



# UMOJA - ONE UN in Tanzania

## Don't cut girls, Say no to FGM

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### Highlights

- Govt. commends UNESCO's support of community radios
- Leveraging HIV platforms to increase access to cervical cancer treatment
- UNICEF launch 'Every Child Alive' campaign



Female Genital Mutilation– the cutting or removal of women’s external genitalia–is still traditionally performed in Tanzania for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM is commemorated every year on February 6.

FGM is most common among the tribes of northern Tanzania. Their clans still consider FGM an important tradition, despite the efforts taken by the government in collaboration with local and international organisations to stop the harmful custom that subjects

UNFPA Reproductive and Maternal Health Specialist, Zanzibar Liason Office, Ms. Batula Hassan Abdi, advocates for ending FGM. *Photo | UNFPA*

According to official health statistics, 18 per cent of the female population in Tanzania has suffered Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This tradition is harmful. It affects women’s health when

it comes to childbirth, sexual intercourse and passing water. Moreover, FGM is often performed in unhygienic conditions with razor blades, knives or broken glass.

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### Word from the government:



*“...Honourable Ambassadors, I request that by the end of the year, you join the government efforts and prepare yourselves to come to Dodoma as many government officials including Ministers, the Prime Minister and the Vice President have already moved there. I will also be moving there this year...I congratulate the United Nations and its agencies for starting the process of moving to Dodoma by opening a temporary office there in December 2017. Congratulations!”*

President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, speaking to the diplomatic community at the Annual Sherry Party on January 9, 2018.

girls to pain and humiliation.

"I call on all stakeholders to join hands with the government to fight against FGM," says Tarime District Commissioner (Mara Region), Mr. Glorious Luoga. More than 800 girls from nine Kurya clans suffered FGM in December 2017.

FGM is mostly carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and age 15. The practice reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women and girls. To promote the abandonment of FGM, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights and gender equality.

In Tanzania, UNFPA and UNICEF work at the community level, in close collaboration with the government and civil society, to conduct outreach aimed at increasing awareness about FGM. These



UNFPA Administrative Associate, Ms. Diana Mhela shares her message on International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM: A girl should never be cut under any circumstance. Photo | UNFPA

efforts, which are complemented by dialogue at the policy-level, emphasize societal dialogue and the empowerment of communities to act collectively to end the

practice. They also aim to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences.

### Government commends UNESCO's support of community radios

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with the Tanzania Development Information Organization and a network of community radios in Tanzania joined the media fraternity to commemorate World Radio Day with the government to commend UNESCO's support of community radios in Tanzania.

World Radio Day was commemorated in Dodoma on February 13, where the guest of honor was the Deputy Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hon. Juliana Shonza representing the Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hon. Dr. Harrison Mwakymbe. This year's theme, Radio and Sports, focuses on Diversity in Sports Coverage; Gender Equality in Sports Coverage; and Peace and



Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr. Binilith Mahenge (right), talks about the impact that UNESCO's support to community radios has had in creating awareness about HIV/AIDS. Seated on the high table with him are: Deputy Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hon. Juliana Shonza (center) and UNESCO's acting Officer in Charge, Ms. Faith Shayo (left). Photo/ Zainul Mzige

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Development through Sports Coverage.

Presentations on gender and sports, the dos and donots of online journalism and sports debate; a very powerful poem; a local traditional dance; testimonies from female sports radio personalities; and a football match between community media practitioners and Dodoma scribes colored the event.

In her keynote speech, the Deputy Minister commended UNESCO's support pointing out that it has enabled marginalized communities to gain access to important information regarding development. Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr. Binilith Mahenge, used the platform to thank UNESCO for its commitment to support community radio stations.

Dr. Mahenge thanked UNESCO saying Radio Kitulo (a community radio based in Makete and supported by UNESCO) has played a great role in creating public awareness on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and which has helped to reduce its spread.

UNESCO Dar Acting Officer in Charge, Ms. Faith Shayo, called



UNESCO's acting Officer in Charge, Ms. Faith Shayo (left) calls for community radio practitioners to ensure they use their microphone responsibly to enhance peace, gender equality, tolerance and development. Photo | Zainul Mzige

upon community radio practitioners to ensure that they use their microphone responsibly to enhance peace, gender equality, tolerance and development.

UNESCO, with the financial assistance from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) supports community radios and

the Community Media Network (Tanzania Development Information Organization - TADIO). The support is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania, especially people living in poverty, women and girls, have the capacity to make informed decision on issues that affect their daily lives.



Delegates take part in a traditional dance during the commemoration of the World Radio Day 2018. Photo | Zainul Mzige

## Special Report I

### IOM Shelters Victims of Violence



Sewing machines at IOM's shelter for survivors of Violence Against Women and Children enable survivors to gain skills that will help them when they leave the shelter. **Photo | File**

Last year, the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, launched the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017/18 – 2021/22). Supporting efforts to implement the NAP-VAWC in Kigoma, the United Nations, government officials and the government of Norway launched a shelter for survivors of VAWC in Kasulu.

The shelter is a crucial component of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) and is managed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Combating VAWC is an important outcome of the KJP which is supported by the Government of Norway and is jointly implemented by IOM, UN WOMEN, UNICEF and local government authorities.

The daily administration of the shelter is carried out by NGO

Wote Sawa and it currently accommodates 12 children – 10 girls and 2 boys, between the ages of 6 to 17. These children come from Nzega, Mwanza, Kasulu, Kakonko and Buhinda. The shelter works closely with the Gender Violence desk in Kasulu District council to identify and assist survivors of violence. It has the capacity of accommodating 15 individuals who can stay at the shelter for a maximum of one year. Reported cases of specific vulnerabilities at the shelter are rape, domestic child labour, or family problems which result in an unsafe environment for children. The shelter seeks to address abuse and VAWC and ultimately aims to integrate the victims into a system that will enhance their well-being. The shelter also runs a skills-building program that is provided through informal education and vocational training.

The informal education component specifically aims to integrate the children into the formal primary

education system. As of January 2018, four children have already been enrolled in local primary schools. Vocational training is provided to children who are past the primary education age to enhance their skills towards contributing to their economic sustainability.

Ms. Ruth Kilezu, the social worker stationed at the shelter, stated that there is a major challenge in terms of the current limited capacity of the shelter to accommodate larger numbers of women and children who are in need. While the program seeks to address the needs of those in Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko, due to the lack of such facilities in neighboring districts, the shelter is forced to accommodate them. An expansion of the shelter would enable it to accommodate a larger number of beneficiaries. Furthermore, there is a need for a comprehensive exit strategy that will ensure effective integration of those that depart from the shelter.

## Special Report II

### Activities from the Kigoma Joint Programme



UNESCO conducts a workshop on community engagement in support to girls education in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region. *Photo | UNESCO*

In villages, evening markets have been cited as one of the issues that affects girl's education and is among the origins of early and unintended pregnancies. In most villages, electricity is a rare commodity which means that the evening markets, which are open until late at night, take place in areas that lack adequate lighting. Security, especially for young girls and women is not assured. For some, those evening markets provide opportunities for encounters involving boys and girls.

During a workshop in Kasulu district (Kigoma Region) to engage communities from five wards to support girl's education, the issue of evening markets was cited as a factor that impedes adolescent girls' educational attainment. Two

young girls who were impregnated, one at age 15 and the other at age 16, were invited to share their experience during the workshop which was conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as part of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP).

Due to social and cultural settings, adolescent girls find themselves trapped in relationships that lead to unintended early pregnancies. They often start with the phenomenon of evening markets. Girls who become pregnant are not allowed to go back to school, so their educational dreams are curtailed. Surprisingly, when asked about the father of their babies, most young girls adamantly say that they do not know the man who made them pregnant.

Instead of being given adequate support, a pregnant girl is believed to have behaved in an immoral manner and is responsible for the misfortune that happens to her. The culprits are rarely found and punished according to the law.

The Kasulu community is male-dominated and women do not occupy high position in their communities which they could use to influence decisions taken in relation to gender-based violence. This issue was discussed during the UNESCO workshop which took place in December 2018 to engage key community members to support girl's education. Recommendations were made to promote economic activity while ensuring the safety and security of women and girls.

### Activities from the Kigoma Joint Programme



One of the classrooms being used at IOM's shelter for survivors of Violence Against Women and Children.



The dormitories at the shelter where survivors of Violence Against Women and Children are currently being hosted by IOM.



Women at the Kasulu common market take part in the Youth and Women Economic Empowerment (YWEE) consultancy survey.

### Activities from the Kigoma Joint Programme



UNDP Consultant, Mr. Mussa Mashishanga (centre), assists members of Tumaini Villave Community Bank (VICOBA) in Kakonko district, Kigoma region, with a machine used to dry cassava once it has been processed.



UNDP consultant, Mr. Mussa Mashishanga, having a group discussion with members of the Tumaini Village Community Bank (VICOBA) during a survey which took place in Kakonko District, Kigoma Region.



UNDP consultant, Mr. Mussa Mashishanga (centre), engaging residents from Juhudi Village, Kakonko District, on issues related to economic empowerment.

## Leveraging HIV platforms to increase access to cervical cancer treatment



Representatives of networks of women living with HIV from Tanga, Geita, Njombe, Songwe, who received training from Mama Basilisa on cervical and breast screening. **Photo | UNAIDS**

Ms. Basilisa Ndonde has a big smile on her face as she walks into her office at the civil society organization Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS). It's February 4th, which is a special day for her - World Cancer Day. She coordinates a project, Afya Jali, funded by UNAIDS as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan 2016-2021 (UNDAP II), to raise awareness on cervical and breast cancer services among women living with HIV.

Women living with HIV are four to five times more likely to develop cervical cancer than their HIV-negative peers. HIV weakens the immune system, and reduces the body's ability to fight opportunistic infections, such as Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which causes 70% of cervical cancer cases. Tanzania has the sixth-highest incidence of cervical cancer and the seventh-highest HIV burden in the world.

Mama Basilisa can be proud of the achievements of the project so far. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development,

Gender, Elders and Children and the Tanzania network of women living with HIV, Mama Basilisa has facilitated the development of

resource materials and job aides for health and community workers to sensitize women on the need to undertake cervical and breast cancer screening.

Mama Basila has conducted introductory meetings in the four regions where the project is being implemented (Tanga, Geita, Njombe, Songwe) with council health management teams, where baseline data on the coverage of cancer services from partnering health facilities was shared, to improve their ability to support the project.

She has also organized a training of trainers workshop for 30 women representatives of clusters of people living with HIV in the four regions. These representatives are now tasked with mobilizing and sensitizing their peers on cervical and breast cancer and encouraging cancer disclosure to defuse prevailing stigma.



Mama Basilisa Ndonde, Project coordinator of Afya Jali for Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS), holding the new guidelines of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children on reproductive organs' cancers. **Photo | UNAIDS**

## UNICEF launch of 'Every Child Alive' campaign

**O**n February 20, UNICEF launched its latest global campaign, Every Child ALIVE to demand and deliver solutions on behalf of the world's newborns. This multi-year campaign is focused on newborn survival and health which is critical programmatically and consistent with UNICEF's commitment to equity.

A total of 2.6 million newborn babies die every year; nearly a million die on the day they are born. Most of these deaths are preventable, and most occur among the world's most vulnerable communities.

Through the campaign, UNICEF is issuing an urgent appeal to governments, healthcare providers, donors, the private sector, families and businesses to keep every child alive by: supporting doctors, nurses and midwives with expertise in maternal and newborn care; guaranteeing clean and sufficiently equipped health facilities within the reach of every mother and baby; prioritizing the provision of life-saving drugs and equipment to every mother and baby; and empowering adolescent girls, mothers and families to demand and receive quality care.

In Tanzania, a year-long campaign has kicked off to support the

amplification of issues around maternal and newborn deaths. The aim is to create national momentum on the issues, targeting the most disadvantaged adolescents, pregnant and lactating women.

This campaign follows findings of UNICEF's flagship report on newborn mortality that was launched on the same day indicating that deaths of newborn babies remain alarmingly high globally, particularly among the world's poorest countries.

Globally, in low-income countries, the average newborn mortality rate is 27 deaths per 1,000 births, the report says. In high-income countries, that rate is 3 deaths per 1,000 births. In Tanzania, the newborn mortality rate stands at 25 deaths per 1,000 births according to Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS 2015-16). If every country brought its newborn mortality rate down to the high-income country average by 2030, 16 million lives could be saved.

In Tanzania, good progress has been made in reducing deaths among children under-five, however a similar trend has yet to be seen for newborn and maternal deaths. Tanzania has one of the highest numbers of newborn deaths in the world: approximately 39,000

die annually, 17,000 of them in their first day of life. An additional 47,550 babies are stillborn and some 8,000 mothers die every year during childbirth.

"About 6 in 10 deaths occur in the first year of life, while 4 in 10 deaths occur in the first month of life. We can save these lives with simple and affordable, quality health services that need to reach and be accessed by every mother and her newborn, across the country. UNICEF is committed to supporting the government's endeavors in reducing the newborn mortality rate. We all need to commit to giving every child a fair chance at the start of life. It's both the right and the smart thing to do," said Maniza Zaman, UNICEF Representative in Tanzania.

*"Just a few small steps from all of us can help ensure the first small steps of each of these young lives,"*

**Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director.**

## Hon. Angeline Mabula pays visit to WFP projects in Chamwino District, Dodoma

**O**n the 10th of February 2018, Hon. Angeline Mabula, Deputy Minister of Land and Human Settlement Development visited WFP's project sites in Chamwino district, Dodoma, Tanzania. The visit comprised viewing of the Land Use Plan Project which is part of the SAEMAUL Zero Hunger Communities project (SZHC), which is supported by

WFP and in partnership with the Korea Overseas International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Good Neighbours International (GNI) as implementing partners.

SZHC aims to assist the most vulnerable families residing in three villages of Chamwino district under its three main objectives of increasing access to water,

improving community based infrastructures and increasing income and food security at household levels. During her speech, Hon. Mabula introduced the benefits of the Land Use Plan, stressing that holding land entitlements will allow individuals and communities access loans

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Deputy Minister of Land and Human Settlement Development, Hon. Angeline Mabula, meets beneficiaries of the SAEMAUL Zero Hunger Communities project supported by WFP, KOICA and GNI.

*Photo | Serena Okawa / WFP*

making project supporting youth groups. She challenged these groups that instead of fabricating bricks for others, they themselves should construct modern houses using interlocking bricks.

Hon. Mabula promised to provide financial support, including five bags of cement, to group members who will construct their houses by May of this year. She concluded her speech by saying that the income gained through IGAs should be used to improve livelihoods, such as that of constructing better houses using iron sheets and supporting education for children. As a final recognition, Hon Mabula provided traditional land ownership certificates to eight families in Suli, Fufu, and Chiboli villages.

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from banks through their title deed and ownership, thus enabling them to engage in specific activities such as farming and pastures.

The Deputy Minister also emphasised that the Land Use Plan will help prevent and reduce conflict among community members and their neighbours. In addition, reiterated the importance of environmental preservation, whilst advising the community to plant new trees rather than

cutting them down. Using an example of the Sunseed Tanzania Technologies, a mud energy-saving stove introduced to 105 households through a local NGO, she encouraged the community to actively participate in the movement of reducing wood consumption in their daily activities.

During her tour, Hon. Mabula acknowledged the work conducted through SZCH and lauded WFP and GNI's support towards the Income Generating Activities (IGAs), particularly on the brick

**Upcoming Days:**

- 8 March - International Women's Day**
- 22 March - World Water Day**
- 24 March - World TB Day**
- 25 March - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery**
- 7 April - International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda**
- 25 April - World Malaria Day**
- 3 May - World Press Freedom Day**

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**UN Reform at a Glance**

Tanzania is a leading Delivering as One country. Since July 2016, the UN Country Team in Tanzania is implementing the UN Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP II). For more information on UN reforms and coherence please visit: [www.undg.org](http://www.undg.org)



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