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PRESS RELEASE

This year's national UN Day commemorations will take place Saturday, October 23rd in Dodoma where the UN Flag will be raised symbolizing Tanzania's commitment to multilateralism and partnership with the United Nations. The guest of honor is expected to be the Minister of Defence and National Service, Hon. Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax. The UN Resident Coordinator and heads and representatives of UN organizations will also participate in the flag-raising ceremony as will representatives from the Dodoma Regional Commissioners Office, embassies and international organizations, line Ministries, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, UN staff, Tanzania Defense Forces and other stakeholders.

For the Isles, The President of Zanzibar H. E. Hussein Mwinyi will officiate a competition awarding ceremony on the 28th October, 2021.

In Zanzibar, the UN Day events will take place from the 26th to the 28th of October, through a number of commemorative activities including a beach clean-up activity by UN officials and Government in partnership with environment and health actors in the Isles. There will also be an educational outreach conducted in Lumumba and Benbela Secondary school in Zanzibar, tree planting and exhibition by UN and Young entrepreneurs.

United Nations Day is commemorated globally on 24 October, to mark the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the UN Charter entered into force. UN Day, celebrated every year, offers the opportunity to amplify our common agenda as UN Member States and reaffirm the purposes and principles of the UN Charter that have guided us for the past 76 years.

The chosen theme in Tanzania for this year's UN Day is "*Building Back with Better Health Systems*". This theme is in line with key global targets for achieving Sustainable Development



Goal number 3 on Good Health and Well Being. The theme is therefore focused on reviewing existing health systems so that they can better respond to pandemics like COVID-19 and health related emergencies for a Sustainable future.

Currently countries including Tanzania are slowly recovering from the effects of COVID-19.

According to the 2021 SDGs report, 90% of countries are still reporting disruptions to essential health services due to COVID-19. The report encourages the rebuilding of health systems that are prepared for future shocks, such as public health emergencies.

The lessons learned from this pandemic should prompt the need among Nations to build better and more sustainable health systems and to establish better response mechanisms including building resilience strategies among communities and developing support for people in urban and rural homesteads to manage the associated psychosocial impacts of a pandemic.

This report further detailed how the adverse effects that the pandemic has had on health systems has disproportionately affected women, girls and persons living with disabilities.

Zlatan Milisic is the UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania. In his remarks for UN Day this year, he congratulated the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. Samia Suuhu Hassan for key developments in the health sector. He further congratulated the President for accepting the vaccines in Tanzania and promoting access to better health services across the country.

In his reflections on the UN Day theme, Ambassador Zlatan said, "We must continue, together, to support all efforts to create more resilient health systems that will ensure our communities and people are healthy, have access to basic health services and able to better withstand health crises such as COVID-19."

The Resident Coordinator highlighted UN's efforts during the pandemic, "Since the pandemic arrived in Tanzania, the UN has been at the forefront of supporting various pillars of the COVID-19 national response with some UN organisations co-chairing pillars of the response. A key part



of the UN’s support to the response has been working with national and international partners to ensure essential health services such as maternal, child and adolescent health, HIV/AIDS and GBV services were sustained throughout the pandemic. This has helped reduce the strain that COVID-19 has put on Tanzania’s health systems.”

According to the UN Secretary General, COVID-19, conflicts, poverty, hunger and the ongoing disaster of climate change remind us that our world is far from perfect.

And that the only pathway forward for people and our planet is solidarity.”

UN in Tanzania:

The theme is very relevant to the work done by the United Nations in Tanzania. From 2016 to 2021, All 23 UN agencies worked coherently, efficiently and effectively to achieve 12 development and humanitarian outcomes categorized into four themes including **Healthy Nation, Inclusive Growth, Resilience** and **Governance**. The United Nations in Tanzania has used its comparative advantage to promote policy coherence; leverage partnerships in all sectors including in health; foster learning in development (data generation and utilization); and in enabling provision of quality services for the poorest and most vulnerable.

The United Nations has incorporated strategies including leaving no one behind, including human rights approaches in all work done, encouraging gender equality, capacity development, women’s empowerment and results-based management.

As the UN in Tanzania winds up its second phase of the Development plan in Tanzania, namely the UN Development Assistance Plan-UNDAP II(2016-2021), UN agencies recognize that access to health care is not only a basic human right, but it is also essential for the prosperity of communities and the nation at large.

Some of the notable contributions of UN Tanzania in the health sector over the years include the

following;

- Contributing to strengthen health systems by helping to build, re-construct and equip health facilities. Building and renovating clinics and dispensaries, some in very remote areas of the country, and providing them with facilities to ensure women can safely give birth and their newborn children have access to the care they need.
- UN equips health facilities with ambulances, ultrasound machines and delivery beds.
- Provides medical supplies to health facilities all over the country. Various UN agencies specializing in the health sector provide a wide range of supplies such as vaccines, medicines and hygiene and sanitary items among other products.
- Training and strengthening capacity of health workers and provide technical advice and support.
- Providing support in developing the fifth National Health Strategic Plan.
- Supports the government and other stakeholders to make available essential health and social welfare services to all households.

In 2022, The United Nations in Tanzania will adopt the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SDCF). Health and resilience will be incorporated in that Framework. This will be the most important planning and implementation instrument for UN development activities within the country, translating the vision of Tanzania into UN actions and impacts on the ground.

- Tanzania has been a UN Member state since 1961 and each year since then, it has conformed to the UN Charter which provides guidance to nations.

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