Vice President Graces World Environment Day

On June 5 every year World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated globally and this year, commemorations in Tanzania under the national theme of ‘Charcoal is expensive, use alternative energy’. Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan during the inauguration of the beachwall along Barack Obama Drive, Dar es Salaam.

"I would also like to thank the United Nations system, through UN Environment and UNOPS, for overseeing the construction of the wall."

Word from the government:

Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan during the inauguration of the beachwall along Barack Obama Drive, Dar es Salaam.
event, the Vice President called on Dar es Salaam residents to preserve the wall and thanked the UN and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for supporting the construction of the wall. “Let's take care of the environment so that the environment takes care of us...I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Global Environmental Facility for funding the construction of walls such as this in Tanzania. I would also like to thank UN Environment for implementing projects such as this and UNOPS for overseeing the construction of the wall,” she said at the opening of the wall.

On his side, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez commended the government for taking climate action in a number of areas and reaffirmed the UN’s commitment to continue supporting adaptation to the impacts of climate change in Tanzania. “In commemorating the World Environment Day, Tanzania shares her commitment in the global environmental agenda by addressing emerging environmental challenges on Climate Change," said Mr. Rodriguez. “With charcoal, plastic production is a serious challenge in the country;, we need to rethink the way we use charcoal and replace it with alternative energy sources. We also need to think of sustainable ways to manage the use of plastics.”

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) also took part in WED commemorations by participating in an exhibition on alternative technology solutions to charcoal, from 28th-5th, June 2018 In line with the national theme, ‘Charcoal is expensive, use alternative energy’. 

**Government, UN Stand Together with Refugees**

Music, dance, art, sports, drama, etc. - these are some of the activities that people in the three refugee camps (Mtendeli, Nduta and Nyarugusu) in Kigoma region as well as in Dar es Salaam engaged in during the commemoration of the World Refugee Day (WRD). This year’s commemoration also included exhibitions of different livelihood products made by refugees.

Both in Kigoma region and in Dar es Salaam, the events were attended by the refugee community, humanitarian and civil society organizations, and government
and UN officials, including those from Refugee Services Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Speaking at World Refugee Day commemorations in Dar es Salaam, Director of Refugee Services in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Harrison Mseke indicated there has been a serious decline in funding of refugee operations in the country and called for more support from stakeholders to enable refugees to live a decent life and to run the refugee camps.

Mr. Mseke’s speech was read on his behalf by the refugee camps Environmental Coordinator in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Thobias Sijabaje. He said between 2016 and 2018 Tanzania has received less than 26 percent of the total requirements for the refugee operation. He said that the most underfunded sectors are water, sanitation, health, education and food requirements. Mr. Mseke appealed to UNHCR and the international community at large to support both the Government of Tanzania and Burundi to move the voluntary repatriation exercise from a facilitation phase to promotion phase in order to reach the target of 82,000 returnees by 31 December 2018.

Reading a statement from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez quoted “I am deeply concerned to see more refugees are not receiving the protection they need and to which they are entitled. We need to establish the integrity of the international refugee protection regime”. Mr. Rodriguez pointed out that the local and international community should continue to work in unity and solidarity to support the refugee needs.

On her part, UNHCR Deputy Representative, Joan Allison expressed gratitude to the United Republic of Tanzania and people of Tanzania for hosting a large number of refugees.
Led by the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG), a group of communication officers from UN agencies, the UN took part in the 42nd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair – also known as Sabasaba. This year the UN booth was awarded first place in the category of Information, Publishing, Printing and Stationaries in which other institutions such as the University of Dar es Salaam and Tanzania Standard Newspapers (TSN) participated.

The award was handed over by the Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa at the opening ceremony of Sabasaba and it was received by UNICEF Communications Specialist, Ms. Hoyce Temu, on behalf of the UN family.

The focus of the booth this year was to communicate the UN results and promote Innovation for Sustainable Development by showcasing three young innovators at the UN booth.

One of the innovators was Gracious Fanuel from Kilimanjaro who has designed a robotic arm using common household materials. The arm can be controlled via mobile phone and he hopes to be able to scale it up to conduct activities like picking up pieces of machinery or items from a production line and also to help people with disabilities. Another of the youth innovators is Latifa Mohammad from Zanzibar who has developed an automated irrigation system that uses sensors to detect whether or not patches of soil are moist and directs water flow to the dry patches. This is relevant given the fact that agriculture employs over 80 per cent of the workforce.

Finally, there was Amos Mtambala from Dar es Salaam who uses his artistic ability for entrepreneurship. Amos was trained and supported by ILO and has since expanded his network to include over 100 other youth who create artwork that they sell locally and internationally.

Speaking at the booth during the announcement of the winners and runners up, UN Communication Specialist, Ms. Hoyce Temu, commended the youth highlighting that “The promotion of innovation theme is deliberately chosen to support the government of the United Republic of Tanzania to ensure that the dream of industrial development is realized. Given that Tanzanian youth make up over 55% of the population of the country, they need to be part and parcel of development today, tomorrow and in the future.”
The winner of the UN’s innovation competition, Ms. Latifa Ngea (right) is awarded Sh3 million by UN Communications Specialist, Ms. Hoyce Temu (left), for being voted to have the best innovation among the three innovators. Over 500 people at Sabasaba and on social media voted for who they believe has the best innovation. PHOTO | Grace Mongi/UNRCO

UNIC Librarian, Ms. Harriet Macha (left), hands over information on the UN’s work in Tanzania to former President Jakaya Kikwete (right) as he concluded his visit to the UN booth. PHOTO | Grace Mongi/UNRCO
UN Communications Specialist, Ms. Hoyce Temu (right) thanks the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Augustine Mahiga (left) for visiting the UN’s booth and presents him with additional information on the UN’s work in Tanzania. PHOTO| MOFAEC

UNIC Information Officer, Ms. Stella Vuzo (centre) presents the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Hon. Charles Mwijage (left) with some information on the UN’s work in Tanzania. PHOTO| Aidan Riwa/UNRCO
Over the last month, the United Nations and the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) have conducted Zonal Media Training for journalists in the western and southern zones of Tanzania. The trainings are the latest chapter of a partnership between the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG). A group of communications officers from UN agencies in Tanzania, and TEF that has existed for over five years with editors annually meeting with heads of UN agencies to discuss development in UN activities and the media landscape in Tanzania.

The aim of the training is to reach journalists at the local/regional level and give them the tools to be able to give a voice to the voiceless by shining a light on the best development practices and challenges of those left furthest behind. This has been achieved by first going to the field with editors and journalists to visit select UN initiatives in the region before conducting a workshop that trains journalists on the Global Goals and UN activities and impact in the relevant regions as well as the elements of Public Interest Journalism.

The first of the trainings covered the western zone. It took place in Kigoma region and involved journalists from Geita, Tabora, Kagera, Kigoma and Katavi. The UN and TEF delegation visited three activities that are part of the UN’s Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) in the district of Kasulu. The UN agencies are supporting communities in Kigoma in skills and capacity development, women’s entrepreneurship and child protection. Among the sites visited were a Multipurpose Community Centre which was built by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) through funding from Norway and a Vocational Training Centre established by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Youth and women at these centres learn important skills related to entrepreneurship and information communication technology among other topics. The delegation also visited a group of women entrepreneurs that have been trained by UN Women on how to better be able to develop their businesses including how to access finance, market their products and access markets. They also visited a UNICEF supported child protection system which includes a Gender and Children Desk as well as ‘Fit Families’ and foster care. This is an alternative care arrangement for children who cannot live with their parents due to various reasons.

Area Coordinator for Kigoma, Mr. Evance Siangicha, highlighted that these are just some of the results that the UN has managed to achieve as part of the KJP so far and that there is more to come as the project is only just approaching its one-year mark. “We can already see that the host communities are benefitting from the work being done by UN agencies. This work is made possible by the government of Norway and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA),” said Mr. Siangicha. Funded by the government of Norway, the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the Swedish Government, the KJP consists of 16 UN agencies working across six themes which are sustainable energy and environment; youth and women’s economic empowerment; violence against women and children; education with a focus on adolescent girls; WASH, and agriculture.
Women entrepreneurs from Kasulu who were able to learn how to process cassava flour through support from UN Women. This is one of the processes they use to dry the cassava after it has been crushed.

Editors and journalists inside one of the classes where UNHCR and Goodneighbours, a Korean NGO who conduct the training at the MCC, are teaching soap-processing. The classes at the MCC are made up of both members of the host population and refugees.
Special Report
UN, TEF visit UN projects in Lindi and Mtwara

The second Zonal Media Training covered regions in the southern zone of Tanzania. The workshop took place in Mtwara region with journalists from Pwani, Ruvuma, Lindi and Mtwara.

In Lindi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the UN and TEF made a courtesy call to Lindi Regional Commissioner, Mr. Godfrey Zambi before visiting two projects in the region. The first was a UNICEF project that supports salt farmers and producers to ensure that there is an adequate amount of iodine in their salt. Iodine is important for the brain development of children and reduces the risks of pregnancy complications. Since 2015, the project has provided Sh978 million of support to over 200 small scale salt farmers which has had an estimated reach of over 1.8 million people in both Lindi and Mtwara who consume locally produced salt.

The second project was a UNDP initiative supporting a community in Climate Change Adaption. The project began in 2015 and has resulted in over 20 solar panels being installed at Rondo Junior Seminary School and one of the local health facility. It has also managed to build three water tanks on the school and health facility premises that can hold up to 600,000 litres of water. Over 20 women’s groups have also been given livelihood support for activities such as raising chickens and farming sunflower seeds. The project has impacted over 3,000 people, with a budget of around Sh500 million.

The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, commended the projects and highlighted the impact they have had in people’s lives. “Iodine deficiency is not talked about much but can have a very serious impact on one’s health. The work that UNICEF is doing with the government to improve production and consumption of salt that has an adequate amount of iodine is commendable,” said Mr. Rodriguez. He also commended UNDP’s climate change adaptation project explaining that, “The impact of climate change means that we have to be more efficient in our approach to development and the solar panels and related infrastructure that UNDP has installed at the local health centre and at schools in Ngala Village shows that we can find sustainable solutions for energy that can improve people’s lives.”

“The UNDP project is one of the best projects we have visited. Health, energy, economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, clean and safe water, education, agriculture are all being supported in one village,” said TEF Secretary, Mr. Neville Meena. “The impact is vivid from the villagers’ faces and the healthy and happy children.”

In Mtwara, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN and TEF officials and journalists from Mtwara made a courtesy call to the Mtwara Regional Commissioner before visiting a UNICEF Birth Registration Project for children under-five in Mtwara. Since implementation of the project began last year, approximately 170,000 children have been registered in Mtwara representing 94 per cent of the under-five population in 2017. The project is also being implemented in Lindi since last year where it has resulted in approximately 120,000 children being registered representing 101 per cent of the under-five population in 2017.
A nurse from that works at a Ziwani Dispensary, Ms. Constansia Kalambo, registers a child. Once the child’s details are recorded, Ms. Kalambo then sends the information to the RITA district office where it is approved giving the go ahead for the child to get their birth certificate.

20 Solar panel have been installed at each of the school buildings and also the clinic located on the same premises.

A salt producer from Lindi region speaks to the media about the support he received from UNICEF. He was given training and equipment to ensure his salt had adequate iodine levels.
Sophia Kamali, a married woman and a mother of two children aged 24 and 13, lives in a quiet area of Kasulu town, Kigoma Region. She works for a local NGO as a community health worker raising awareness on reproductive health. In her spare time, she works in her vegetable garden and volunteers as a facilitator in parent-group meetings raising awareness on positive parenting skills.

Ms. Kamali is among 11 ‘Fit Persons’ in Kasulu Town Council’s child protection system, who have been supported by the local government through UNICEF. Fit Persons, and in some cases, Fit Families (in the cases of married couples), provide emergency family-based care to children who cannot live with their parents for reasons including abuse, inability to support, or abandonment. This short-term alternative care arrangement is part of the case management of the District Social Welfare Officer.

Kamali lost her mother when she was just a year old. She and her 7-month-old sister were left with her father who was not able 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 understand what children go through in cases of abuse, or where parents are unable to provide care, or in cases of abandonment, as I have been through the same,” says Kamali. Over the past four years, she has accommodated 26 children in her home.

The Fit Families programme was incorporated into Kasulu Town Council’s child protection system prior to the implementation of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) that it is now a part of under the outcome on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC). Since the onset of the Joint Programme for Kigoma in 2017, 56 Fit Families have hosted 117 children across the four districts (Kasulu Town Council, Kasulu District Council, Kibondo District and Kakonko District).

Fit families are recruited and trained by District Social Welfare Officers using guidelines and training packs developed by the Department of Social Welfare (Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children). Financial support is provided to fit persons to support children in their care.
Anderson, a Congolese refugee living in Nyarugusu Camp, Kasulu district, Kigoma region, dreams of being a Human Rights activist and perhaps, someday, to work with the United Nations. Today, he is one step closer to achieving his dream after receiving a sponsorship from the Student Refugee Program to attend university in Canada this September.

Anderson had just finished secondary school in DR Congo before he was forced to leave his home and seek refuge in Tanzania in 2013. Like many refugees, he was a victim of violence and persecution in his country of origin. “I want to study for a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations or in Law,” said Anderson. He is one of the first five beneficiaries in Tanzania of the Student Refugee Programme (SRP) managed by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

SRP supports over 130 refugee students each year from around the world by giving them life changing opportunities to continue their education on Canadian campuses. Emery is a Burundian refugee and another recipient of the WUSC program. Emery lost his parents and brother during the political unrest in Burundi. “I was in school in another province and I received bad news about my family,” recalled Emery. His parents were both teachers in Burundi and members of the opposition party. “After my parents died, I knew I had to leave Burundi,” continued Emery.

Emery decided to honour his parents by teaching children in the camp. His dream is to become a leader but he uses his time to teach class 3 and 4 students French and Kirundi languages in Nuru Primary School.

UNHCR’s Refugee Education Response Plan seeks to provide access to equitable, quality formal and alternative education to pre-primary, primary and secondary school-aged children. Despite the double-shift strategy, there is still a shortage of classrooms and children continue to study under trees. There is a shortage of learning and teaching materials negatively impacting enrolment and retention rates of children. Currently only 78% of the primary school-aged children are attending school, with many of them participating in classes under trees. Additional USD 800,000 are required to mitigate the gap in 2018.

Student Refugee Program scholarship brings hope to refugees in Tanzania

These are the first refugees (2 Congolese and 3 Burundians) from the camp who received a scholarship from the Student Refugee Program which is managed by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

PHOTO | UNHCR Tanzania

“I want to study Bachelor of Arts in International Relations or in Law,”

ANDERSON, A BENEFICIARY OF THE STUDENT REFUGEE PROGRAMME
In June, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, launched a nationwide HIV testing campaign in Dodoma. Dubbed ‘Furaha yangu’, literally meaning “My happiness”, the campaign is meant to encourage all Tanzanians, especially men and youth to go for testing and start early treatment if found to be HIV positive. The Premier, urged people to participate in the campaign and said that the government is attempting to attain the global set goal of 90-90-90 by 2020. This would mean that by 2020, 90 per cent of all people living with HIV know their status, 90 per cent of those diagnosed are receiving treatment and 90 per cent of those receiving treatment have viral suppression.

Under the UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNAIDS are collaborating with the government, social partners and other stakeholders to implement the Furaha yangu campaign to mobilise workers communities, especially men, to know their HIV status as a basis for initiating early treatment and prevention. The Prime Minister expressed his disappointment that to date only 45.1 per cent of males infected by HIV know their status compared to 55.9 per cent of (at ages 15 – 64). He further added that about 1.4m people are infected with HIV, representing only 5 per cent of the county’s total population of 54.2 million.

“Efforts must be put in place now to protect the 95 per cent from being infected and also safeguard the existing 5 per cent from new infections and death,” he said. He further directed all Regional Commissioners and Ministers to work with HIV/AIDS stakeholders to sensitize people at their respective regions/ministries to take HIV tests and start early treatment.

At the same occasion, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Hon. Jenista Mhagama, commended all stakeholders including the ILO, UNAIDS, USAID and others for their support to the Government’s efforts in combating the scourge.

She emphasized that the campaign will not only provide the actual numbers of people infected by HIV, but will also enable the national labour force to more effectively contribute to national development. She further added that youth are the most affected demographic group.
“Efforts must be put in place now to protect the 95% from being infected and also safeguard the existing 5% from new infections and death.”

Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Kassim Majaliwa.

Upcoming Days:

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A Stronger United Nations for a Better World!

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

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