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TANZANIA



2025



# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Kigoma Joint Program II

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# Health

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# Nourishing Change: A Journey to Better Nutrition in Buhigwe, Kigoma

*This is a story of Zuhura Khalfan, a dedicated Nutrition Officer in Buhigwe District Council*

In Buhigwe District, where community ties are strong, a dedicated nutrition officer is making remarkable progress in the fight against malnutrition. Zuhura Khalfan exemplifies the spirit of change, leading transformative efforts to improve dietary habits among local residents.



*Zuhura Khalfan, Nutrition Officer, Buhigwe District Council.*

In May 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), organized a three-day training where Zuhura played a vital role. The training brought together thirty participants, including nutrition officers, educators, and community health workers (CHWs), to learn about the Tanzania Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs). For Zuhura, this was more than a learning opportunity—it was a call to action to drive positive change in her community.

## Health

Working at Buhigwe Hospital, Zuhura sees the challenges firsthand as she develops nutrition plans for patients struggling with undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and other diet-related issues like obesity. "People trust us as the most qualified nutrition professionals to guide them toward healthy choices," she said. However, Zuhura recognizes that the real challenge not only lies within the hospital walls, but in helping people integrate healthier choices into their daily lives.

Since the training, Zuhura has led

community outreach activities such as Village Health and Nutrition Days, in-service training for healthcare workers, and nutrition sessions for private clients. With her enhanced skills she educates families about better nutrition. "Before the training, explaining portion sizes was difficult, but now I do it confidently, far beyond the classroom," she shared. "I emphasize dietary diversity and the practical steps to apply the guidelines," she added, explaining that "knowing the guidelines is one thing, putting them into practice is another."

**"I EMPHASIZE DIETARY DIVERSITY AND THE PRACTICAL STEPS TO APPLY THE GUIDELINES, KNOWING THE GUIDELINES IS ONE THING, PUTTING THEM INTO PRACTICE IS ANOTHER."**



*KJP farmer (1st left), Maria Ngilisho a nutritionist from the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) (middle), demonstrates how to measure proper portion sizes alongside Kigoma Regional Nutritionist James Ngalaba (2nd right).*

## Health



*Participants learning about proper serving sizes for a balanced and healthy diet.*

While the journey to improved dietary practices in Buhigwe District is challenging, it is filled with promise. The community's nutritional transformation could foster a lasting culture of health and wellness that benefits families for generations. "By working together, we can create a ripple effect that reaches every corner of Buhigwe District," Zuhura said with hope, envisioning a better life for all.

# Dedicated Midwives and Revamped Ward in the Refugee Camp Safeguard Maternal Lives

“Every delivery is different, and my priority is always to ensure the safety of the mother and the baby,” says Alex, one of the midwives at the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) main hospital in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp. The hospital provides free health services for both refugees and Tanzanians living in Kasulu District, Tanzania.



Alex monitors pregnant mother before delivery at the hospital in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania. Photo Credit by UNHCR/Winnie Kweka

## Health

### **“OUR HEARTS WERE BROKEN BUT WE HAD TO FOCUS ON STABILIZING THE MOTHER TO SAVE HER LIFE”**

At the hospital, Alex attends to on average 15 deliveries per day including normal and caesarean operations. He has been a midwife for over five years and was inspired to join this noble profession by his mentor who was working in the same field.

Alex's passion for midwifery is evident as he recalls significant severe cases while working at the TRCS hospital in the camp. “We received a pregnant Tanzanian woman who had started bleeding at home and was quickly rushed to the hospital,” narrates Alex.

During the rainy season, the roads become slippery for motorcycles, which are the main medium of transport for Tanzanians in Kasulu District. Coupled with worrying symptoms, the mother and caretaker unfortunately got into an accident before reaching the hospital. “The mother and caretaker were fully covered with mud upon arrival,” describes Alex.

“Our priority was to remove the mud and that's where we discovered that the mother had sustained injuries around the thigh area,” he recalls. The team quickly helped the mother, however, upon examination, the baby's heartbeat had ceased. “Our hearts were broken but we had to focus on stabilizing the mother to save her life,” he adds. After several hours, the mother was stabilized and later discharged from the hospital.

Despite the tragic results, Alex keeps going as in addition to supporting births, he and his team advise women on important health tips so they can take good care of themselves and their newborns.

Speaking on the perinatal death, the TRCS Health Coordinator Dr. Mohammed Abbas, says the statistics have improved between 2023 to 2024. “We experienced 10 to 15 perinatal deaths but this year only 5 to 4 per month and sometimes none,” explained Dr. Mohammed. On the other hand, no maternal death has been recorded in hospital for the last four years now owing to improved health services for pregnant mothers in the main hospital and health posts in Nyarugusu Camp.

With the support of the UN Kigoma Joint Programmeme funds, UNHCR partner TRCS was able to hire seven additional nurses and rebuild the main hospital maternity unit ward in the camp. The construction and equipping to full capacity of the maternity ward in Nyarugusu Camp is more than just building a facility, it is a haven of hope and health for the refugee and host communities.

“It offers safe spaces for mothers to bring new life into the world, reduces maternal and infant mortality, and reduces complications that may arise from pregnant mothers who visit unskilled health care practitioners,” explains Taiye Oluyole, UNHCR Associate Public Health Officer. “In this type of challenging environment, a well-equipped and trained midwife in a new maternity ward becomes a beacon of resilience, dignity, and care to the benefiting population,” he adds.

Through the KJP, UNHCR and its partners are contributing to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.1 on reducing maternal deaths by 2030. Every birth matters and no woman should lose life while bringing another life into the world.

## Hope for the future.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP), in partnership with the government and World Vision Tanzania, is supporting to increase the coverage and quality of school feeding programme through a school garden initiative across 30 public primary schools in the Kigoma region, specifically in Kasulu DC, Kasulu TC, and Kibondo DC – 10 schools in each council. These schools have been supported to initiate the cultivation of nutritious crops for schools meals including biofortified maize, biofortified beans, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, and green leafy vegetables and avocados, ensuring that students receive nutritious school meals, to contribute to enhancing nutrition, health and educational outcomes. Through the initiative, school focal points including headteachers have been trained on good agricultural practices, postharvest management and organic farming including composting and production of organic pesticides. School children have also been equipped with skills on production of nutritious crops.



**“IN PREVIOUS YEARS, BUDGET CONSTRAINTS CAUSED FOOD INSECURITY AT OUR INCLUSIVE SCHOOL, LIMITING BOARDING SCHOLARS TO TWO MEALS A DAY WITH NO VEGETABLES. THE SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT HAS RESOLVED THIS BY USING AVAILABLE LAND AND INVOLVING STUDENTS IN FOOD PRODUCTION, ENSURING ALL BOARDING SCHOLARS RECEIVE THREE MEALS DAILY AND DAY SCHOLARS RECEIVE AT LEAST TWO MEALS DURING HARVEST SEASONS,”**

**SAID MS. ANJELINA, A TEACHER AT NENGO PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KIBONDO DC.**



**40,000  
STUDENTS  
RECEIVING  
NUTRITIOUS  
MEALS**

**19,647 BOYS | 19,836 GIRLS**

The harvest from the school gardens have been used to initiate school feeding programmes in some of the supported schools while others have used it to complement the contributions received from parents. The harvest has been used to feed about 40,000 school children (19,647 boys, 19,836 girls) in the 30 supported schools. The initiative has boosted attendance in the supported schools, this was attested by Mr. Godfrey, a teacher at Nyakatoke Primary School in Kasulu DC “Previously, morning sessions had higher attendance than afternoons because students, especially those in examination classes i.e., standard IV and VII, often did not return after lunch due to long distances home”. The programme has been well-received by pupils, who actively participate in growing crops and contributing to its sustainability. Parents in few schools, volunteer to cook and provide funds for purchasing sugar, oil, and kitchen utensils.

**“IN THE PAST, I WENT HOME FOR LUNCH AND DIDN’T RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR AFTERNOON SESSION DUE TO DISTANCE, NOW WITH FOOD PROVIDED AT SCHOOL, I STAY FOR CLASSES AND DELICIOUS MEALS” SAID ABIHUD MLUKU, A STANDARD FIVE STUDENT AT NYAKATOKE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN KASULU DC.**

The school garden initiative will ensure sustainable access to nutritious meals for 30 primary schools through seed multiplication training. This will lighten parents' burdens, increase community participation, and reduce micronutrient deficiencies in children, enhancing attendance and performance. It also promotes nutritious crop production at the household level, benefiting the community's overall nutrition.

# Reducing maternal mortality in Tanzania's Kigoma region

In Kigoma region in north-east Tanzania, access to quality health services for pregnant women can be constrained by distance, cost, unreliable diagnostic equipment, and inadequate transportation to referral hospitals. However, despite these constraints, the region has recorded a sharp decline in maternal deaths, from 102 in 2022 to 76 in 2023 per 100 000 live births in health facilities.

Despite this progress, Kigoma region contributes 5.6% of all maternal deaths in Tanzania Mainland, making it the fourth largest contributor out of the country's 31 regions, and indicating a need to prioritize interventions to further reduce fatalities.

To further ensure access to health facilities by pregnancy women and strengthen the health system, the Norwegian Embassy has supported the Kigoma Joint Programmeme (KJP) Health+ thematic area through the World Health Organization (WHO) to support government with two fully equipped ambulances and 15 ultrasound machines for the Kigoma Region, benefitting over 2,000 women.



## Health

For Dorcas Simon, an informal trader in Kigoma region, it took the timely transportation of her newborn child and her to the hospital to save their lives.

“I birthed all my children at home due to the distance. It was taking almost three hours to get to the nearby health facility,” she says. “After the third born was delivered, we had some complications, and it took the timely arrival of the ambulance to save our lives.”

Through Kigoma Joint programme health thematic area, WHO has provided 15 ultrasound machines to 15 health facilities in the region and trained over 300 health workers in managing emergency obstetric complications, easing the number of referrals that need to be made.

So far, the ultrasound has been serving about 10 pregnant women per week, cumulatively reducing pressure on the regional hospital and further strengthening health systems across the region.

“Previously, the region had limited capacity in terms of diagnostic capacity. Since the ultrasound arrived here and thanks to the skill training, we received, we have been able to reduce referrals for people seeking ultrasounds and expanded the district health centre’s capacity in providing services,” says Dr Baraka Bumero, the Chief Medical Officer in Buhigwe District Health Centre.

Kigoma region is a mirror of the overall situation in Tanzania. According to Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) data, there were 556 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in 2015, but only 104 pregnancy related deaths per 100 000 live births in 2022.

“Currently, we are seeing a decrease in

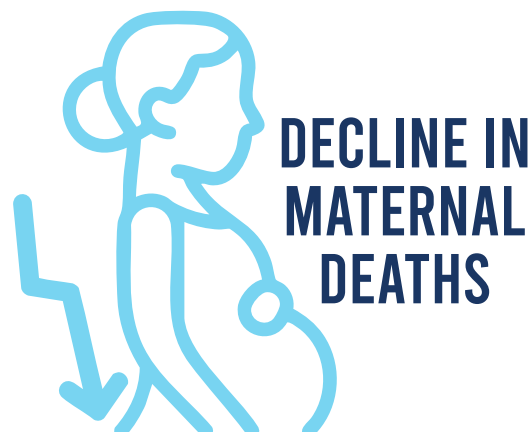
**“THROUGH NORWEGIAN SUPPORT,  
WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE THE  
IMPACT...”**

deaths in mother and children in the region. We have also seen that even home deliveries are almost ending, reaching zero,” says Dr Jesca Lebba, Regional Medical Officer, Kigoma Region. “We are grateful to WHO and partners who have done a great job. With the strategies adopted, I believe we will continue to see more impact.”

The KJP health theme through WHO’s interventions in Kigoma region are part of its support for the region’s contingency plan to reduce the maternal mortality rate.

“Through Norwegian support, we are happy to see the impact realized from WHO support, contributing significantly to the sharp decline in maternal mortality in Tanzania,” says Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses, WHO Representative in Tanzania. “With more partners on board, we can achieve more.”

Simon is grateful that she was able to get to a health facility on time and receive emergency care. “If not for this ambulance, I don’t know what would have happened to me and my child. Right now, the child is safe, and I am safe,” she says.



Toward the effort to strengthen health system during emergencies:

## The theme handed over equipment to strengthen health systems in Kigoma Region

Kigoma - In the Kigoma Region of Tanzania, with funding from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Kigoma Joint Programme Health and Nutrition them has donated equipment and supplies to strengthen infection prevention control (IPC) and WASH in health facilities, and preparedness and response against epidemics.

**“HEALTH THEME AIMS TO FOSTER A STRONGER HEALTH SYSTEM, BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST HEALTH EMERGENCIES. OUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THE REGION REMAINS RESOLUTE AS WE STRIVE TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR TANZANIA”.**

This is part of the United Nations Kigoma Joint Programmeme's efforts to work collaboratively with regional and local government authorities, communities, and other stakeholders in the region to bolster human health security in Kigoma.

Speaking at the handing-over ceremony, Dr Jairos Hiliza, Public Health Officer at WHO, and Kigoma Joint Programme Health and Nutrition Theme Lead underscored the commitment of the theme to ensuring that the lives of the people in Tanzania, particularly Kigoma region, are protected against health

threats by adhering to IPC and WASH standards.

He noted that the overall goal is not only to strengthen the health preparedness mechanism of the region but also to ensure that no one is left behind in the health for all agenda.

“Health theme aims to foster a stronger health system, building resilience against health emergencies. Our unwavering support for the region remains resolute as we strive towards the achievement of Universal health coverage for Tanzania”.

## Health



Kigoma Region is one of the regions in Tanzania bordered by neighbouring countries.

Mr. Nesphory Sungu, the Region's Health Officer, expressed gratitude for the equipment donated. He stated "Our health facility lacked some of these IPC/WASH essential equipment and supplies. I would like to thank WHO through Kigoma Joint Programme for continued support.

This support will ultimately help us to improve people's health and ensure the provision of safe services for both our healthcare providers and patients".

For Dr Ibrahim Saleh, a manager for Public Health Emergency Operating Center (PHEOC) in Kigoma Region, the equipment especially for the emergency operation centre will kickstart the operationalization of the centre to serve the people of Kigoma region.

He stated, "We are happy to receive these items and equipment which shows

great cooperation and collaboration with our stakeholders particularly WHO that has worked together to ensure the region is safe from disease as well as all health emergencies".

The Kigoma Joint Programmeme (KJP) health and Nutrition theme cuts across multiple sectors to improve health service delivery and human security in Kigoma. The theme involved eight UN Agencies and was developed in cooperation with the regional authority based on the needs of the people living in Kigoma and the capacities of the UN in Tanzania.

WHO leads the health and nutrition theme of the programmeme, and contribute to implementing various projects in WASH, emergencies and health system strengthening.

# Violence Against Women & Children

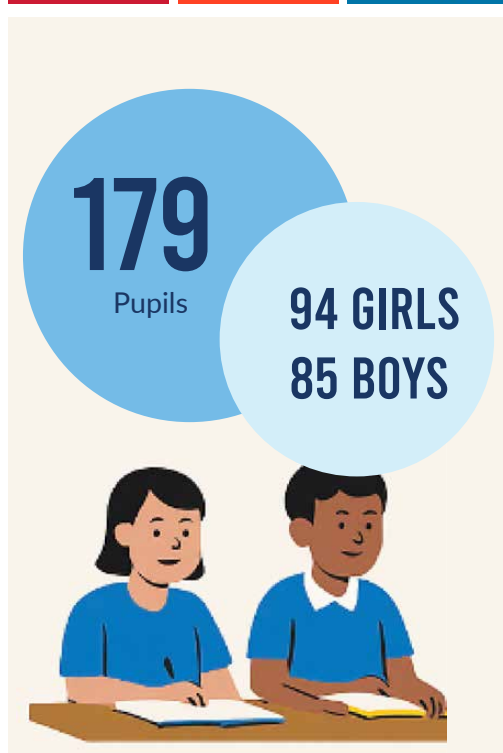
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- Educating Tanzania's Young Generation on Anti-Trafficking
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- A Beacon of Hope in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence and Child Exploitation

## Educating Tanzania's Young Generation on Anti-Trafficking

In the heart of the north-western Tanzania lies Kigoma region where an important initiative focused on educating young people about human trafficking, is taking place. Over 179 pupils, including 94 girls and 85 boys, from five primary schools, Nyakitonto, Nyamiusi, Bugaga, Juhudi, and Nyantare, have been introduced to the realities of human trafficking by IOM, the International Organization for Migration, and how to combat and prevent trafficking in their communities.



The initiative included the use of informative booklets that were distributed to the school club members, detailing the various forms of trafficking, common indicators and prevention strategies. Additionally, speakers including IOM's implementing partners WoteSawa Domestic Workers Organization, officials from the Anti-Trafficking Secretariat, and social workers, visited the schools to inform the pupils about trafficking in persons. This intervention aimed at equipping students with the knowledge and tools to recognize and respond to potential trafficking situations, fostering a safer and more informed school environment.

The knowledge gained is encouraging young students to further understand trafficking and play an active role in raising awareness around the issue, particularly on how it impacts young people, and fighting it. They are raising awareness among their peers, impacting

## Violence Against Women and Children

hundreds of other students. Through a peer-to-peer education model, the pupils have been transformed into anti-trafficking educators and have reached over 880 fellow students with anti-trafficking information and resources. Over a 12-month period, the information has been shared during school assemblies and other designated gatherings. The approach is not only deepening the pupils' understanding of trafficking but has also fostered a vigilant and informed school environment, helping to reduce the risk of trafficking within the school community. The students have become agents of change in their communities.

Rosemary Erick, one of the standard six students at Bugaga Primary School was informed about TiP during the intervention by the club members, she stated that she was not aware that children could be taken away for exploitation.

I'm so happy to have learned about child trafficking. I had no idea children could be in danger like that. Now I understand that I need to be extra careful and never go anywhere with someone I don't know without my parents' permission." Rosemary shared.

**"I'M SO HAPPY TO HAVE LEARNED ABOUT CHILD TRAFFICKING. I HAD NO IDEA CHILDREN COULD BE IN DANGER LIKE THAT..."**

The impact of this initiative has been profoundly felt at Bugaga Primary School. Some school children used to drop out from school leading them to become prone to trafficking in persons.

However, after school clubs' interventions, the rate of dropping out decreased. It was evidently stated by Mr. Jeriko John Moto, who is a teacher and school club coordinator at Bugaga Primary School, that:

"Before the school club was formed, there were a lot of dropouts and STD VII who were at risk of becoming victims of trafficking in persons because most of them dropped out to get employment from different places. Since the club's existence and awareness raising campaigns were conducted, there has been a decrease in the number of drop-out students from our school".

Under the Kigoma Joint Programmeme and in the thematic area of ending violence against women and children, IOM Tanzania continues to work in close collaboration with other UN Agencies and in partnership with its implementing partner WoteSawa Domestic Workers Organization, and the government of United Republic of Tanzania to integrate anti-trafficking knowledge into schools and other institutions with the belief that enhancing the understanding of the young generation is protecting the future from different forms of violence such as trafficking in persons.

IOM Tanzania also coordinates its interventions on counter trafficking in persons in partnership with the government through the Anti Trafficking in Persons Secretariat in the United Republic of Tanzania specifically on facilitating a safe return and reintegration of victims of trafficking and in providing capacity building to law enforcement officers, front-line workers and judiciary officials on understanding and responding to cases of trafficking in persons.

# A Beacon of Hope in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence and Child Exploitation

In the heart of Nyasha village, Kasulu, 21-year-old Lidia Ali found herself trapped in a nightmare. Taken from her home in Nyarugusu village under the guise of work, Lidia was one of many young girls exploited by a woman who preyed on vulnerable families.

Lidia, too young to handle demanding household chores and care for children, faced constant mistreatment and abuse from her employer. Alone and hungry, she was eventually cast out into the streets, her young life shattered.



**"I FELT LOST AND ALONE, BUT I LEARNED THAT I AM NOT JUST A VICTIM; I AM A SURVIVOR. WITH HELP, I CAN BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR MYSELF." LIDIA NYASHA, KASULU KIGOMA – TANZANIA.**

By chance, Lidia's path crossed with a compassionate community member who had attended GBV/VAC awareness sessions. Recognizing the signs of abuse, this Good Samaritan took Lidia to the One Stop Centre, a beacon of hope for survivors of violence.

## Violence Against Women and Children

At the centre, Lidia's story unfolded, revealing the harsh realities she had endured. The dedicated staff provided immediate medical attention and emotional support, ensuring her safety and well-being.

Lidia's case underscores the importance of community awareness and the vital role of the One Stop Centre in combating gender-based violence and child exploitation. Her story is a powerful reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for a brighter future.

**"WHEN I SAW LIDIA'S SITUATION, I KNEW I HAD TO ACT. THE AWARENESS SESSIONS TAUGHT ME HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ABUSE. I BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES A CHANCE TO HEAL AND FIND HOPE, AND I WAS DETERMINED TO HELP HER GET THE SUPPORT SHE NEEDED."**  
**SAID SUBIRA WANDIBA, KASULU, KIGOMA - TANZANIA.**



## Lidia's, The Champion of rights and choices

Lidia's case is more than just an individual story; it underscores the critical importance of community awareness and the vital role of the One Stop Centre in combating gender-based violence (GBV) and child exploitation. In a world where many vulnerable children are at risk, Lidia's experience sheds light on the need for vigilance, education, and compassion in our communities.

The circumstances surrounding Lidia's plight are not unique. Many young girls in the region are susceptible to exploitation, often lured away from their homes under false pretenses. These scenarios highlight the urgent need for ongoing education about the dangers of child labor and the signs of abuse. Community awareness sessions, like those attended by the compassionate individual who helped Lidia, equip people with the knowledge they need to recognize and respond to such situations effectively.

The One Stop Centre, where Lidia found refuge, serves as a vital lifeline for survivors of violence. It provides comprehensive services, including medical care, psychological support, and legal assistance, all in a safe and welcoming environment. The centre is a testament to the collective efforts of local organizations and community members dedicated to creating a safer space for vulnerable populations.

Lidia's story serves as a powerful reminder that, even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for a brighter future. It emphasizes the significance of community involvement in safeguarding the well-being of children. Every member of the community has a role to play—whether by attending awareness

## Violence Against Women and Children



sessions, advocating for vulnerable individuals, or simply being vigilant and supportive.

The response to Lidia's situation not only transformed her life but also inspired others in the community to take action. Her case has sparked conversations about the importance of protecting children and addressing GBV, encouraging others to share their stories and seek help.

As we reflect on Lidia's journey, we are reminded that change begins at the grassroots level. Through education, awareness, and community solidarity, we can create an environment where every child is safe, valued, and empowered to pursue their dreams. Together, we can turn stories of despair into narratives of hope, ensuring that no child has to endure what Lidia faced.

Lidia's story serves as a powerful reminder that, even in the darkest of times, there is always hope for a brighter future. It emphasizes the significance of community involvement in safeguarding the well-being of children. Every member of the community has a role to

play—whether by attending awareness sessions, advocating for vulnerable individuals, or simply being vigilant and supportive.

### UNFPA's Commitment to Achieving Zero Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices in Tanzania

Lidia's story is a poignant reminder of the urgent need for collective action against gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices. It underscores the significance of programmes and initiatives that aim to protect and empower the most vulnerable members of our society.

UNFPA is at the forefront of these efforts in Tanzania, working tirelessly to achieve a world where every individual can live free from violence and discrimination. Through community awareness campaigns, educational programmes, and support services, UNFPA is committed to addressing the root causes



of GBV and harmful practices, fostering an environment where women and girls can thrive.

By collaborating with local organizations, government agencies, and community leaders, UNFPA is enhancing the capacity of the One Stop Centres, ensuring they provide comprehensive care and support for survivors. The organization also focuses on advocacy and policy reform to strengthen legal frameworks that protect against GBV, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in creating lasting change.

Through these efforts, UNFPA aims not only to reduce instances of violence but also to change societal norms that perpetuate discrimination and abuse. The vision of zero gender-based violence is ambitious, yet achievable, and it is a goal

that UNFPA pursues with determination and hope.

As we reflect on Lidia's journey, let us recognize the power of community action and the importance of continued advocacy for the rights of women and girls. Together, we can build a future where every child, regardless of their circumstances, can live safely and with dignity—transforming their dreams into reality. UNFPA's ongoing commitment to this cause reaffirms our belief that, with concerted effort, a brighter, safer future is within reach.

# Education

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- Turning the page: Silvester's Journey Back to School



# Turning the Page: Silvester's journey back to school

Silvester John, a 13-year-old boy from Lukoma village in Kigoma District, had always dreamed of going to school. Despite watching his siblings and other children in the neighborhood attend classes, Silvester remained at home, longing to join them.



**“I AM THE ONLY ONE AMONG MY BROTHER AND THREE SISTERS WHO WASN’T ENROLLED IN SCHOOL. IT MADE ME FEEL VERY BAD,” HE RECALLS. “I EVEN ASKED MY FATHER TO SEND ME TO SCHOOL, BUT HE REFUSED, AND I DIDN’T UNDERSTAND WHY.”**

“I am the only one among my brother and three sisters who wasn’t enrolled in school. It made me feel very bad,” he recalls. “I even asked my father to send me to school, but he refused, and I didn’t understand why.”

Silvester’s mother, Ester Shabani, has faced many challenges in her life, including two previous marriages and two children—one of whom is now struggling with mental illness—and a difficult separation from Silvester’s father due to conflicts and lack of support, which eventually led her to remarry.

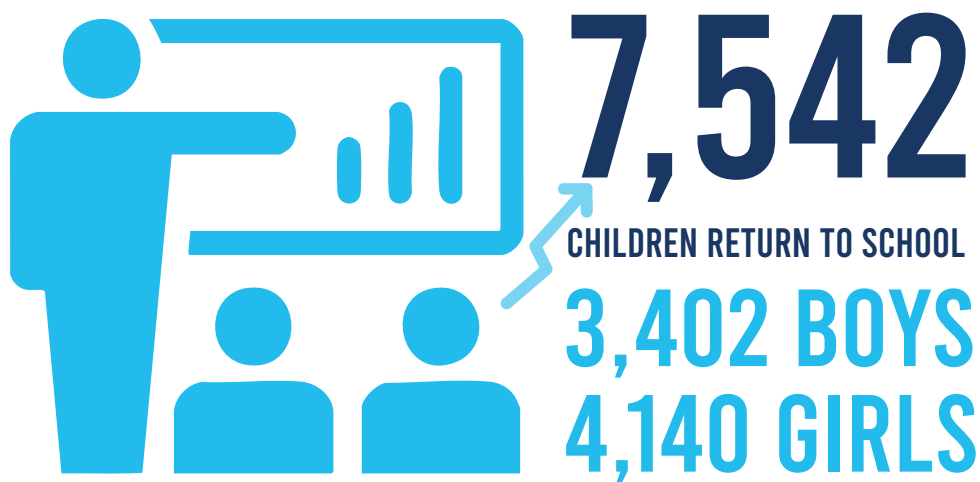
Silvester was raised by his stepfather, with whom Ester had two more children. “While my husband supported his biological children’s education, Silvester didn’t receive the same support. It broke

my heart, but I couldn’t afford his schooling alone,” says Ester. Her fourth marriage also ended, leaving her solely responsible for her five children.

Determined to provide for her family, Ester took on house chores and knitted bed sheets to make ends meet. “My health has been deteriorating, and with my back in pain, I’ve been unable to work for the past week. Silvester had to stay home to care for me and his younger siblings,” she shares.

In Kigoma, over 5,000 children are out of school due to poverty, family conflicts, ignorance, and parental loss, according to a 2024 out-of-school survey by Jidi Consultancy in Kigoma and Tabora.

Silvester recalls a Friday morning when a



**“I AM SO HAPPY TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL,”**

neighbour, Mama Bhoke, visited to check on his mother, who, after noticing Silvester washing dishes, asked if he was attending school; with a sad expression, his mother replied, "No, he's not, but I've been thinking about it," prompting Mama Bhoke to suggest Mwasenga Primary School, where opportunities existed for children who had missed out on education—a conversation that filled Silvester with hope and felt like a dream come true.

The following Monday, his mother took him to Mwasenga Primary School, where he was enrolled in the COBET (Complementary Basic Education in Tanzania) programme. By 2023, Silvester had integrated into Grade 4, sat for exams, and passed. Now, he looks forward to advancing to higher classes,

with aspirations of becoming an engineer.

"I am so happy to be back in school," he says with a bright smile.

Through the "Educate a Child" programme, supported by UNICEF and Education Above All Foundation, the Kigoma region has been addressing the educational needs of children aged 9-14 who are out of school. This initiative aims to overcome barriers such as family issues and poverty, enabling children to return to school. Since 2022, the programme has helped 7,542 children—including 4,140 girls and 3,402 boys—return to school, giving them a chance at a brighter future.

# Agriculture & Economic Empowerment

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- From struggle to success:  
Hadija Alisido's Journey of Empowerment in Rural Kigoma

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- Success Story:  
Promoting Gender, Responsive Cross-border and Regional Trade

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- Empowering Women Farmers:  
How Hermetic Bags Technology Transformed Post-Harvest Practices for  
Tumaini Women Group in Uvinza"

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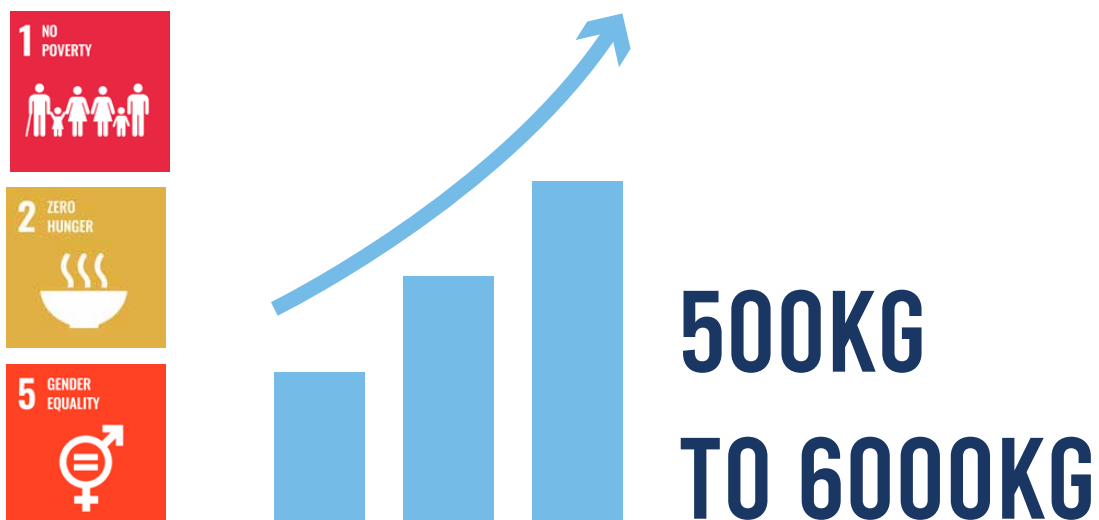
- Empowering Kigoma's Farmers and Youth:  
An Impactful Initiatives

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- Success Story:  
Hekima Mradi Women's Group – Basanza Village – Uvinza DC

# From struggle to success: Hadija Alisido's Journey of Empowerment in Rural Kigoma

Hadija Alisido, a determined mother of four from the Kigoma region of north-western Tanzania, dreamed of breaking the cycle of poverty that had constrained her family's future. Her life took a transformative turn when she participated in the Kigoma Joint Programmeme, which aimed to uplift communities through empowerment and education.



In the rural heart of Kigoma, farming presented numerous challenges, including insufficient knowledge of Good Agricultural Practices, poor soil fertility, climate change, and limited access to high-quality inputs. Despite these obstacles, Hadija was resolute in her ambition to improve her circumstances. Embracing the opportunities offered by the Programmeme, she engaged in

intensive training to become a Lead Farmer, Community Vaccinator, and Quality Declared Seed Producer.

Hadija adopted innovative agricultural practices introduced by the Programmeme's technical experts, leading to remarkable improvements on her farm. Her maize yield skyrocketed from a meager 500 kilograms to an

## Agriculture & Economic Empowerment

impressive 6,000 kilograms on her two-acre plot. Furthermore, as a Community Vaccinator, she played a crucial role in reducing poultry mortality rates. By collaborating with livestock extensionists, she helped deliver essential veterinary services in her village, significantly benefitting local farmers through the Newcastle disease vaccination campaign.

With hard work and commitment, Hadija began to see a steady increase in her income. She was diligent in saving her earnings, allowing her to construct a two-room house, symbolizing her family's enhanced security and improved financial status. Her ambitions didn't stop there; she recognized the necessity of expanding her operations. Investing in a motorbike not only streamlined her agricultural work but also facilitated the transport of goods and people, further multiplying her income.

One of Hadija's proudest achievements was ensuring that her children received a quality education. With her improved financial standing, she could afford their school fees, dismantling the barriers that had once limited their opportunities. This investment in her children's future stood as a testament to her perseverance and dedication to creating a better life for them.

Hadija's inspiring journey culminated on October 15, 2023, during the International Rural Women Day celebration in Kasulu TC, where she was awarded an Agriculture Labor-Saving Kit. This recognition highlighted her significant contributions to transforming food systems and promoting gender equality, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 1 (No Poverty), and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Hadija's efforts to produce more food and assist others in

doing the same underscored her critical role in the global fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Her story exemplifies how rural women can navigate and overcome the challenges posed by the rising cost of living. In a time of economic pressure and inflation, Hadija's evolution from a struggling farmer to a respected community leader demonstrates her resilience. Moreover, her success highlights the effectiveness of initiatives like the Kigoma Joint Programmeme, which focused on multi-sectoral collaboration to alleviate economic burdens on rural women.

Through her pursuits, Hadija not only transformed her life but also emerged as a beacon of inspiration and hope for her community. Her journey emphasizes the vital importance of collective action and support for rural women. By embodying the principles of the United Nations' "Delivering as One" approach, she illustrates that empowering women is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Hadija Alisido's narrative reminds us that when rural women are equipped with the tools and support necessary for success, they have the power to create significant and lasting change in their lives and communities.

# Success Story: Promoting Gender, Responsive Cross-border and Regional Trade

## **Cross-border Trade: Addressing Challenges in Tanzania**

The United Republic of Tanzania is a key member of the East African Community (EAC), sharing borders with Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi, all integral Partner States within the EAC framework. The EAC focuses on widening and deepening the cooperation among Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields for the mutual benefit of its citizens. While the EAC Treaty underscores the importance of women's roles in socio-economic progress and includes provisions for gender equality and empowerment, navigating the intricate trade protocols within the EAC poses challenges, hindering citizens from fully capitalizing on available opportunities and holding back the potential impact of cross-border trade.

### ...GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT, NAVIGATING THE INTRICATE TRADE PROTOCOLS...

**WOMEN &  
YOUTH  
CONSTITUTE  
80%**

Kigoma Region in northwestern Tanzania shares a border with Burundi, Democratic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia. Women and youth constitute a significant portion, estimated at over 80%, of cross-border traders. However, their effective participation in formal cross-border trade and the export market is impeded by a lack of familiarity with the EAC trade regulations and regulatory frameworks. This knowledge gap stifles the growth and expansion of their businesses.



### UN Response

Responding to these challenges, the ILO in under the Kigoma Joint Programmeme (KJP) Phase II (KJP) with funding from the SDG Acceleration Fund, generously supported by the Governments of Norway and Ireland.

#### **“INTER-AGENCY CAPACITY BUILDING & COMPREHENSIVE TRADE AND GENDER FOCUS”**

As part of the KJP’s efforts to promote cross-border trade and to increase affordable and reliable business development services (BDS) to youth and women in MSEs, three UN agencies ILO in collaboration with the International Trade Centre and UN WOMEN) built the capacity of Business Development Providers and District and Regional Trade Officers in Kigoma. Through this inter-agency collaboration, women and youth have enhanced their knowledge of the East Africa Community trade rules, regulations and procedures, Labour Laws in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and gender dynamics in cross-border trade issues. The Training of Trainers programmeme coupled with capacity building sessions and information materials provided by the ILO covered essential topics such as policies, procedures, requirements, rules of origin, taxes, tariffs, exemptions, and

other facilities available to cross border traders. Notably, the programme also delves into critical issues related to gender-based violence (GBV), fostering safe spaces for women, ensuring security in trade environments, and addressing the prevention, response, and reporting of GBV incidents.

In November 2023, 26 trainers, comprising Government Trade Officers and Business Development Officers, were trained through this programmeme and had their knowledge and capacity enhanced to support the implementation of national laws safeguarding women and children safety at public places including the marketplace. The training sessions featured valuable firsthand experiences and insights shared by women actively engaged in cross-border trade, offering a nuanced understanding of the challenges they face.

## Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: Success Stories

Following the completion of the TOT, trainers proceeded to empower 62 women entrepreneurs from five business groups on various business-related issues, including gender considerations, self-assessment, product pricing, exhibition skills, marketing strategies, business networking, and optimal market positioning.

Additionally, these trainers facilitated the participation of 55 women in the EAC Exhibitions for small businesses, held in December 2023 in Bujumbura, Burundi—an annual event known as 'Jua Kali' ('Hot Sun') exhibitions, aimed at bolstering the small industries sector of the regional economy.

Four of the supported women from Kigoma received certificates of recognition for having the best exhibition and customer care during the 10-day trade fair. Additionally, three of the trained women participants managed to sell about 80% of the consignment selling products valued at USD 1,500 which included food products, leather products, textiles, mats and baskets made of grass, palm oil, natural honey, sunflower oil, cosmetics soaps, dried sardines and fish. Four women even forged business partnerships to supply cassava flour and chia seeds to the markets in Burundi and Rwanda.

Swaumu Hussein, a female trader from Kibondo district bordering Burundi, exemplifies the transformative impact of the programme. Benefitting from the training provided, Swaumu has emerged as a trainer herself, leveraging her firsthand experiences to educate others on border-trade intricacies. She recounts how the KJP, local government, and other

**THREE OF THE TRAINED WOMEN PARTICIPANTS MANAGED TO SELL ABOUT 80% OF THE CONSIGNMENT SELLING PRODUCTS VALUED AT USD 1,500 WHICH INCLUDED FOOD PRODUCTS, LEATHER PRODUCTS, TEXTILES, MATS AND BASKETS MADE OF GRASS, PALM OIL, NATURAL HONEY, SUNFLOWER OIL, COSMETICS SOAPS, DRIED SARDINES AND FISH.**

stakeholders played a pivotal role in mitigating trade-related challenges by disseminating relevant information on rules, procedures, and gender-sensitive considerations. Swaumu highlights the positive outcomes of sessions focused on taxation and revenue, which empowered participants to rectify past mistakes, such as inadequate documentation leading to double taxation and other hurdles.

The training support preceding the trade fairs, coupled with successful participation in these trade Fairs, instilled confidence among women entrepreneurs, igniting a newfound enthusiasm to actively engage in forthcoming local and regional trade events.

# Empowering Women Farmers: How Hermetic Bags Technology Transformed Post-Harvest Practices for Tumaini Women Group in Uvinza”

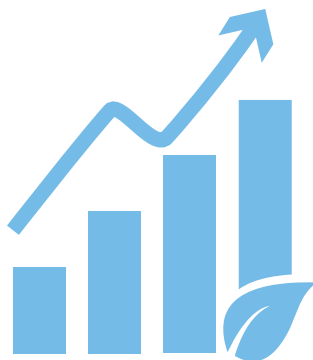
There are many things that members of Tumaini Women Group did not know before taking part in a transformative peer-learning organised by the World Food Programme this year. Among those things is the use of hermetic bags to prevent fungal growth after harvesting their crops.

Based in Mlela Ward, Uvinza District, members of Tumaini Women Group farmed a half-acre plot during the last agricultural season where they learnt on good agricultural practices to enhance their productivity level as well as post-harvest handling and storage to reduce crop losses. The group, with 57 members, is also a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).

During the 2023/24 season, the women cultivated maize. They struggled with post-harvest losses due to inadequate storage practices and limited knowledge on post-harvest practices. Their crops were at risk of pest infestation, mold, and spoilage. Their lead farmers, Jeneroza Edward and Selina Augustino took lead in stirring the ship towards a different direction. In April 2024, through the One

UN-funded training programme under the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) II, the two lead farmers attended a learning session that followed a peer-to-peer approach.

“We attended a farmers’ exchange learning organized by the World Food Programme under the Kigoma Joint Programme programme that was held in Kasulu. There, we gained theoretic and practical knowledge on post-harvest handling and management from another group called Kumekucha Group which is based in Kimobwa Ward,” explains Jeneroza. While in there, they were stationed at their colleagues’ half acre maize demo plot. The practical trainings were facilitated by lead farmers from Kimobwa Ward. “This changed everything.”



## **-75% REDUCTION IN POST HARVEST LOSSES & IMPROVED SELLING PRICES**

When they went back home, the two women went on to hold a series of trainings on good post-harvest practices, use of hermetic storage bags, and measuring moisture content, imparting new skills to their group members.

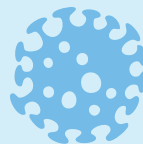
Excited by the potential benefits, the group of women immediately began storing their group maize using hermetic bags. The airtight environment inside the bags kills pests and prevents fungal

growth, ensuring their crops stays fresh and marketable for longer.

Within one season, the impact is evident. Post-harvest losses has dropped by 75%, allowing the women to sell their group maize at better prices. With improved storage, they no longer feel pressured to sell immediately after harvest, when market prices were low.



PEST



MOLD



CROP LOSS

"...used to lose up to 45% of our maize due to pests..."

"Before the training, we used to lose up to 45% of our maize due to pests," says Jeneroza, one of the Lead Farmers. "Now, with use of hermetic bags, we are assured of the quality and quantity of our stored grains. We are able to sell at the market when the price is high with no pressure of maize being lost due to insects and pests."

She attests that their success is a testimony of the power of peer learning and innovative farming practices. By adopting use of hermetic bags, our livelihoods have started to improve. This is a great example for other farmers in the region to learn from," says Jeneroza. With plans to expand these practices further at individual level, the future looks bright for these enterprising women. They plan that each woman will use two hermetic bags in the coming harvest season of 2024/25.

# Empowering Kigoma's Farmers and Youth: An Impactful Initiatives

UNDP, with support from Norway and Ireland through the pooled fund and Ireland, is catalysing positive change in the Kibondo and Kasulu districts, Kigoma region. Our mission is to empower local farmers in maize cultivation and value addition, aiming to revolutionise farming into a commercially viable and sustainable enterprise. This transformational journey is made possible through our dynamic partnership with Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), through the Kigoma Joint Programme Phase II (Kigoma Joint Programme).

## Training for Prosperity

The Local farmers, have undergone specialised training led by extension officers who are trained by our partners at SUGECO. The objective is clear: empower 400 farmers with optimal practices for cassava, maize, and beans. To boost their efforts, participants receive solar-powered drying racks for cassava products and essential farming equipment, including seedlings and fertilisers. This initiative is a vital part of Kigoma Joint Programme, highlighting the power of collaboration and sustainable development..

“...SOLAR-POWERED DRYING RACKS FOR CASSAVA PRODUCTS AND ESSENTIAL FARMING EQUIPMENT...”





### Empowering Youth and Women

Furthermore, we have also joined hands with the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) Kigoma campus to empower the youth and women of Kibondo district. Through a 10-day training series, we introduced integrated agro-fish farming to the community. This practice combines fish farming with environmentally responsible techniques, ensuring that waste products like water are utilised in horticulture (integrated agro-aquaculture).



## Graduation Ceremony and a Vision for the Future

The graduation ceremony marked the culmination of this transformative programme. Hon. Col. Evance Mallasa, Kakonko District Commissioner, graced the occasion and emphasised the importance of applying the gained knowledge to unlock the potential of fish farming in Kibondo district. "You have received excellent training from our experts in collaboration with UNDP and partners; use this knowledge to make a positive impact on our community in Kibondo", he urged. A total of 61 participants completed the training and received certificates issued by FETA.

UNDP Tanzania and partners remains committed to fostering sustainable development and empowering communities in the Kigoma region. Our collaborative efforts continue to make a difference, helping to create a brighter and more prosperous future for all

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**61**  
**PARTICIPANTS**  
**COMPLETED THE TRAINING**  
**& RECEIVED CERTIFICATES**

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## Success Story: Hekima Mradi Women's Group – Basanza Village – Uvinza DC

In Basanza village, Uvinza District, around 90% of sunflower farmers are women who previously had to travel over 50 km to Kasulu town for sunflower oil extraction services. This caused high transportation costs, long waiting times, and reduced time for family and other income-generating activities. There was no local sunflower processing unit in Uvinza, despite continued sunflower cultivation.



Alex monitors pregnant mother before delivery at the hospital in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania. Photo Credit by UNHCR/Winnie Kweka

## Agriculture & Economic Empowerment



Under the Kigoma Joint Programme prosperity pillar, ITC, in collaboration with Local Government Authority and SIDO Kigoma, supported Hekima Mradi Women's Group by supplying a sunflower processing unit with a daily capacity of 6.5 tons. The group received training in business, marketing, packaging, branding, and machine operation.

As a result; Sunflower cultivation increased significantly, with farmers expanding from 0.25 to 2.5 hectares. Land that was previously idle after

tobacco harvesting is now used for sunflower, boosting income. The project created 2 direct jobs and many indirect opportunities, such as oil selling and poultry farming. The group now cultivates 40 hectares and supplies sunflower oil to Kasulu traders. Over 2,100 people in Basanza ward benefit from the project.

Future plans include building a storage warehouse and starting poultry and goat farming, further enhancing women and community empowerment.

# Climate Smart Adaptation / Natural Resources Management

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- A Refugee Father Saves Time and the Environment through Briquette Production

05



# A Refugee Father Saves Time and the Environment through Briquette Production

Cooking for a family of 13 people used to be an exhausting daily task for Johnson, a 46-year-old Burundian refugee living in Nyarugusu Camp, Kasulu District, Tanzania. “I had to walk miles to gather firewood for my family to sustain our cooking needs,” recalled Johnson.



*Johnson makes bio-briquettes at Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania.  
Photo Credit by UNHCR/Winnie Kweka*

Johnson fled from Burundi due to insecurity and has been living in Tanzania with his family since 2015. He spent the last nine years going outside the camp three times per month searching for firewood. According to Johnson, searching for firewood was a laborious journey as he had to trek long distances from the camp.

But a year ago, Johnson was enrolled in a bio-briquette production initiative aimed at promoting community-based

bio-briquettes fabrication. Bio-briquette is an alternative cooking solution that is environment-friendly, efficient, sustainable, and a substitute for wood and charcoal. The bio-briquette initiative is funded by the governments of Ireland and Norway through a UN area-based programme known as the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP). UNHCR and its partner the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) train refugees like Johnson alongside Tanzanians in bio-briquette making



*Johnson makes bio-briquettes at home in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania  
Photo Credit by UNHCR/Winnie Kweka*

“I learned how to collect raw materials and mix ingredients to finally make the bio-briquette,” explains Johnson. The three-month training sessions were conducted in the vocational training centres at Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps with 300 participants from June 2023 to June 2024. At the end of the training, all participants were provided with a bio-briquette-making tool kit and 50kg of raw materials called char powder for six months to ensure that they can practice what they learned.

“One of the benefits of making my bio-briquettes is that now I spend more time in my small garden, and I do not have to walk long distances searching for firewood,” shares Johnson. He uses the vegetables in his home garden and bio-briquettes to cook delicious meals for his family.

This training not only benefitted Johnson but also his neighbours. “They were all curious when I started making bio-briquettes and so I taught them too and now we have time to spend with our families,” discloses Johnson.

“Bio-briquette making is an important protection intervention and a sustainable livelihood activity that helps prevent environment degradation and deforestation in and around the refugee camps in Kasulu and Kibondo,” explains Godfrey Oyema, UNHCR Assistant Environment Officer.

Firewood is the primary energy sources for cooking for both refugees and host communities in Kigoma Region. Thanks to donor funding through the KJP, UNHCR, the Government of Tanzania and partners are able to promote alternative cooking solutions like bio-briquette making to enhance environment protection, climate change adaptation, and resilience for refugees like Johnson and the host community. However, more funding support is needed to expand the programmeme and reach more refugees and Tanzanians to collectively achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 on ensuring universal access to affordable and clean energy by 2030 and combat the impact of climate change.

# Energy

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- Refugee and Tanzanian Electricians Support Solarization of Health Facilities

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- How Digital Literacy is Powering Women's Economic Transformation in Kigoma

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- Uvinza Special Primary School  
Cooking Up a Brighter Future for Children with Special Needs



## Energy

# Refugee and Tanzanian Electricians Support Solarization of Health Facilities

Nahayo and Honest work hard each day checking on the solar panels at the hospital in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Kasulu District, Tanzania. The two refugees are the brains behind the operation and maintenance of the hospital's solar system.

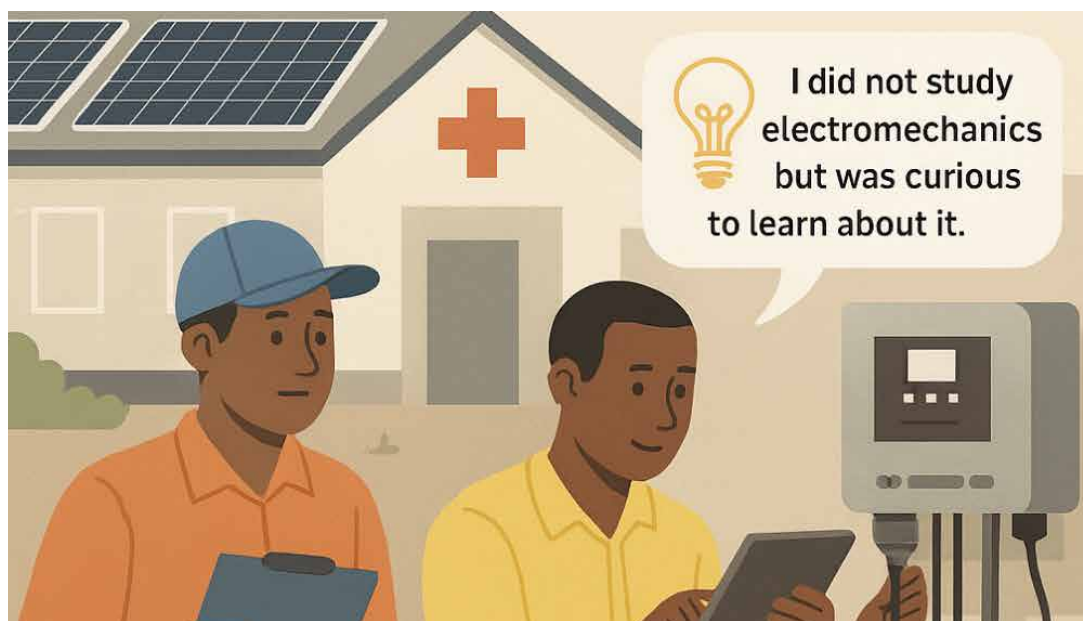


*Jupsergi stands with the construction team during installation of the solar panels at the hospital in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania.*

*Photo Credit by UNHCR/Godfrey Mchunguzi Oyema*

Though with different backgrounds, one a Congolese and the other a Burundian, Honest and Nahayo are both passionate about electricity and its different forms.

“I did not study electromechanics but was curious to learn from the electricians,” narrates Honest. He worked at the main hospital for 10 years and became an expert at the electricity system. On the other hand, Nahayo studied electromechanics back in



**“THROUGH THIS TRAINING, WE RECEIVED AN EDUCATION THAT WE CAN USE IN ANY PART OF WORLD,”**

Burundi but did not know how to operate solarized systems.

The two became part of around 50 refugees and Tanzanian electricians who received practical training in the fundamentals of solar energy, system installation, operation, and maintenance of solar systems. From this group, three individuals including Nahayo and Honest were selected to specialize in operation and maintenance, ensuring the long-term sustainability and efficiency of the solar installations at the hospital.

“Through this training, we received an education that we can use in any part of world,” testifies Honest. Nahayo seconds this and explains, “the training added another layer of knowledge to my profession, and I now use it to educate my neighbours on how to use the sun’s energy and preserve our solar electronics.”

Among the benefits of solar energy use is the decrease of fuel budget for the

hospital as before, the health facility used a full-time generator to maintain quality services. With the installation of solar power, the fuel costs have now been reduced to nearly zero. “It is estimated that more than 9,000 litres per month was allocated for fuelling the health facilities in Nyarugusu Camp,” elaborates Jupsergi Prodigie, UNHCR Associate Renewable Energy Officer.

Thanks to funding support from the Swedish Postcode Lottery, UNHCR embarked on this transformative solarization project in Nduta and Nyarugusu refugee camps and the surrounding host community to address the persistent challenges of energy access. “The project focuses on providing reliable, clean, and renewable energy to 14 health facilities in Kasulu and Kibondo districts, shifting their dependence on diesel generators,” says Jupsergi.

The project seeks to enhance the quality

# How Digital Literacy is Powering Women's Economic Transformation in Kigoma

In Kigoma, where over 80 per cent of livelihoods rely on small-scale farming, fishing, and informal trade, women constitute the majority of the agricultural workforce and are the backbone of the region's economy.



*Chichi Ramadhani Kamandwa - Photo - UN Women*

However, in an increasingly digital economy, limited digital literacy remains a major barrier to unlocking women's full economic potential, with many women in the region lacking the necessary skills to use mobile platforms, digital financial services, or online marketplaces, impeding the growth and formalization of women-led businesses.

Amid these challenges, women like Chichi Ramadhani Kamandwa are harnessing digital tools to grow their businesses through support from a UN Women-led training workshop for women entrepreneurs. Kamandwa, a 39-year-old mother of three and a determined entrepreneur living in Kigoma town, runs a small-scale agro-processing



*Chichi Ramadhani Kamandwa speaking during the Digital Literacy and Branding Workshop in Kigoma - Photo - UN Women*

business specializing in the milling and packaging of maize, cassava, and nutrient-rich flours.

“Before the training, I only used my phone for calls and taking pictures. I didn’t know it could be a marketing tool for my business, helping me showcase my products online, reach more customers, and improve my record-keeping,” said Kamandwa.

The Digital Literacy and Branding workshop Kamandwa attended was part of the second phase of the UN Kigoma Joint Programme (Kigoma Joint Programme, which aimed to equip women entrepreneurs and local business mentors with practical skills to expand their businesses and access wider markets through digital platforms.

The training also engaged alumni from UN Women’s African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI), who facilitated sessions, offering hands-on technical know-how and relatable, peer-led guidance that resonated with participants.

With the skills she acquired, Chichi is now transforming her business, using digital platforms like WhatsApp to reach new customers, share product images and price lists, and receive instant payments through mobile money.

“The training completely changed my perception of doing business online. I learned how to create product labels, list ingredients and registration numbers to build customer trust, and package my products attractively. One of the biggest changes I made was improving my packaging, I realized how much the look of a product matters. After updating my logo and labels and switching to better-quality packaging, my sales increased significantly. It gave customers more confidence in my brand,” she explains.

In Kigoma, many women entrepreneurs navigate complex social and economic realities. Alongside their business efforts, they often carry the primary responsibility for household care and income generation, frequently without consistent support from partners.



*Participants of the the Digital Literacy and Branding Workshop in Kigoma - Photo - UN Women*

**“SOMETIMES, WOMEN ARE FORCED TO DEPEND ON OTHERS EVEN FOR BASIC THINGS IN THEIR BUSINESS, AND WHEN YOU LACK INFORMATION OR TOOLS, PEOPLE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.”**

“Often, once a woman begins to earn, she is left to shoulder everything alone,” Chichi explains. “Some men leave for work in other towns, return only briefly, and then leave again, while the woman is left behind to care for the children, run the household, and manage the business on her own.”

This disproportionate burden can limit women’s economic participation and expose them to additional risks. In some cases, limited access to financial services or reliable support systems leaves women vulnerable to unfair treatment or exploitative arrangements, particularly when trying to access markets or services.

“Sometimes, women are forced to depend on others even for basic things in their business, and when you

lack information or tools, people take advantage of you.” Says Chichi.

“Trainings like these uplift women. We don’t just attend to learn, it’s also an opportunity to meet other women. We are finding ourselves, building confidence, and even forming small groups to support and uplift one another.” she says.

“I have even started encouraging and showing other women to learn how to use their phones for business,” she adds. “It might seem like a small thing, but it can really transform how we work and sell.” Through strategic partnerships with local government authorities, trade officers, mobile service providers, and private sector actors, UN Women, under the Kigoma Joint Programmeme

## Energy



Group photo with participants of the Digital Literacy and Branding Workshop in Kigoma - Photo - UN Women

**“TRAININGS LIKE THESE UPLIFT WOMEN. WE DON’T JUST ATTEND TO LEARN, IT’S ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OTHER WOMEN. WE ARE FINDING OURSELVES, BUILDING CONFIDENCE, AND EVEN FORMING SMALL GROUPS TO SUPPORT AND UPLIFT ONE ANOTHER.”**

Phase II, is working to foster an inclusive and enabling business environment for women and youth. These coordinated efforts aim to strengthen the capacity of women-led enterprises to adopt innovative, market-driven practices, build resilience, and transition into formal markets for sustainable growth.

Trainings such as the digital literacy and branding sessions equip women with practical tools to enhance their autonomy, safety, and economic decision-making. By learning how to brand their products, engage customers through digital platforms, and access mobile payment services, women entrepreneurs like Chichi are better positioned to manage their businesses independently, reducing reliance on informal and often unreliable intermediaries.

“These digital skills completely changed my life and my business. I now know how to send product

samples for registration, and my label is finally market-ready. I have become more organized and confident in running my business.” Says Chichi. For Chichi, these skills have translated into greater confidence, better customer outreach, and a clearer path toward business growth.

“I’ve already started receiving bulk orders. I used to wait for customers to come to me, but now they call and place orders in advance. She speaks.

In the coming years, Chichi envisions a business that not only sustains her family but also creates jobs for other women in her community. Her dream is to provide mentorship and training to young women interested in business, so they too can build a future of their own.

“If I can do this, I believe other women can too. We just need the right support and a chance to grow,” she says.

# Uvinza Special Primary School

## Cooking Up a Brighter Future for Children with Special Needs

At Uvinza Special Primary School, a unique learning environment has been transformed by a simple yet impactful change. With 518 pupils, and 200 pupils all of whom have physical disabilities, this school stands out as the only primary school in the pilot programme focusing on cleaner cooking technology for children with special needs.

Head Teacher Mr. Bruno Benedicto Francisco is enthusiastic about the positive impact this technology has had on the school. "Our students have very specific needs, and every improvement counts," he says. "The switch to cleaner cooking technology has been a tremendous boon for our school."

Previously, the school relied on charcoal for cooking, a choice that not only strained the school's budget but also posed health risks. The daily cost of charcoal was around 25,000 TZS, a significant expenditure for a school catering to children with special needs. With the introduction of briquettes, which the school uses at a rate of 1.5 to 2 bags per day, each weighing 25 kg, the cost has been effectively managed and optimized.



## Energy



**Cost Savings:** The school's daily expenditure on cooking fuel has been reduced significantly. This cost-saving allows more funds to be directed towards other essential services and supports for the pupils.



**Ease of use:** The briquettes have streamlined meal preparation, making it easier and faster to serve the students, which is crucial given their unique needs.

Mr. Francisco highlights the importance of ongoing support from the government and development partners. "Our school caters to children with special needs who require extra care and attention. The cleaner cooking technology has been a step in the right direction, but consistent support and additional resources are crucial to fully meet our needs."

Uvinza Special Primary School's story is one of resilience and progress. The introduction of cleaner cooking technology has not only improved the health and efficiency of the school's kitchen but has also made a significant difference in the daily lives of its pupils. As the school continues to navigate its unique challenges, it stands as a testament to how thoughtful, targeted interventions can create lasting positive change for those who need it most.

# Governance

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- Unclaimed right is the lost right- Enhancing Access to Justice Through Legal Aid Initiatives

# Unclaimed right is the lost right- Enhancing Access to Justice Through Legal Aid Initiatives

Among the nine disputes that were solved on spot in a span of 4 days during the legal aid initiatives, lies the tale of Amina and family. Amina 40 years with his son Majaliwa 17 years from Murufiti – \_Kasulu district never thought their right to own their land will happen even without going to court. The family was traumatized after they lost the head of the family who suffered with long illness.



*Part of 10 acres land owned by Amina's family*

## Governance



Assisted by a ward land tribunal, when the neighbor's claim was invalidated



Amina's land was restored and her family reimbursed by their neighbor



Legal aid helped deliver access to justice and empowered Amina

**“WE TRUSTED OUR NEIGHBOR, A FRIEND TO OUR FAMILY. WE THOUGHT WE ARE SAFE AROUND HIM EVEN AFTER WE LOST OUR DEAR ONE. SOON AFTER OUR LOSS, HE CAME REQUESTING FOR THE LAND DOCUMENTS TELLING US HE WAS PROTECTING US FROM OTHER RELATIVES...”**

“We trusted our neighbor, a friend to our family. We thought we are safe around him even after we lost our dear one. Soon after our loss, he came requesting for the land documents telling us he was protecting us from other relatives. I kept believing he is a good person with good deed. Suddenly, and after we were able to do some farming on the same land, he called me informing that he was the owner of that land, and we are not allowed to do any activities because he has his own plans”.

Amina was 35 years by that time and her son Majaliwa was only 12, the death of her husband left Amina with a huge responsibility and a financial burden that she could not handle on her own. Her husband was ill for 11 months which made them use all their savings for treatment, they even sold some of their assets to cover for treatment.

Cases like Amina's are common in the country. Although Tanzania's constitution provide that every person has the right to access justice for the redress of human rights violations or for the enforcement of their rights, communities living in rural areas continue to face multiple barriers, some due to lack of knowledge on

mechanisms to access their rights, as a result, many affected individuals fail to report crimes or follow through with the national legal system for legal redress.

Following Legal aid awareness raising, and legal provision done in Kigoma in partnership between MoCLA and UNDP in June 2024, Amina was assisted through ward land tribunal. It came to be realized that their neighbor used forged documents to legalise ownership of Amina's family land but also Amina never communicated this to her relatives who appeared to be very cooperative, contributed to repay the TZS 150,000 and Amina was given back their land.

Amina's scenario reminds us that legal empowerment goes beyond the rule of law tradition, which its approach primarily aims at promoting the rule of law top-down by strengthening state structures and capacities, but a genuine access to justice takes a bottom-up approach focusing on the empowerment of users of justice systems. In this it is assumed that empowered citizens are better able to help build greater trust and confidence in the justice system and public institutions, particularly in fragile situations.



UNITED NATIONS  
TANZANIA



2025

