

TANZANIA COVERS 5 MILLION CHILDREN THROUGH THE NEW DECENTRALIZED BIRTH REGISTRATION SYSTEM

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HIGHLIGHTS

- UNFPA hands over 300 PPE kits to Zanzibar government
- Leaving no one behind in the COVID-19 response: UNAIDS donates supplies to communities in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam
- UN Women helps women-led businesses to recover from effects of COVID-19 in Arusha
- ILO, Government and Social Partners develop an action plan for skills development in Tanzania



Since the Government, UNICEF and other partners launched the decentralized birth registration system in 2013, more than 5 million children have been registered. *Photo | UNICEF Tanzania*

August 18th, 2020 was a significant moment for Tanzania as the country managed to reach a total of 5 million children through the simplified birth registration system. The system was launched in 2013 by the Government of Tanzania in partnership with UNICEF; Tigo and with funding from the Canadian Government.

The system makes birth registration more accessible to communities. Where before registration could only take

place at the district head-quarter town for each region, now registration points are established at health facilities, which provide reproductive and child health services, and at the community ward executive offices in line with the government policy of decentralization through devolution.

This means parents can receive birth certificates from the designated health facilities or through the ward executive offices. The system

also introduces a 'one step, one visit' process and adopts an innovative data collection method. The Government has waived fees for registration under this system and the first copy of the certificate is given free of charge. Mobile Service provider Tigo Tanzania is supporting the initiative through innovative mobile technology, which ensures that birth registration data is uploaded and sent to a central database in real time.

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The progress has been quite rapid—from 400,000 children in September 2016 to more than 5 million children to-date; from 3 regions in 2016 to 18 regions today, reaching 90 per cent or more in every single region within three to four months of the launch. Plans are ongoing to cover all 26 regions in mainland Tanzania by 2022.

The rollout of the new system has helped raise the overall certification rate for the sixteen regions to more

than 80% from a baseline of less than 10% as per Census 2012. Data also suggests that parents have saved nearly USD8 million due to fee-waivers. The new system is being cited as one of the best examples of human-centered CRVS design. The funding for the system has helped the Government to establish a sustainable model of birth registration aimed at reaching more than 5 million girls and boys under the age of five in 18 regions. The funds will also be used to replicate the system in the remaining 8

regions in Mainland Tanzania.

The new birth registration system has bridged the rural-urban divide, improving access to the most marginalized communities to register their children, and continues to tackle gender-related barriers relating to birth registration. It addresses the core issues of ‘accessibility’ and ‘affordability’ which has been a major barrier in the birth registration system in Tanzania.



The simplified system makes birth registration more accessible to communities. Where before registration could only take place at the district headquarter for each region, not registration points, like this one in Hai district in Kilimanjaro region, are established at health facilities. *Photo | UNICEF Tanzania*

FAO SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT, REGISTRATION OF BIOPESTICIDE FOR FIGHTING FALL ARMYWORM



Researchers and farmers conducting Vuruga Biopesticide field testing. Photo | FAO Tanzania

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has supported researchers to develop a special biopesticide that fights the highly destructive fall armyworm (FAW) pest which threatens food security and livelihoods in Tanzania.

A team of researchers from the Arusha-based Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology led by Ms. Never Zekeya Mwambela with technical support from FAO conducted success-

ful field and laboratory trials of the biopesticide. According to Ms. Mwambela, the biopesticide is based on the fungus called *Aspergillus oryzae* and is dubbed 'Vuruga' (destroy) due to its ability to fight FAW.

The researchers' team leader, who began working on FAW control projects over two years ago as part of her PhD research, first isolated the *Aspergillus oryzae* fungus and then injected it into FAW larvae at its various stages. She then determined the appro-

prate concentration for application with successful field trials conducted in eight different regions in the country.

Through the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control programme, FAO has taken the lead in responding to FAW. "One of the Global Action's key components is reducing crop yield losses due to FAW, which can be achieved by getting effective biopesticides to farmers," says Mr. Baitani Mushobozi, a Plant Protection and Integrated Pest Management Specialist at FAO in Tanzania.

According to him, the research by Ms. Mwambela and her team was facilitated through a Technical Cooperation Programme by FAO, involving the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the European Union (EU) funded 'Support Towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy' project.

Mr. Mushobozi says the registration of the biopesticide went through the National Plant Protection Advisory Committee, a body that provides approval for product registration.

UNFPA HANDS OVER 300 PPE KITS TO ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT



Some of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that was handed over to the Government of Zanzibar by UNFPA through support from Global Affairs Canada to ensure that frontline health workers are protected as they deliver essential health services. *Photo | UNFPA Tanzania*

To support the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to maintain uninterrupted essential and lifesaving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services and information and to ensure that frontline health workers are protected as they deliver these services – UNFPA Tanzania has handed over 300 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits.

The kits, which are worth \$35,143, were donated by Global Affairs Canada as part of GRREAT (Girls Reproductive Health, Rights and Empowerment Accelerated in Tanzania) and include surgical masks, N95 masks, face shields, eye goggles, long-sleeve gowns, surgical and non-surgical

gloves, hand sanitizer, and liquid antiseptic.

After receiving the PPE, Ms. Halima Maulid, Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Health in Zanzibar, expressed her sincere thanks to UNFPA for its continued support to strengthen the health system in the isles, particularly in the delivery of RMNCAH care. “You have been supporting us for many years and are still working with us to save the lives of women and children of Zanzibar,” she said.

UNFPA is working with the Government of Zanzibar to ensure that essential services continue during these challenging times and that health workers who are saving the lives of others are also

protected. The Ministry of Health will distribute the PPE to all health facilities across Zanzibar as soon as possible as there are already severe shortages of certain PPE items, including gloves.

In addition to the PPE kits, UNFPA has provided Dignity Kits to address the immediate hygiene and protection needs of women and girls in quarantine during the COVID-19 outbreak, in coordination with the government. These kits contain items such as sanitary pads, underwear, antibacterial soap, and washing powder, essential for women and girls to maintain their personal hygiene.

UNFPA will continue to support efforts to accelerate progress towards national and global commitments to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Zanzibar. UNFPA has provided financial assistance for the renovation of the maternity ward at Kivunge Hospital, scheduled to open next month, which will increase access to quality care for rural women living in the north of Unguja Island, Zanzibar, in addition to support to procure a boat ambulance in Zanzibar – the first of its kind in the region both with funding from Global Affairs Canada.

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN THE COVID-19 RESPONSE: UNAIDS DONATES SUPPLIES TO COMMUNITIES IN ZANZIBAR AND DAR ES SALAAM



Doroth Hassan, a member of TaNPUD wearing one of the facemask donated by UNAIDS. Photo | UNAIDS, D. Msirikale

The Government of Tanzania recently declared the COVID-19 outbreak over, however, preventing the coronavirus is still high on its agenda. UNAIDS therefore partnered with civil society organizations to support vulnerable communities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In Mtopepo, Zanzibar, an area with limited access to water and sanitation, UNAIDS with the Zanzibar Association of People living with HIV/AIDS (ZAPHA+), Zanzibar HIV Control Program, Ministry of Health and local government

recently donated soap and buckets for handwashing to the community, and also distributed surgical face masks and gloves to four health facilities. In Dar es Salaam, a collaboration between UNAIDS, Tanzania Network for People who Use Drugs (TaNPUD) saw women who use drugs and their families provided with information on COVID-19, basic hygiene supplies (buckets, soap and sanitizer) and food rations to families.

The supplies and equipment will help up around 5,000 people prevent the spread of

COVID-19 and address some of the indirect effects of the pandemic, such as lack of income and potential disruptions of healthcare services.

“UNAIDS has identified the need to help the community to protect themselves from the coronavirus, and even if we know the Government has worked hard, it still insists we should not stop taking precautions and continue to protect ourselves,” said Ms. Salma Soud Nassib, Project Coordinator of ZAPHA+.

Targeting women who use drugs, people living with HIV and people in informal settlements is an essential part of UNAIDS’ and UN Tanzania’s mission to leave no one behind.

“Life has changed dramatically for many. Women complain they can’t afford to provide for their families, as part time jobs that some used to do are not accessible anymore. The support from UNAIDS will help at least 25 families of women who use drugs,” said Ms. Happy Assan, Coordinator for TaNPUD.

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Maryam Charles, a Youth Representative in ZAPHA+ holds up a bucket for handwashing stations donated to Mtopepo community by UNAIDS. *Photo | ZAPAH+, A. Mwaita.*



A group of women and coordinators from the Tanzania Network for People who Use Drugs (TaNPUD). *Photo | UNAIDS, D. Msirikale*

“MY AMBITION TO BECOME A MODERN BEEKEEPER IN NORTH-WESTERN TANZANIA”



Improved fabricated beehives in Hija's plot with bee-catching hives. *Photo | UN Tanzania*

As part of the area-based Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently conducted a training on 'improved beekeeping and modern beehives fabrication' to farmers and carpenters. The training aimed at orienting farmers with a better understanding on how to integrate beekeeping in Climate Smart Agriculture and Natural Resource Management/conservation.

Determined to learn and implement improved beekeeping methods, Mr. Hija Ahmad Katobagula, a resident of Kibondo District, was among the participants of the beekeeping-training session. Mo-

tivated by what he learned, Mr. Ahmad set out to encourage other participants to make the most of what they had learned and vowed to establish a modern apiary farm (a location where beehives of honey bees are kept) upon completion of the training.

Seven months since the training, Mr. Ahmad has started beekeeping business in Kibondo and as of today he has managed to establish an apiary with 150 beehives already hung as bee catching hives and fabrication of another 155 ongoing. The target is to reach 1,000 beehives by the end of 2020. Mr. Ahmad owns 10 forest plots (four in Kakonko District and six in Kibondo) with natural and

established trees and a farm cultivated with banana, fruit trees and cassava. "I want to become a demo for farmers to come and learn from me and I will inspire them" he added.

"Beekeeping contributes to environmental conservation and the major return expected is income and creation of jobs" said Mr. Ahmad. He has also inspired youth to join the beekeeping sector.

Apart from the apiary, Hija has constructed a bee house which is currently in the final stage with expectation to fill it with about 1,000 improved beehives. Construction of beehives has created employment for 44 Kigoma residents including women and youth who were involved in fabrication of improved beehives, painting and provision of food to workers. Some of the beehive fabricators were previously trained under the programme.

"Beekeeping contributes to environmental conservation and the major return expected is income and creation of jobs"

Mr. Hija Ahmad, a Kigoma resident who has benefited from training on improved beekeeping as part of the KJP.

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Improved fabricated beehives in Hija's plot with bee-catching hives. *Photo | UN Tanzania*



Ongoing construction of the beehouse and beehives by Mr. Hija and his team in the Kibondo District, Kigoma Region. *Photo | UN Tanzania*

COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) 2020 IN DODOMA



Dr. Qasim Sufi, Chief of Mission to IOM Mission in Tanzania, making remarks on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.
Photo | IOM Tanzania

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), joined the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the International Community to commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (TiP) in Dodoma in mid-August.

The commemoration of the World Day Against TIP through the High-Level meeting in Dodoma was preceded by a meeting with members of the Media in Zanzibar and National Dialogues on Trafficking in Persons in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam respectively.

The Government delegation

in the event led was led by the Minister of Home Affairs (MoHA), Hon. Mr. George Simbachawene, MoHA Permanent and Deputy Permanent Secretaries and other high-level government officials.

In his remarks, the Minister underlined the importance of having a coordinated approach on the fight against human trafficking. He urged the Secretariat to substantiate the situation with TIP specific statistics and data. He expressed his gratitude to the stakeholders and requested them to continue to support the Government against Human Trafficking and has reiterated the Government's commitment and determi-

nation in fighting TIP in the country by quoting this year's national theme *"Committed to the Cause - Working on the Frontline to End Human Trafficking"*. He used the occasion to also thank the International community for it continues support to the Government's efforts to eradicate the TIP in the country.

Dr. Qasim Sufi, the IOM Chief of Mission (CoM) in the United Republic of Tanzania represented the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UN RC), Mr. Zlatan Milisic the United Nations Country Team (UNCT)

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in the event, in his remarks he appreciated the excellent collaboration that IOM and the UN has with the Government and other stakeholders in addressing TIP in the country. IOM works with both Government, UN, and other partners to boost the efforts on child protection, protection for victims of trafficking and survivors of violence, and systems aimed at upholding the rights of workers.

The international community, including IOM, considers Trafficking in Persons as one of the grossest violations of human rights. It is therefore of utmost importance to take actions and respond to it effectively.



Hon. George Simbachawene, Minister of Home Affairs receiving a gift from the products made by the victims of Human trafficking. *Photo | IOM Tanzania*

ILO SUPPORT IMPROVED DISPUTE PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION



Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) and Dispute Handling Unit (DHU) officials participating in one of the capacity building programmes on mediation and labor disputes. *Photo | ILO Tanzania*

One of the Governance Outputs which the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has successfully contributed to is for the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to have enhanced capacity to comply with International and Regional human rights standards and implement recommendations from human rights mechanisms, including those related to access to justice for women, children and other vulnerable groups.

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Under this Output, ILO supported to build capacity of the dispute prevention and resolution institutions – the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) in Mainland Tanzania and the Dispute Handling Unit (DHU) in Zanzibar. Due to capacity building programmes implemented for the CMA and DHU, these institutions were strengthened to resolve labour disputes in compliance with labour laws and international labour standards. Such capacity building programmes involved both female and male mediators (45 from CMA and 10 from DHU) serving in these institutions.

Mediation of labour disputes has improved as a result of

capacity-building programs on mediation skills conducted for the CMA and DHU mediators. Due to improved mediation skills, the success rate of mediated disputes has increased in both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. According to Mr. Shanes Nungu, CMA Director, the strengthened capacity of the CMA has enabled them to resolve labour disputes beyond the targets that were set by the institution.

Available data indicate that in 2019/20, the CMA managed to resolve 8,366 disputes. The target for this year was to resolve 3,500 cases which indicates very good performance. The Director has thanked the ILO and the UN for their support in ensuring

that labour disputes are decided in a more timely manner, and that the rights of female and male workers are upheld in accordance with labour laws and international labour standards.

ILO support was also praised by the DHU. On his part, the Mr. Modest Damian Hassan, Head of the DHU, expressed gratitude to the ILO for the capacity building programmes implemented which has greatly strengthen capacity of the DHU to successfully resolve labour disputes. According to Mr. Hassan, the success rate of resolving disputes at the DHU is now 70%. Available data indicates that the DHU successfully resolved 142 cases in 2019/20.



Mr. Wellington Chibebe, ILO Director for East Africa, addressing CMA and DHU participants at a capacity building workshop on mediation in Dar es Salaam. *Photo | ILO Tanzania*

AMUA ACCELERATOR II DEMO DAY: AND THE WINNERS ARE....



The judges were left with the difficult task of selecting four winning innovations. *Photo | UNFPA Tanzania*

In mid-August AMUA Accelerator II reached the end of its start-up incubation in Tanzania climaxing with the highly anticipated virtual Demo Day. Seven teams of youth innovators battled it out, pitching their digital solutions, products and services to a panel of judges with the hope of being awarded \$6,000 of seed funding and further technical support to finetune their products into sustainable and cost-effective business solutions.

AMUA Accelerator II began with one question at the launch in Dodoma in April

2019: “How can youth living with a disability easily access age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services?” Following the launch, the innovation accelerator travelled across the country meeting with over 1.1 million youth, innovators and entrepreneurs and inviting them to come up with business solutions that would address this challenge for some of the country’s most marginalized and furthest left-behind youth. Over 360 ideas were submitted to the jury with 10 selected for the next stage of extensive trainings in Dar es Salaam, whittled down to a final seven

for Demo Day.

At the virtual Demo Day event, and following a fierce pitch war between the seven teams, the judges were left with the difficult task of selecting four innovations – the winners?

- eAfya, Dar es Salaam, are building a voice-based mobile app to help people with visual impairment and low literacy skills access SRH information.
- Nulaif Centre, Kilimanjaro, run a community hub where youth with disabilities can access SRH services and information as well as income-generating activities.

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- Frendlicom, Iringa, are developing a software platform that will instantly translate sign language to Kiswahili text speech and vice versa, facilitating communication between healthcare workers and clients with hearing impairments.
- Safe Box, also from Kili-

manjaro, are incorporating SRH services into rehabilitation services through a package of “Safe” initiatives such as classes and consultations.

AMUA II – a public/private partnership between UNFPA and Sahara Ventures, with the support of UK Aid – builds on the success of AMUA I and is in line with UNFPA Tanza-

nia’s priorities to create platforms that give young entrepreneurs in the country the opportunity to design and take to scale innovative and profitable digital solutions and products that expand the possibilities for all youth to fulfil their potential and lead healthier lives.



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Frendlicom – one of the winning innovations – are developing a software platform that will instantly translate sign language to Kiswahili text speech and vice versa. *Photo | UNFPA Tanzania*

UN WOMEN HELPS WOMEN-LED BUSINESSES TO RECOVER FROM EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN ARUSHA



A total of 17 sewing machines and 75 smartphones were handed-over to support women owned businesses in the pastoral community of Ngorongoro district. *Photo | UN Women*

Saiton Musa from Arusha could not hide her excitement as she tested to see if the sewing-machine she had just received from UN Women was working properly. This sewing machine was part of UN Women's support to help young women in tailoring business in the Ngorongoro district to revive their businesses affected by the Coronavirus disease.

"This is unbelievable, I was not expecting this kind of support, and I am happy that it came at a time when I needed it most," 21-year-

old Musa said. She was one of the 92 young women and out-of-school adolescent girls who received some sewing machines and smart phones from UN Women in partnership with the Pastoral Women's Council.

Under the Energize Project funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), a total of 17 sewing machines and 75 smartphones were handed-over to support women owned businesses in the pastoral community of Ngorongoro district. Interventions will

support the beneficiaries to build economic resilience among women in the tailoring business, where micro and small enterprises in the region were significantly affected due to limited cash reserves and fewer assets. On the other hand, the smart phones will promote the use of digital platforms to improve adaptation of business practices through re-tooling and digitalizing businesses for better marketing strategies and for faster delivery of services online.

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Ms. Hodan Addou, UN Women Representative, said the support to the pastoral young women and girls was contributing to the National COVID-19 Response Plans for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to help affected communities to build back better. “In the Ngorongoro intervention in particular, we are grateful

to KOICA for their support which enabled us to respond to the needs of women and girls in time and to contribute in revitalizing the livelihoods for women and girls in Arusha,” Ms. Addou said.

She said UN Women has realigned all its programs to meet the new gender equality needs and priorities in order

to support the government to build back better. “In our activities, gender-specific interventions are fully embedded in the short-term responses and longer-term recovery phases, and we are doing this to build more equal communities that can be more resilient to future shocks,” said Ms. Addou.



21-year-old Saiton Musa is now expanding her tailoring business after receiving a sewing machine through UN Women’s COVID-19 recovery support. *Photo | UN Women*

MUKHTI: THE BEADED HANDBAG ENTREPRENEUR



Some of the bead's handbag made by Mukhti ready for sale. *Photo | ©UNHCR/Edward Ogolla*

“Nobody makes the decision to leave their home lightly,” says George Kuchio, UNHCR Deputy Representative in Tanzania adding that “They flee and only what their hands can carry, with the hope that the path they are taking leads to safety.”

Over the past 50 years, refugees from across Africa, and beyond have sought safety in Tanzania. The country is now home to some 280,000 refugees, living mostly in camps, but about one out of every seven live in cities, amidst the local population. Mukhti (not her real name), age 41, is one of them.

Mukhti fled unrest in her native Somalia in 1993 and found a haven initially in Zanzibar. Following her divorce

in 2009, she struggled to feed her eight children, so she moved to Dar es Salaam in search of better opportunities. Like other women, Mukhti uses her skills in weaving, and sewing to produce handmade products and earn extra money to support their families.

“I had to teach myself to make handbags and decorate them with beads,” says Mukhti. Soon after, and with just \$13 of contributions from her neighbors, she started a small handbag business. Mukhti sells them by going door-to-door and each bag fetches anywhere between \$2-\$6. “This business keeps me busy and gives me the ability to buy more food and clothes for my family,” she added.

While refugees have consist-

ently proven to be remarkably resilient in the face of crises, during the outbreak of novel coronavirus “UNHCR, working with partner organizations, provided health care and psychosocial support and distributed disinfectant, soap, water containers, masks, and sanitizer to all urban refugee households,” says George Kuchio.

Through her 27-year journey in Tanzania, Mukhti has faced many challenges but also experienced remarkable kindness from her friends and neighbors. In return, “every weekend, I train my neighbors how to make handbags, as a means to make extra money,” says Mukhti.

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Although Mukhti has been a refugee for almost two-thirds of her life, she is defiant in her hope for a better tomorrow. “Being a refugee changes your life completely, but that doesn’t mean that life stops,” she says. “It must go on!”

“They flee and only what their hands can carry, with the hope that the path they are taking leads to safety.”

George Kuchio, UNHCR Deputy Representative in Tanzania



Beads used by Mukhti to decorate handbags. Photo | ©UNHCR/Edward Ogolla

ILO, GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL PARTNERS DEVELOP AN ACTION PLAN FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

Key stakeholders in Tanzania’s Skills Development agenda met recently in Dodoma to discuss the way forward for the country’s National Skills Development Programme (NSDP). The NSDP aims to provide solutions to tackle youth unemployment in the country. The program works to enhance both the employability and entrepreneurship skills among youth while boosting the capacity of local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to provide new employment opportunities for young women and men.

Among the key stakeholders include - the Prime Minister’s

Office Labor, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability (PMO-LYED), in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO). Others are members from the private sector, Association of Tanzanian Employers (ATE), the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA).

One key area under consideration by the stakeholders is the need for more institutional links between the government, educational/training institutions and the private sector. Dr. Aggrey Mlimuka, ATE Executive Director, recently called for more

coordinated efforts stating, “we need to make sure that the private sector is ready for and requires the skilled youth workforce we are creating, otherwise all our skills development efforts will not yield results.”

Mr. Comoro Mwenda, National Programme Officer for the ILO Skills project, at the aforementioned meeting echoed the importance of a coordinated response to skills development. “The arena of skills development currently has many actors; this platform will allow us to decide how we can coordinate our actions better and create

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an effective network to face opportunities and challenges the future of work presents. The ILO is committed to working with the government to

find innovative and forward looking solutions for skills development,” he added.

The attending members identified other key areas for

intervention including more integration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) across various sectors as well as better skills needs anticipation.



Training session on the Recognition of Prior learning (RPL) programme conducted in Dar es Salaam recently. *Photo | ILO*

YOUTH VOLUNTEER NETWORK LAUNCHED TO CARRY FORWARD CHILD RIGHTS AGENDA IN TANZANIA

As the world marked Nelson Mandela Day on July 17th, the day was an important milestone to over 1,000 young people who are part of the UNICEF Tanzania’s Volunteer Initiative that was launched on the day. These young volunteers had been selected to take forward the child rights agenda in the country and are eager to

volunteer their time, skills and resources in advocating for basic rights for children of Tanzania.

Ms. Shalini Bahuguna, UNICEF Tanzania Representative elaborated on the role young people can play in honoring Madiba’s legacy and commitment to children’s rights, “As volunteers for children’s

rights, you are true inheritors of Madiba’s legacy as your accumulative actions has the power to transform lives & societies”. She urged the volunteers to keep his legacy close to heart and celebrate the fact that each of us has the power to bring about a better tomorrow through our collective efforts.

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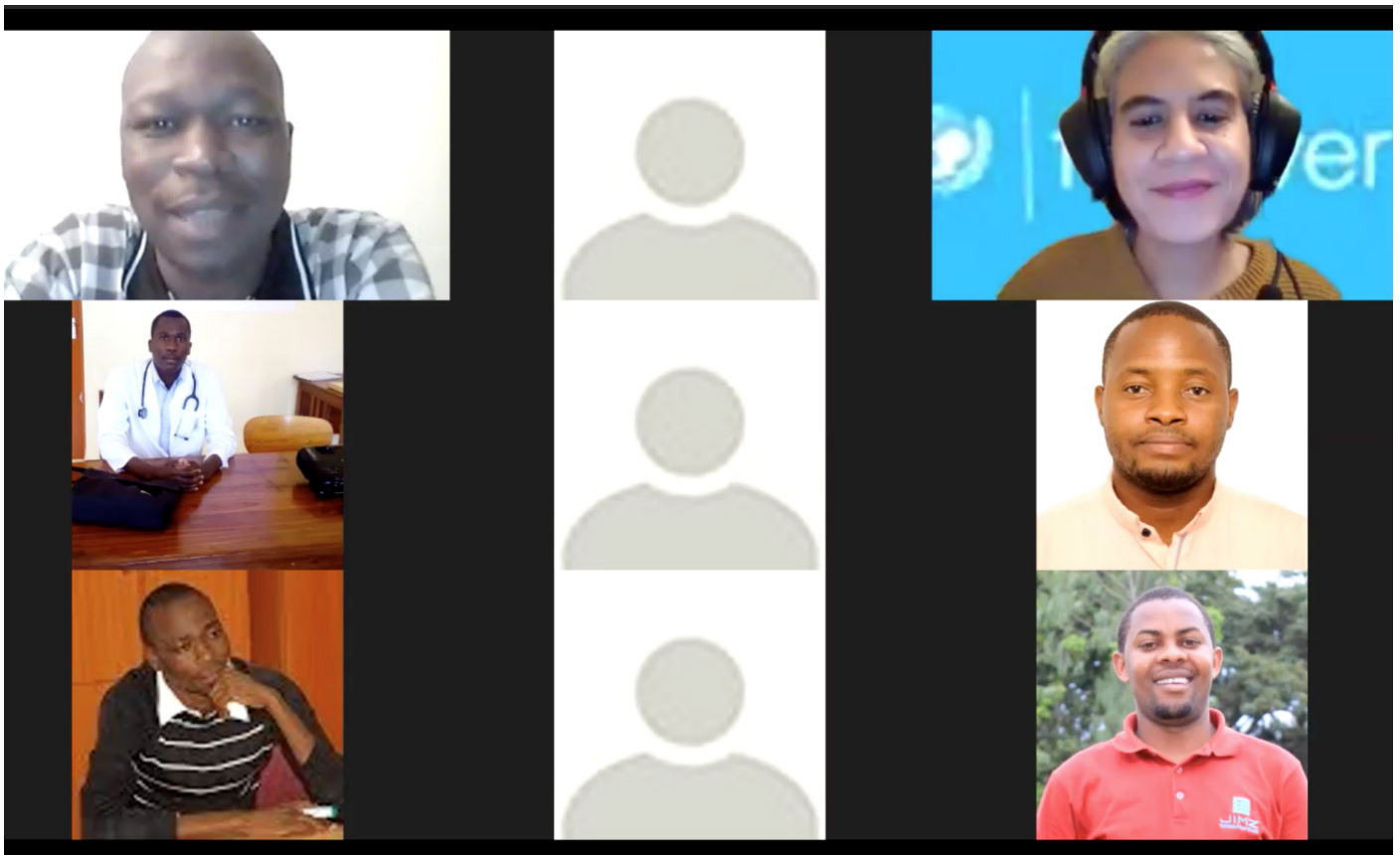
The launch, held virtually, reached over 7,000 people and was graced by officials from the Global Volunteer Initiative, UNICEF HQ and two young volunteers from Botswana and Tanzania. The initiative is a youth engagement initiative where young volunteers co-create social media campaigns around critical child rights priorities in the country. The initiative also focuses on providing regular coaching and mentorship to build leadership and advocacy skills of the volunteers supporting them to become better leaders and contribute to their societies as key agents of change.

“For us, at UNICEF Tanzania this is a long-term envisioned partnership with vibrant and committed young people who would help raise awareness of children’s rights issues through volunteerism,” said Ms. Manisha Mishra, Chief of Communications, Advocacy and Partnerships for UNICEF Tanzania.

Kefilwe Moutswi, a volunteer from Botswana urged her peers to exercise patience, be innovative and benefit from the skills gained from the different trainings, mentorship and coaching sessions. Sophia Mbeleyela, a volunteer with UNICEF Tan-

zania, said that young people can gain significant experience, learn problem-solving skills and bring about change in societies through volunteerism. She urged her fellow volunteers to focus more on the changes/benefits the initiative will bring to our society.

Kenneth Chomba, from the Global Volunteer Initiative said, “We can’t continue with business as usual without involving the target age group with the current largest cohort of 18-24 years to be recorded in the history of the world”.



To celebrate International youth day, UNICEF Tanzania launched its Volunteer Initiative campaign with a live streamed webinar that focused on how young people can be supported to become change agents in their communities. **Photo | UNICEF Tanzania**

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

September 24th - World Maritime Day

September 26th - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

September 27th - World Tourism Day

September 28th - International Day for Universal Access to Information

October 10th - World Mental Health Day

October 11th - International Day of Girl Child

October 16th - World Food Day

October 24th - UN Day

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UN Resident Coordinator's Office

+255 22 219 5021

info.untz@one.un.org

Website: tanzania.un.org