The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi (right) meets with H.E. President John Magufuli (left) during his visit to Tanzania. Behind them is former Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Augustine Mahiga.  

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The High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mr. Filippo Grandi (right) meets with H.E. President John Magufuli (left) during his visit to Tanzania. Behind them is former Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Augustine Mahiga. Photo | Ikulu

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi visited Tanzania in early February and ended his mission with a call for greater investment in Kigoma Region where 330,000 Congolese and Burundian refugees are currently being hosted. Citing Tanzania as “one of the most important refugee asylum countries in Africa,” Mr. Grandi expressed his satisfaction with government’s assurances that the country would continue to be hospitable to refugees.

In his meeting with President John Pombe Magufuli, Mr. Grandi commended Tanzania for its long-standing tradition of welcoming refugees fleeing conflict and persecution in neighboring countries, including naturalizing 162,000 Burundian

Word From The Government

“I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Norway for the funds to support the Kigoma Joint Programme. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and will continue working with the United Nation to improve the lives of host communities in the region.”

Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Retired Brigadier General, Emmanuel Maganga speaking at the second Kigoma Joint Programme Steering Committee meeting held in Kigoma Town on January 25, 2019.
Mr. Filippo Grandi pledged to mobilize support for humanitarian efforts and also for host community development, enhanced camp security and environmental projects, such as energy sources that provide an alternative to firewood. They discussed the idea of establishing a regional framework that would improve the lives of and find solutions for the Burundian and Congolese refugees.

In the last two years, 57,865 refugees from Burundi have been assisted to voluntarily return home. Mr. Grandi described Tanzania as a stable country in a troubled region and commended the country for its role as a regional peacemaker, urging the Tanzanian leadership to continue peace efforts.

74 per cent of Tanzania’s refugees and asylum seekers are from Burundi, and the other 26 per cent are from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The vast majority live in camps close to the border areas and many have been there for decades.

Mr. Grandi praised Tanzania for supporting the Global Compact on Refugees, an approach which calls for greater international support to host countries.

In early February 2019, the colorfully named and decorated “Flipflopi” dhow sailed from Kenya, making a historic 500 kilometre journey from the Kenyan island of Lamu to Stone Town, Zanzibar, Tanzania. The boat, which is made entirely of recycled plastic, acquired its name from the approximately 30,000 recycled flip-flops used in its construction and other recycled plastic waste collected on beach clean-ups along the Kenya coast.

The UN environment cooperated with the project founder, Mr. Ben Morison, who was inspired to come up with the idea and started the boat construction in 2016 after witnessing the shocking quantities of plastic on Kenya’s beaches. The UN Environment support of the Flipflopi expedition falls under its Clean Seas Campaign, which aims at engaging governments, the public, media, civil society and the private sector in the fight against plastic pollution.

The UN Environment promoting efforts to combat plastic pollution “The Flipflopi Expedition”

A child participating in the beach clean-up which took place around Forodhani Gardens in Stone Town, Zanzibar. The government, the UN, various youth groups and other stakeholders all took part in the clean-up.

Photo | Zainul Mzige

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against marine plastic litter.

The 500 kilometres journey from Lamu aimed to raise awareness for the 8 to 12 million tons of plastic waste dumped into the world’s oceans every year. Along the way, the expedition docked at six Kenyan and Tanzanian coastal towns, spreading awareness and solutions on marine litter to coastal communities, schools and government officials.

The Expedition was received by the President of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), Mr. Siim Valmar Kiisler, who was accompanied by high level officials from the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar including H.E. Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi, 2nd Vice President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar; H.E Mohamed Aboud Mohamed, Minister of State, Second Vice President’s Office in charge of environment; Mr. Khatib Abdulrahman Khatib, Lord Mayor, Stone Town; Members of the diplomatic corps as well as UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, alongside UN Environment and UNDP representatives.

After visiting Zanzibar, the Flipflopi proceeded travel to the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, where Heads of state, environment ministers, environmental activists, innovators, NGOs, and CEOs of multinational companies recently gathered for UNEA-4, the world’s highest-level environmental forum.

Female genital mutilation: Young people insist on zero!

This year’s International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was commemorated in Tarime District, Mara Region. The commemorations were led by Msichana Initiative, Hope for Girls and Women, Tanzania, and ATFGM-Masanga, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the EU delegation to Tanzania, the East African Community, Plan International and Terre des Hommes. Young people from three districts of Mara Region, Tarime, Butiama and Serengeti, came together with a collective

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Faidha Yusufu, Police Gender and Children’s Desk, Dar es Salaam, speaks with primary and secondary school girls and other stakeholders in Mara Region on International Day for Zero Tolerance of FGM.
Photo | UNFPA Tanzania/Warren Bright

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voice urging government to support them to end FGM.

Mara Regional Commissioner, Mr. Adam Malima, responded to their call declaring he would continue to use his powers to protect girls against the agony of FGM. Faidha Suleiman, National Coordinator of the Police Gender and Children’s Desks, said that as a result of the Police’s commitment and UNFPA’s ongoing support, significant progress has been made in their handling of FGM cases.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Tanzania continues to support government efforts to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through the far-reaching National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children 2017/2018-2021/2022.

UNFPA’s support to the Tanzanian Police has built their capacity to detect and respond to FGM cases; Gender and Children’s Desks have been renovated and officers have attended training on gender-based violence that integrates FGM. Capacity building for the National Child Helpline has increased demand for the service and seen a greater efficacy in its handling of FGM cases.

UNFPA also continues to support the alternative rites of passage (ARP) programmes run by the Association for the Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (ATFGM) Masanga, Tarime District, and Hope for Girls and Women, Tanzania, in Butiama and Serengeti, which offer a life-saving alternative to “the cut” to mark a girl’s transition from childhood to womanhood. In 2018, 801 girls were protected from FGM at ARP programmes run by ATFGM-Masanga and Hope for Girls and Women.

UNFPA, in support of key ministries and other partners, is determined to ensure that no girl in Tanzania lives in fear of FGM by 2030. World leaders overwhelmingly backed the elimination of FGM as one of the targets of the 2030 Agenda. Tanzania has seen declines in the practice but as a country must continue to escalate efforts to realize zero.
The commemoration of World Radio Day ended on a colourful note, with renewed commitment by the government, the United Nations and media stakeholders to continue supporting media development in Tanzania, particularly for radios. The event took place in Tanga in mid-February and was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the community media network- TADIO.

Concerns voiced by the community media network TADIO, in which there are over 25 local radios are members, emphasized high operating costs against the non-profit nature of the radios which provide a much-needed public service in increasing access to information - especially for to rural and hard to reach areas of Tanzania. The role of the radio has been significant including broadcasting information for peace dialogues during elections and development; sharing information for and by government and communities; and informing and educating communities on issues of local concern including communication for disaster preparedness and management for pandemics including Ebola and Cholera.

Deputy Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hon. Juliana Shonza, acknowledged the great work that the community radios are doing. She also recognised and appreciated the representation at the meeting which covered most of the country and thanked UNESCO for its support in organizing the dialogue. She urged ethics and responsible journalism and cited the Media Services Act of 2016 as a key legal instrument for the wellbeing of journalists in the country which includes articles that bind media owners to ensure good working conditions for their staff.

The government committed to continue to collaborate with UNESCO and media partners to promote the independence of media entities and for the promotion of peace. The challenges were noted for follow up and the Ministry will work with UNESCO and the community media network to include an award category for radio in the annual Uzalendo Awards that is organized by the Ministry.

Key recommendations from the national dialogue session seek to encourage collaboration within the media industry for media diversity, sustainability and press freedom, particularly for radio. This was important as in Tanzania, radio is a powerful tool, reaching more people than any other media platform, conveying important information on issues of local concern down to the grassroots.
In late January, the Royal Norwegian Embassy announced an agreement with the United Nations in Tanzania in which Norway contributed USD 7 million (approximately Sh16 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. This brings Norway’s total contribution to the United Nation’s current business plan (UNDAP II) to roughly USD 20 million (approximately Sh47 billion).

The agreement was officially signed in Kigoma Town in a ceremony between the Ambassador of Norway, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen, and UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez. The additional support from Norway will enable UN agencies to continue implementing the KJP activities related to ending violence against women and children, youth and women’s economic empowerment, improving water, sanitation and hygiene and; agriculture with the focus on developing local markets. Additionally, the funding will expand UN’s support to the implementation of the government’s National Action Plan to Combat Violence Against Women and Children.

Speaking during the ceremony, Norwegian Ambassador in Tanzania, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen underlined the fact that Norway has been a partner of Tanzania for more than 50 years, supporting development in many sectors and various parts of the country. “In Kigoma region it has been important for Norway to support the local communities that are hosting refugees from other parts of Africa - we know that this is key to prevent tension and conflict,” she said. The Ambassador also noted that Norway is a strong supporter of UN Tanzania working through...
Delivering as One Principles and that the KJP is bringing this vision forward.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked both the government and the people of the Kingdom of Norway for their sustained support noting that Norway has been a steadfast development partner for UN activities as well as for Tanzania. “Norway has been a strong partner of Tanzania and the United Nations for many decades. Focusing on the needs of vulnerable women, children and youth, these resources will make an important contribution to address the needs of those ‘furthest behind’ as called for in the Global Goals.” Additionally, Mr. Rodriguez expressed that UN Tanzania is eager to further strengthen its partnership with Norway in the coming years in order to assist Tanzanian men, women and children reach their full potential.

Prior to the signing of the ceremony, the Royal Embassy of Norway and UN Tanzania visited a wide range of activities that have been implemented by UN agencies through the KJP in the districts of Kakonko, Kibondo, Kasulu and Kigoma Town. The sites visited include the currently under-construction Muhange Cross Border Market located close to the Tanzania-Burundi border; youth and women’s groups that have been supported through the KJP; and the Kasanda Multipurpose Community Centre.

Norway and the UN Tanzania have enjoyed a sustained period of partnership which has seen the former having contributed over USD 16 million to the One Fund during its previous programme cycle – UNDAP I (2011-2016). Norway’s latest donation will support One UN Tanzania in its recently launched current programme cycle, UNDAP II (2016-2021).
The delegation takes a group photo outside of the IOM Shelter in Kasulu as part of the thematic component of the KJP on Ending Violence Against Women and Children which is implemented in collaboration with UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA. IOM runs the shelter which was opened in 2017 during the launch of the KJP. The shelter has the capacity to assist up to 20 women and children in need of protective shelter and is operated in conjunction with the district authorities.

The delegation got the opportunity to visit some of the youth and women’s groups who represented about 267 entrepreneurs that have been supported jointly by UNDP, ILO and UN Women under the Youth and Women Economic Empowerment component of KJP. The support to these entrepreneurs focuses on building their capacity in value addition, financial management, business formalization, access to finance and building partnerships.
Norwegian Ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen (third from left) hands over hermetic bags and tarpaulins to a farmer from Kibondo District. To date, UN Agencies have distributed equipment to farmers in the three districts of Kakonko, Kibondo and Kasulu including 1,351 tarps and 2,575 hermetic bags.

Norwegian Ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen is received by community anti-gender-based violence (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 it. To date, a total of 200 Community Activists and 96 peer educators have been identified and managed to reach 6,853 community members (4,250 female and 2,603 male) through open community dialogues and video sessions focusing on zero tolerance, rejection of violence, and taking public action, such as reporting on any form of abuse against women and girls.
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.

The delegation got the chance to hear from some of the youth that have been able to acquire various skills through the Kasanda Multipurpose Community Centre (MPCC) located just outside of Mtendeli refugee camp in Kakonko region. Through the MPCC, local residents and refugees benefit from classes offered on carpentry, sewing, soap making and ICT.
Norwegian Ambassador, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen (left), hands over cold chain equipment for livestock vaccination to the head of one of the farmer’s groups in Kakonko. The amount of equipment handed over to the programme districts is worth about Sh 54.7 million. The equipment includes refrigerators for storing and preserving vaccines, cool boxes for transportation of the vaccines and over 370,000 doses of vaccine for Newcastle disease control.

Norwegian Ambassador, H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen (left), and Kakonko District Commissioner, Col. Hosea Maloda (right), unveil the foundation stone for the market. The plaque reads: ‘The Muhange Cross Border Market Foundation Stone was laid by H.E. Elisabeth Jacobsen, Ambassador of Norway in Tanzania on January 23rd, 2019.’
In early January, World Food Programme (WFP) Country Representative, Mr. Michael Dunford, was invited to the State House by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. John Pombe Magufuli, for a signing ceremony with the Acting Chief Executive Officer of National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), Ms. Vumilia Zikankuba, for the purchase of 36,000 mt. of maize. The maize was part of over 160,000 mt. of various food commodities WFP procured in Tanzania in 2018 which injected USD 60 million into the local economy for procurement and supply chain services using the Tanzania corridor.

During the ceremony, the President commended WFP’s efforts in supporting smallholder farmers whose efforts ultimately boost the Tanzanian economy. He applauded WFP’s efforts to conduct business transparently and recommended that businesses in the country do the same.

In Tanzania, WFP serves as a logistics hub for surrounding landlocked countries and is a key player in the East African region in enabling movement of live-saving food to people in crisis. WFP’s use of railways to transport food commodities from Dar es Salaam to Uganda via Mwanza Port on Lake Victoria is an example of how WFP can catalyze the supply chain.

WFP’s operations contribute to the Tanzanian economy by using local companies for the handling, storage and transportation of food. Money injected into the supply chain sector has a multiplier effect, where more employment opportunities are created for labourers and transportation workers and, as a result, more capital is available to both the public and private sector for investment in capacity and infrastructure upgrades.
Acknowledged globally as one of the most pervasive violations of human rights, gender-based violence (GBV) is also one of the least prosecuted crimes. Perpetrators operate with impunity in an environment where entrenched gender and social norms leave many survivors without recourse to justice. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar’s National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) 2017-2022, is a commitment to end all forms of violence against women and children.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supports the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, through the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children, to implement the NPA-VAWC. This includes building the capacity of the police, who are on the frontline of the response to GBV. In Zanzibar, UNFPA continues to support the renovation of Police Gender and Children’s Desks. The Gender and Children’s Desks are dedicated units at Police Stations which play an important role in establishing trust between the police and women and children, carving out an avenue to justice that did not previously exist.

To increase the resources available for the police to investigate GBV cases and to bring perpetrators to justice, the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children, with financial support from UNFPA, purchased equipment for three gender desks. The equipment included computers, photocopying machines and office furniture, totaling Sh22.7 million (approximately USD 9,870).

Receiving the equipment on behalf of the Zanzibar Police Commissioner, the Assistant Senior Commissioner of Police, Mr. Saleh Mohd Saleh, reiterated his gratitude to UNFPA and to the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elderly, Women and Children for recognizing the need to improve the working environment of Police Gender and Children’s Desks in Zanzibar, adding that it will increase efficiency in the investigation and detection of GBV incidents and in improving GBV survivors’ path to justice.

The Minister of Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children, Hon. Maudline Castico, emphasized that GBV is still a major issue in Zanzibar and UNFPA’s continued support to the Ministry and other stakeholders is helping to tackle the problem. Ending Violence Against Women and Children is a critical pillar of the Zanzibar Joint Programme (ZJP) that was launched in August 2018, a development collaboration between the United Nations and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.
The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dar es Salaam in partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and German Embassy in Tanzania led the commemoration of the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust at the National Museum on 29th January 2019.

Three hundred students from Chang’ombe, Kibasila and Azania Secondary schools along with students from The Institute of Finance Management (IFM) in Dar es Salaam participated in the event which opened with a tour of an exhibition titled, ‘State of Deception’.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Tanzania, H.E. Jörg Herrera, briefed students about the Holocaust and how Germany has dealt with it and how they have supported Human Rights globally. Mr. Herrera asked all present on the importance of remembering the Victims of the Holocaust and the History of the Holocaust, “We will remember the victims because we respect them and we would like to learn from them, from History and in order to avoid a repeat of what happened. We remember the past so that we can relate it to the present and future,” he said.

UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, read the UN Secretary General’s message for the day and encouraged students not to discriminate against others in society. “The task ahead for all of us to is to end discrimination and support actions to strengthen democratic values and human rights wherever we are,” said Mr. Rodriguez.

Students from Chang’ombe, Kibasila and Azania Secondary schools viewing an exhibition on the Holocaust prepared by the UN Information Centre (UNIC) titled ‘State of Deception’. Photo | UN Tanzania/Edgar Kiliba
In late February, the International Labour Organization (ILO) organized a three-day training for UN agencies who are members of the Economic Growth and Employment Outcome Group of the UN Development Assistance Plan 2016-2021 (UNDAP II). UN agencies in this outcome group are UNDP, UNCDF, UN Women, ILO, FAO, IFAD, UNIDO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNOPS, UN Environment and IOM.

The training aimed at promoting a common understanding of key concepts and approaches to value-chain development using a Market Systems Development (MSD) approach for a holistic perspective, enhanced sustainability and scaling-up of impact for the working poor. It was also envisioned to serve as a platform and guide for the development of a joint UN programme for value-chain development for youth employment.

Speaking on behalf of ILO, UNDAP Economic Growth and Employment Outcome Coordinator, Ms. Kristina Weibel, the highlighted the important role of micro, small and medium enterprises in developing the Tanzanian economy. She further noted that while there is a general consensus about the need for promoting micro, small and medium enterprises development, the approaches to design and implement value chain interventions vary. This was the reason for conducting the training.

More than 25 representatives from the various UN Agencies participated in the training which focused on value-chain development, using a systemic MSD approach, including analysis, design and implementation of systemic value-chain development initiatives.

As a follow up to the training, UN Agencies in the Outcome Group will explore ways of working together on value chain development using a market systems approach. This includes engaging in continuous knowledge sharing and reviewing existing projects and programmes to make them more market systems-oriented. The Outcome Group also plans to organize a similar training for partners to promote a systemic approach to value chain development for enhanced sustainability and scaling-up of impact.

Strengthening institutional capacities for Coordination and monitoring MKUZA III and SDGs in Zanzibar

As implementation of the 2030 Agenda unfolds, there is an increased demand for effective national institutions, systems, policies as well as reliable quality data. This, underscores the importance of building capacities to enable countries to plan, implement, monitor and report on their national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Given the limited capacities for coordination and reporting of both the SDGs and Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA III) in Zanzibar, there is a need for further strengthening of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar’s ability to facilitate coordination, monitoring and reporting implementation.
With this context in place, the Zanzibar Joint Programme (ZJP) aims at strengthening institutional capacities and putting in place effective mechanism for coordination and strategic leadership on MKUZA III and sustainable development.

A ZJP sub-steering committee of the MKUZA III Steering Committee, has thus been established to: facilitate planning, coordination, monitoring and identify opportunities for synergy between the joint programme thematic areas. The first meeting of the subcommittee was convened on 28th January 2019 at the Zanzibar Planning Commission, under the joint chairmanship of the UN and the Zanzibar Planning Commission. It was attended by representatives of the ZJP, participating UN agencies, implementing agencies and responsible parties.

It was acknowledged that the sub-steering committee is a key milestone to the implementation of ZJP and a perfect platform to discuss implementation of a multisectoral program approach to achieving results. The sub-steering committee will meet on quarterly basis to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation and maintain a holistic approach to implementation of the ZJP and delivering as one. Lessons learned in terms of achieving results of a multi-sectoral nature will be documented and influence the workings of the MKUZA III steering committee and will inform the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee (IMTC) meetings.

### Upcoming International Days

- 20 March – World Happiness Day
- 21 March – International Day of Forests
- 22 March – World Water Day
- 24 March – World Tuberculosis Day
- 7 April – International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda
- 7 April – World Health Day
- 25 April – World Malaria Day
- 3 May – World Press Freedom Day

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