

## PREMIER LAUNCHES AGENDA FOR INVESTING IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- UNESCO assesses effectiveness of re-entry policy for pregnant learners in Zanzibar
- Menstrual hygiene matters for girls in Nyarugusu refugee camp
- Giving Tanzanian girls a today and tomorrow
- Gender Equality - SDG 5 poem by Aisha Kingu



The Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa (centre), officially launches the National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well-being. He was joined by the UNICEF Representative Shalini Bahuguna, (immediate right); Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, Hon. Jenista Mhagama (immediate left); Minister of Health, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima (second to his left) among others.

#### All Photos by UNICEF Tanzania

**Y**outh in Tanzania will now benefit from access to friendlier health services as a result of the recently launched national agenda to boost the development of adolescents. The National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well-being will be implemented for three years starting April 17, 2021.

The Prime Minister, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, launched the agenda at a high-level event attended by key sectoral

government ministers, development partners, CSOs as well as by adolescents. This new agenda firmly positions adolescent girls and boys and their multiple vulnerabilities as a priority area of action. It is focused on six pillars, including Preventing HIV; Preventing Teenage Pregnancies; Preventing physical, sexual and emotional violence; improving nutrition; Keeping girls and boys in school; and Developing skills for economic opportunities.

The aim of this agenda, which

has taken various government policies into consideration, is to empower and equip adolescents to make a healthy transition to a productive adulthood.

In his speech, the Prime Minister reiterated the government's commitment to invest in adolescent health and well-being urging all ministries to implement their commitments made at the launch. The Premier urged development partners to follow suit and to commit to support implementation of the Agenda. Majaliwa called for periodic

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implementation reviews, measuring progress towards the 2025 goals.

“Investing in Health and Development for Adolescents has no alternative, especially in this period in which the government is strengthening itself in investing in the establishment and development of industries to boost our country’s economy which is currently in the middle class. I am aware that the implementation of this Agenda will involve sectorial ministries, development stakeholders and local and international NGOs. Therefore, let me call on all stakeholders to continue working with the Government in this responsibility,” said Hon Majaliwa.

The Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr. Dorothy Gwajima, said her Ministry,



The adolescents who presented on the six pillars of the agenda hand over copies of the agenda to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa and UNICEF Representative, Shalini Bahuguna.

in collaboration with stakeholders, have prepared a strong coordination, monitoring and evaluation system to support the successful implementation of the agenda.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Representative, Shalini Bahuguna, represented UN agencies at the launch. Ms. Bahuguna said that the agenda matters for the

country today and for its future, as Tanzania has a youthful population – the largest in the region that has a high growth rate. She reiterated the UN’s support to the government to implement the agenda and to strengthen and enhancing inter-linkages. Other UN agencies, including UNFPA, WHO and UN Women, also supported the development of the Agenda and will support its implementation.



A group photo is taken with all the key stakeholders who have come together to for the launch of the National Accelerated Action and Investment Agenda for Adolescent Health and Well-being. The Government, UN and other stakeholders pledged to support its implementation.

## MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MATTERS FOR GIRLS IN NYARUGUSU REFUGEE CAMP, KIGOMA REGION



When girls can manage their menstrual hygiene safely and with dignity, they can compete as equals with their male peers.  
Photo | Warren Bright/UNFPA Tanzania

**M**anaging menstruation is often challenging for adolescent girls in Tanzania – and around the world – but these challenges are exacerbated for the girls of Nyarugusu refugee camp where a lack of privacy and access to water, and materials to manage their periods, are often lacking. Girls feel uncomfortable and embarrassed about attending school or playing with their friends when they are menstruating, anxious and fearful that someone will find out. For many, monthly periods are a time of isolation; girls miss school and they miss out.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – as part of development and humanitarian activities – is working to reach some of the furthest behind adolescent youth in Kigoma

*“I no longer have to worry about how to manage my period. I am happy someone is talking to me about this”.*

**Asma,  
Sanitary Kits  
beneficiary**

Region in both the local community and Nyarugusu refugee

camp through the ‘Ujana Wangu Nguvu Yangu’ – ‘My Youth, My Power’ – project supported by Irish Aid. Activities under the project include the distribution of Adolescent Dignity Kits – which include reusable sanitary pads. Some 2,888 kits were distributed in 2020 through UNFPA’s partner the International Rescue Committee (IRC), to adolescent girls – both in and out of school – and first-time young mothers, a particularly vulnerable group.

Asma, aged 12, received one of the kits, which were distributed as part of an education session

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on good personal and menstrual hygiene. She could barely hide her delight and relief. She says she will no longer have to worry about how she will manage her period every month and that it is a 'golden opportunity' for her – and other girls – to compete as equals with their male peers at school. Joyce, a first-time young mother, no longer attends school, but says that the kit – and reusable sanitary pads – mean that she can participate in community activities – in everyday life. For her the kit is accompanied by hope.

There is no specific goal or in-

dicator related to menstrual hygiene management in the Global Goals, but it is integral to the realization of several others including Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages – and SDG 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

UNFPA will continue to support some of the most marginalized adolescents and young people in Kigoma to realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights – including managing their menstrual hygiene with dignity – by supporting efforts

that expand access to age-appropriate services and information that respond to their unique needs, and by putting youth at the front and centre of project activities.

As part of wider health systems strengthening efforts in the region, UNFPA is also supporting the renovation of maternal health facilities in Kigoma under the Ujana Wangu Nguvu Yangu project. Nine maternity wards were upgraded in 2020 and a further eight and one Reproductive and Child Health Centre are in the pipeline for construction.

## GIVING TANZANIAN GIRLS A TODAY AND TOMORROW



Glory is a different person since she joined the Adolescent Girls Club – one who has grown in self-worth and confidence. Photo | Warren Bright/UNFPA Tanzania

**W**hen Glory became pregnant at the age of 13, she felt worthless and despaired as she watched her dreams slip away. She knew all too well the stigma that surrounds early pregnancy and that she could not continue going to school.

For most adolescent girls like Glory, pregnancy is not the result of a deliberate choice. They often have little or no say in decisions affecting their bodies and lives. For most girls, early childbirth is a consequence of inequality and unfortunate circumstances including gender-based violence, peer pres

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sure and other social and economic factors. It is also the result of a lack of access to age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights information.

In Tanzania, teenage pregnancy has increased in the past decade. Nearly one in four girls become pregnant or give birth to their first child before the age of 18, with wide rural, urban, and regional disparities. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is working with partners to change this narrative through supporting five Adolescent Girls Clubs that empower more than 100 out-of-school girls with life skills, entrepreneurship training

and the provision of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health care and information in Shinyanga region where Glory lives.

It is a small but important step for her.

Five months after she was invited by her village leader to join one of the clubs in Shilela ward, she has become a different person – one who has grown in self-worth and confidence. She has learned that she has the right to make decisions about her body and that no one can force her into having unwanted or unprotected sex. Now undertaking a vocational training course, she no longer feels

inadequate compared to her friends who went on to secondary school.

At the Adolescent Girls Clubs, vulnerable girls learn to challenge existing gender inequalities and gain new skills and knowledge. Glory is already seeing significant changes in her home environment thanks to the club's interventions. Her family members, particularly her father, are changing their attitudes towards girls, supporting her young sister's ambitions of becoming a midwife. The clubs are supported through the UNFPA-UN Women Joint Programme funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

## ASSESSING THE RE-ENTRY POLICY ON PREGNANT LEARNERS IN ZANZIBAR

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently commissioned a study to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the Re-Entry Policy on Pregnant Learners in Zanzibar, to identify gaps and areas for improvement. The two-day meeting included directors from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) and education stakeholders.

The guest of honour was the Minister of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar, Hon. Simai Said. In his comments, Hon. Said urged the ministry

to support initiatives that would raise public awareness on the re-entry policy which refers to girls returning to school after

*“As we are working on this matter, we need to find ways to combat the problem of young people getting pregnant while in school.”*

**Hon. Simai Said,  
Minister of Education  
and Vocational Training  
in Zanzibar**

giving birth. “As we are working

on this matter, we need to find ways to combat the problem of young people getting pregnant while in school,” he said.

According to data from the Registrar of Education, a total of 646 girls became pregnant from 2005 to 2020 in Zanzibar. Within this group, 190 learners were in upper primary level between ages 13 to 16; 452 were at ordinary secondary school level and 4 were at the advance level of secondary education aged 16 to 18.

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) reiterated its commitment to improve the

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current situation by highlighting the 'Educational Policy of 2006' on preventing adolescent girls from getting pregnant which ensures that young mothers return to school after giving birth. The Ministry of Education has established the Inclusive Education and Life Skills Unit and Office of Education Registrar which are key players in the implementation of the policy.

Among the key findings from the assessment was that there was low awareness and un-

der-standing of the re-entry policy among students, parents, and pregnant adolescent learners. Some key recommendations given to effectively implement the re-entry to school policy emphasize the need to review the existing education policy and realign it with the current situation as well as societal demands and to findings from the re-entry policy assessment. This includes, for example, developing national guidelines for the implementation; conducting a needs assessment on what to include; strengthening guid-

ance and counselling services at schools, and supporting multi-sectoral collaboration to promote pregnant girls staying in school.

On his part, UNESCO Representative to Tanzania, Mr. Tirso Dos Santos said, "UNESCO recognizes and commends government efforts through MoEVT, for putting in place a conducive policy environment and structures that facilitate all school aged children to enrol and complete their studies."



Front row (left to right): Director of Administration & Personnel MoEVT, Mr. Omar Bai; Principal Secretary MoEVT, Mr. Ali Khamis Juma; Minister of MoEVT; Hon. Simai M. Said; UNESCO Head of Office & Representative in Tanzania, Mr. Tirso Dos Santos; & UNESCO National Commission representative; Mr. Joel A. Samuel. **Photo | Agnes Kenneth/UN Tanzania**

## MORE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE AN EQUAL FUTURE



H.E. President Samia Suluhu Hassan (then Vice President) addressing women during International Women's Day. In her remarks she highlighted the importance of the outcomes of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. **Photo | Laurean Kiiza/ UNIC Dar es Salaam**

International Women's Day was commemorated on March 8th under the national theme 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future' with a focus on celebrating women's extraordinary leadership, their resilience, acts of courage, and determination. The commemorations also advocated for women to claim their space in leadership, and actively participate in decision-making.

The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, led the commemorations which took place throughout the month of March. The Ministry partnered

with regional and local government authorities, UN agencies, development partners, civil society, the private sector as well as other stakeholders to organize a variety of activities before and after the climax day on March 8th. These activities raised awareness on the need to have more women in leadership, the rights of women, gender-equality, and the need to prevent all forms of violence against women.

Speaking on the climax day at the national commemoration in Dar es Salaam, President Samia Suluhu Hassan (then Vice President) called on the

public to recognise the power of women and create a better future for them. "We should fight traditions and customs that drag women behind, the society must focus on traditions that promote women's rights and welfare," she said. She further pointed out that women need to defy all odds and change their mindset by focusing on productive activities for their own development and for the development of the country.

On his side, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Zlatan Milisic, called for more women to be given opportunities in leadership positions and emphasized

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the need for men to play a more active role in this movement. “As men, we have a role to play to ensure bold decisive actions that can bring women into the heart of the decision-making spaces in large numbers, and as full partners, so that we can make immediate progress on a greener, equitable and inclusive world. This is the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is also the vision of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,” he said.



A wide range of stakeholders participated in the International Women's Day Commemorations in Dar es Salaam affirming their commitment to achieving gender equality and to empower all women and girls in Tanzania. Photo | Ahimidiwe Olotu/UNIC Dar es Salaam



The UN booth at Mlimani City Conference Hall with different publications including advocacy materials on ending gender-based violence from UN Women and the Government of United Republic of Tanzania. Photo | Ahimidiwe Olotu/UNIC Dar es Salaam

## FLIPFLOPI COMPLETES HISTORIC JOURNEY INSPIRING ACTION AGAINST SINGLE-USE PLASTIC



The Flipflopi dhow was received by environmental protection stakeholders in Mwanza port after sailing across Lake Victoria from Uganda. Photo| Editrudith Lukanga

**T**he Flipflopi dhow sailed into Mwanza, Tanzania early April this year, on a mission to promote action against the use of single-use plastic. The Flipflopi is a movement for change whose objective is to end single-use plastic and lead a plastic-reuse revolution through education, sailing expeditions, positive storytelling and campaigns. The movement built the world's very first 100 per cent recycled plastic dhow (sailing boat) and covered it in 30,000 multicoloured flip flops and the dhow now sails around the region fighting plastic pollution.

Over a four-week period, the

colourful and innovative dhow travelled across Lake Victoria to visit Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, meeting business leaders, community leaders, conservationists, policy-makers and school children. The arrival of the Flipflopi in Tanzania inspired artistry work and virtual webinars featuring youth and civil society organisations, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), policymakers and the private sector who discussed the impact of plastic pollution on the lake and what we can all do about it.

The dhow was received by Mwanza City Council and a diverse range of local and inter-

national partners who organised a variety of events aimed at fighting plastic pollution and tackling marine litter. There were also plastic waste recycling centres set up to serve the citizens of the lake. Flipflopi partnered with the global 'Clean Seas' campaign to deliver a key message on the alarming impact of plastics on oceans and freshwater ecosystems.

A recent study from Mwanza estimated that 1 in 5 fish in Lake Victoria had ingested plastic. According to UNEP, globally some 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the sea every year, sickening wildlife, clogging fishing nets and sometimes ending

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up on dinner plates.

The Executive Director for Environmental Management and Economic Development Organization (EMEDO). Ms. Editrudith Lukanga, emphasized, “Plastic pollution and waste do not respect borders. Wherever you live around the lake, we can all play our role to reduce the plastic we throw away, re-purpose it to bring value to our communities, and save Lake Victoria for future generations.”

Lake Victoria supports more than 40 million people and has been under increased pressure from the dramatic effects of climate change and pollution which has severely impacted the lake and threatens the health and livelihoods of communities.



Participants who received the Flipflop included artists who designed creative plastic waste gathering points in the image of the fish shown in this picture. **Photo| Editrudith Lukanga**

## KASANGA PORT OPENS FOR WFP



330 MT of maize being off-loaded at Bujumbura port in Burundi at the end of March. This was the first WFP shipment from Kasanga port in Rukwa Tanzania, opening the route across Lake Tanganyika. The maize was locally purchased from Tanzania. **Photo | Lydia Vanos/WFP Tanzania**

**T**he Kasanga port in southern Lake Tanganyika has recently opened for World Food Programme (WFP) traffic to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Recently, the first boat carrying 330 metric tonnes (mt) of maize for Burundi departed the port starting a new phase in WFP’s operations that will benefit local farmers as well as the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.

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## Drastically reduced transport cost

The inclusion of Kasanga port into the WFP operation has many advantages. It enables WFP to transport food commodities directly to the port from areas in south eastern Tanzania where they are procured. This cuts the total transit time in half, maintains the quality of the

commodities and decreases post-harvest handling losses. For the farmers, this improves their access to markets and secures better prices. Overall, the initiative is expected to lower the cost of transportation by 30 to 40 per cent enabling WFP to help even more people.

## Local procurement

The use of Kasanga port is just the newest in a line of initia-

tives from WFP to supply Tanzanian crops to neighbouring countries. Over the past seven years, WFP has developed its operation to support Tanzania's agricultural sector by sourcing large portions of crops, such as maize and beans, from Tanzanian farmers to be distributed in countries like DRC, Burundi, and South Sudan. The opening of the port will make it easier to source crops locally.

## MESSAGE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI IN RWANDA

7 April is observed over the world as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. This year marks the 27th anniversary of the genocide in which more than one million people were systematically murdered in less than three months in Rwanda. They were overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also Hutu and others



*"Today, around the globe, people are threatened by extremist groups determined on boosting their ranks through social polarization and political and cultural manipulation."*

*"These extremist movements represent the principal security threat in many countries."*

**Mr. António Guterres,  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations**

A photograph from a UN exhibition on Rwanda. Photo | United Nations

who opposed the genocide.

Unlike previous years, due to COVID-19, the traditional commemoration that would gather hundreds of people did not take place. Instead, messages about the day were shared on social media with the general public. These messages included that

of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres who highlights the continued threats in our world today.

In part, Mr. Guterres' statement read, "Today, around the globe, people are threatened by extremist groups determined on boosting their ranks through

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social polarization and political and cultural manipulation.

These extremist movements represent the principal security threat in many countries.

While the technology and techniques that extremists use are evolving, the vile messages and rhetoric remain the same. The dehumanization of communities, misinformation and

hate speech are stoking the fires of violence.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the urgency of addressing deepening divides.

The global health crisis has profoundly affected the entire spectrum of human rights in every region, further fueling discrimination, social polarization and inequalities all of which can lead to violence and con-

flict. We saw what happened in Rwanda in 1994, and we know the horrific consequences when hate is allowed to prevail. Preventing history from repeating itself requires countering these hate-driven movements that have become a transnational threat. We must redouble our efforts, and forge a Common Agenda, to renew and reinvigorate our collective actions going forward.”

## GENDER EQUALITY - SDG 5 POEM BY AISHA KINGU

*Every gender serves in nobility,  
At peace, at liberty,  
At high integrity, under safe entity,  
With no limits, to offering diversity.  
Every gender manifests beauty of its own,  
Not in comparison, causing a breakdown,  
A human is what should be known,  
There is no gender to blame, but only to crown.  
Embracing the ability to shine.  
With liberty purely shown,  
Gender equality to be clearly seen,  
Is a beauty, elegance that's purely being.  
Equality to access education,  
Equality to access information,  
Equality to integration,  
Sources worldly development and diversification*



## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – World Refugee Day

**July 30<sup>th</sup>** - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

**August 12<sup>th</sup>** - International Youth Day

**August 19<sup>th</sup>** - World Humanitarian Day

**A STRONGER UNITED NATIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD**



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TANZANIA**



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