.

On his part, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, explained to the MPs that, “Humanitarian interventions alone are not enough to respond to the needs created by crises we’re facing in today’s world. We need to work to bring humanitarian actors and development actors together in the approach called New Way of Working (NWOW).”

Kigoma MPs used the opportunity to discuss the programme’s progress to-date and had a chance to share their views on strengthening its implementation as well as ensuring its sustainability. Suggestions made at both meetings has been taken into consideration and will be factored into ongoing implementation of the programme.



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