

ZANZIBAR LAUNCHES ITS DIGITAL HEALTH STRATEGY

Issue No. 92
September - October 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- Republic of Korea, UNFPA and UN Women partner to advance gender equality for some of the furthest behind women and girls in Tanzania
- Local Women contribute to combating COVID-19 in their Community
- UN capacitates CHVs on COVID-19 knowledge
- Innovative 'keyhole' gardens help refugees improve their nutrition



The new digital health strategy in Zanzibar will facilitate information sharing about routine and emergencies health services to improve quality of healthcare in the islands. *Photo | WHO Tanzania*

In a bid to increase access to quality healthcare services, Zanzibar's Ministry of Health recently launched its digital health strategic plan. The five year (2021 - 2025) strategic plan was launched by the Minister for Health, Hon. Hamad Rashid in Unguja.

The Plan aligns with Sustainable Development Goal Three of ensuring health lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. The strategy will guide application of digital health technologies that facilitate provision of

safe, equitable, accessible, efficient, and effective health services at all levels.

The Digital Health Strategy is aligned to the Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (ZSGRP II) and complements currently functioning digital health solutions namely the District Health Information System (DHIS2), the electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS) and the Malaria surveillance system.

"The strategy gives direction

for the transformation of the entire health system with the goal to increase use of client level systems that facilitate delivery of safe and quality health care," said the Director General, MoH, Dr. Jamala Taib.

The milestone enjoins Zanzibar to more than 120 countries and territories worldwide that have developed policies and strategies on eHealth.. The World Health Organisation (WHO) together with the Danish International Development Agency

Continues on page 2

Continued from page 1

(DANIDA), USAID, PATH and D-Tree International supported the development and launch of the strategy.

The WHO Liaison Officer to Zanzibar, Dr. Ghirmay Andemichael commended Zanzibar for developing and launching the digital health strategic plan. He said the plan displayed Zanzibar's commitment to improve access and quality of health services.

Digital health is the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) by individuals, health providers, and health systems to enhance the demand, access, coverage, delivery, quality, and affordability of health information and service delivery for all. A 2005 World Health Assembly resolution urged Member States to consider developing long-term strategic plans for creating and implementing eHealth

services to promote equitable, affordable and universal access to their benefits.

Additionally, in 2013 the World Health Assembly adopted a Resolution on eHealth standardization and interoperability. The follow up resolution urged Member States to develop policies and legislative mechanisms to govern digital health in their countries.

ADOPTING A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO FIGHTING CHOLERA



A WHO Surveillance Officer orienting community health workers in disease surveillance in the community. WHO collaborated with the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar to decentralize operations of Public Health Emergency Operations Centre. *Photo | WHO Tanzania*

Early in September, the Ministry of Health in Mainland embarked on finalizing development of its National Multi-Sectoral

Cholera Prevention and Control Plan (NMCPCP). The United Nations through the World Health Organisation

(WHO) country office supported the development of the plan. Involvement of multiple players in planning and execution of health program is key to making progress toward the UN's health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Adopting a multi-sectoral approach to fighting cholera, the plan identifies and strengthens the linkages among government departments, multilateral and bilateral development partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose actions contribute risk reduction and prevention of cholera infections at local and national levels. The process of developing this plan began in 2019 involving

Continues on page 3

Continued from page 2

a series of consultative workshops with different local stakeholders and culminated with the recently held workshop in Arusha to finalize the plan. Through a multi-sector approach with well-coordinated roles and functions of different partners, the plan aims to reduce morbidity and mortality from cholera by 90%, contain and prevent cholera transmission.

The Disaster Response Coordination Unit from the Prime Minister's office, the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government were involved in the process of developing the strategic plan, therefore giving the new plan a stage for more efficient coordination and involvement of all relevant sector ministries and departments at central and local governments level.

This multi-sectoral plan has been developed based on the

cholera After Action Review (AAR) which was done in August 2017 and lessons learned during the previous responses to cholera outbreak. This plan intends to fight cholera in Tanzania through a well-coordinated multi-sectoral approach that emphasizes a continuous prevention effort rather than the traditional focus on outbreak response only. Efforts will focus on 17 cholera high risk areas (hotspots) that include those commonly affected by floods and drought, low income urban areas, refugee camps, and cross border interventions.

The plan further focuses on the evidence-based priority interventions which include: multisectoral coordination, surveillance and laboratory, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and social mobilization and community engagement. In order to overcome dependence on a central management system,

the plan emphasizes the strengthening of capacity at the subnational level to diagnose, manage, control and prevent cholera.

"The revised plan addresses the challenges of the previous plan taking into considerations the evidence-based interventions and recommendations from different sectors and from the global roadmap to end cholera by 2030," said Dr Leonard Subi, Director of Preventive Services at the Ministry of Health.

This five-year plan (2019-2023) targets to lay a foundation and a roadmap towards elimination of cholera in Tanzania and achievement of the global goal of ending cholera by 2030. Cholera remains a significant public health threat of concern in Tanzania. The longest spell lasted from August 2015 to December 2018 and affected all the 26 regions and 129 (out of 139) districts of Tanzania.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, UNFPA AND UN WOMEN PARTNER TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY FOR SOME OF THE FURTHEST BEHIND WOMEN AND GIRLS IN TANZANIA

In late September, UNFPA and UN Women launched a \$5 million, three-year Joint Programme - "Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls" - in Msasala District, Shinyanga Region, Tanzania, supported

by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). It followed the launch of the same programme in Ikungi District, Singida Region, on the 29 September.

The launch of the Joint Programme, the culmination

of a two-year consultation process with national and local partners, will leverage the strengths of sister agencies UNFPA and UN Women to advance gender equality efforts in Ikungi and Msalala Districts and more widely in

Continues on page 4

Continued from page 3

Singida and Shinyanga Regions to ensure that rural women and girls are not left behind.

In spite of progress and commitment by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to tackle gender inequalities and discrimination, as articulated in national, regional and global development agendas, sexual, psychological, physical, and economic violence remain a reality for many women and girls in Singida and Shinyanga Regions.

Persistent gender discrimination and inequalities upheld by deeply-rooted social norms continue to perpetuate violence, including female genital mutilation and early, forced and child marriage, and women and girls continue to shoulder the overwhelming burden of domestic work.

The resulting time poverty, lack of education, and a lack of assets and access to financial services all combine to limit women and girls' opportunities and participation in community life and productive work.

Efforts through the programme will seek to challenge social norms that continue to lock women and girls in a cycle of inequality and violence and empower them to participate in economic and social life.

Creating a more enabling environment for women to hold land titles and for small-holder farmers including young women to participate and be more productive in the agricultural sector will be a focus of activities, as will strengthening gender-based violence prevention and response systems and establishing community structures and safe spaces that increase

women's and girls' agency and ability to uphold their rights.

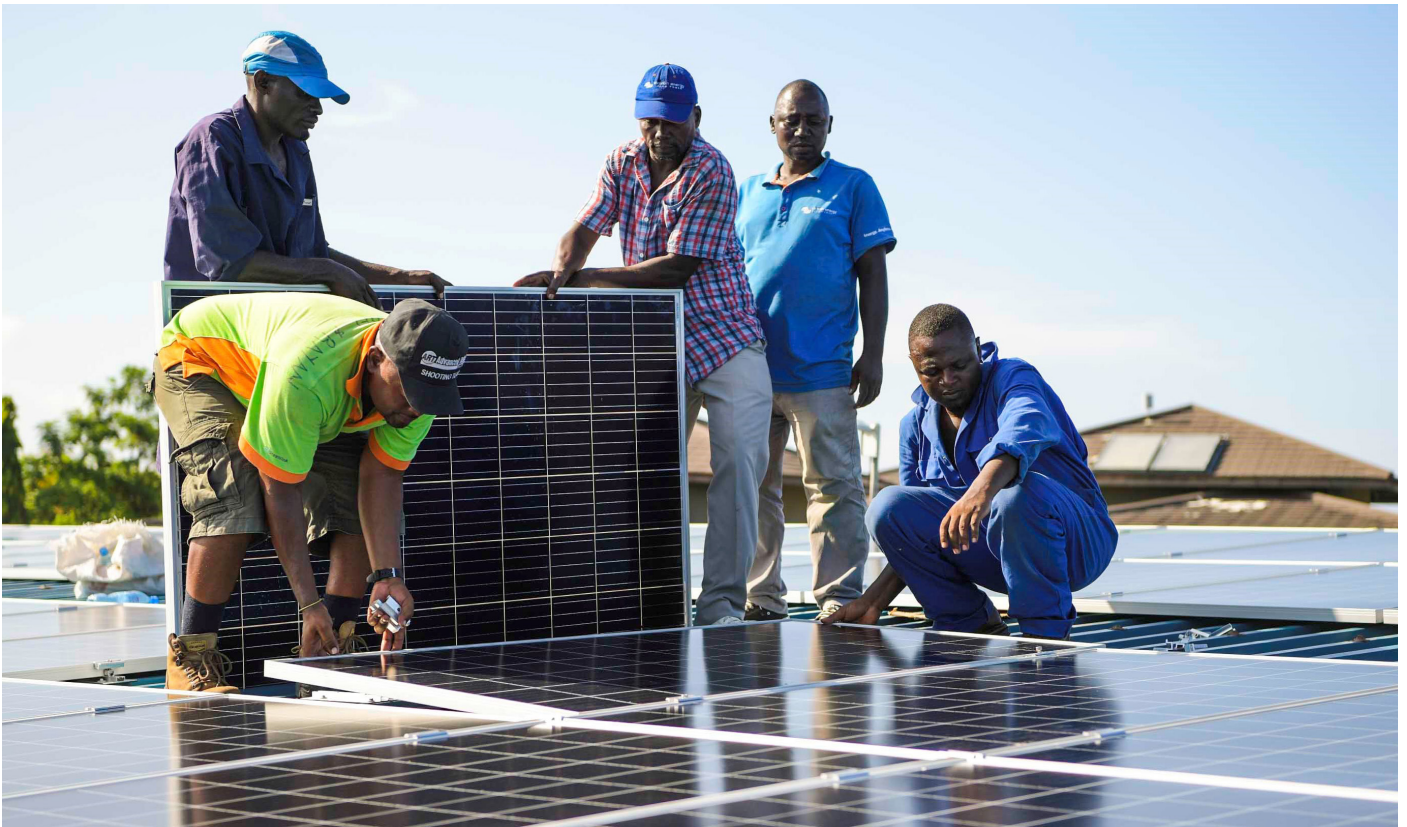
The Joint Programme is part of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II, which supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to achieve its objectives in its national visions and is in line with national strategic frameworks to advance gender quality and women's empowerment.

Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is a top priority in Korea's development cooperation. The Korea International Cooperation Agency have worked closely with multilateral partners, including UN Agencies, in Tanzania to address some of the critical challenges women and girls face in health and education.



Sister agencies UNFPA and UN Women are leveraging their comparative strengths to advance gender equality in Simiyu and Shinyanga Regions. *Photo | UNFPA Tanzania/UN Women Tanzania*

WALKING THE TALK! UNICEF TANZANIA GOES SOLAR IN A MOVE TOWARDS ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY



The solar power plant that was successfully installed in mid-2019 at the UNICEF Tanzania offices in Dar es Salaam aims to reduce environmental impact including reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to protect the world's most vulnerable - our children. *Photo | UNICEF Tanzania*

The year started on a promising note for UNICEF in Tanzania with the office taking positive steps to reduce its carbon footprint. Studies have revealed that carbon emissions from facilities are United Nations' largest source of emissions after travel.

To reduce its environmental footprint, therefore, UNICEF Tanzania established a two-year eco-efficiency and accessibility workplan. The workplan includes implementation of energy efficient improvement measures in the UNICEF constructed and owned building in Dar es

Salaam. This will go a long way in reducing the organization's carbon footprint and achieving climate neutrality.

James Gitau, former Deputy Representative (Operations), UNICEF Tanzania, said, "We decided to leverage the new office premises to enhance the use of eco-friendly energy which led to the initial feasibility study to decide on the best solar solution and finally to installation of the solar panels. The shift to alternate energy sources reinforces our commitment as UNICEF to reduce our environmental impact including reducing green-

house gas emissions from our operational activities".

After a feasibility study in 2018, it was decided to install 105 KW solar systems on the rooftop of the office building. Tanzania's geographical location makes it an ideal destination to benefit from solar plant installation. The plant enables the UNICEF Tanzania office to fulfill all its requirements through solar energy and only use power from the national grid on days when there is cloud cover and at night.

Continues on page 6

Continued from page 5

Rene Van Dongen, Deputy Representative (Programmes), UNICEF Tanzania, said, “This was an ambitious initiative for us, and the entire team put in a lot of effort to bring about the shift to alternate energy sources. This is a significant moment for UNICEF Tanzania as the solar plant will reduce carbon emissions by approximately 170,000-210,000kg per year making this a valuable environmental impact investment”.

Shalini Bahuguna, Representative UNICEF Tanzania, commends the team on this achievement. She said, “We all must play our role in creating an

environment fit for children. Climate change is impacting all of us today and some more than others. This is a modest effort to enhance the use of eco-friendly energy and contribute to the UNICEF global goal of reducing our carbon footprint. We owe it to our children and the coming generations”.

The installation of the solar plant required an initial investment of USD 146,000 and will meet all energy requirements in the UNICEF owned building throughout the year. The solar panels have a low maintenance cost and a life span of approximately 25 years. The initial investment will be recovered within 9 years and will result in annual savings

from energy costs for the rest of the useful life of the system. Most importantly, solar installation will reduce energy use, cost and the carbon footprint of the facility.

“We all must play our role in creating an environment fit for children. Climate change is impacting all of us today and some more than others. This is a modest effort to enhance the use of eco-friendly energy and contribute to the UNICEF global goal of reducing our carbon footprint. We owe it to our children and the coming generations”.

**Shalini Bahuguna,
Representative UNICEF
Tanzania**



This solar project contributes to the UNICEF global goal of reducing its carbon footprint by expecting to save between 170 - 210 tonnes of CO² emissions annually, thus contributing to a clean environment for the future of our children. **Photo | UNICEF Tanzania**

INNOVATIVE 'KEYHOLE' GARDENS HELP REFUGEES IMPROVE THEIR NUTRITION



Vanencia harvesting vegetables from her keyhole garden in Nduta refugee camp in Kigoma region.
Photo | ©DRC/Christina John

Venancia Nibitanga appears from the back of her house with a bunch of green vegetables. She proceeds to wash and cut them into smaller pieces for cooking. Her youngest daughter watches on intently. "I think she will one day be a great cook, just like her mother," says Venancia.

Venancia fled Burundi in April 2016 after her husband became increasingly violent towards her and her children. "After the political crisis in 2015, he became more violent. My children and I left Burundi with nothing apart from the clothes on our backs," she recounts. She is happy to be one among the 1,300 families that have

been engaged in a vegetable production project known as keyhole garden; a small round bed, made with low-cost locally available materials. Through this project, UNHCR and Danish Refugee Council help refugee families to establish these gardens, and provide them with seeds, tools and training on good agronomic practices.

Before the project, Venancia 35-year-old was solely dependent on the rations distributed in the camps which has gradually reduced to the current 72% of the food basket to feed her seven children. "We are grateful for the food we receive, but it was not enough and did not contain vegetables," she says.

"We had a single meal per day because I was afraid the monthly ration to finish early, now they have more to eat, and it is nutritious too," she adds with a smile.

The reduction in rations is, in part, caused by a cost adjustment to accommodate the increased distribution

"We had a single meal per day because I was afraid the monthly ration to finish early, now they have more to eat, and it is nutritious too,"

**Venancia Nibitanga,
Burundi Refugee in
Tanzania**

Continues on page 8

Continued from page 7

cost that came with the need to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission. US\$21 million is required to ensure that refugees can receive their full monthly food rations from now up to March 2021.

With limited opportunities to earn a living, refugees in Tanzania are almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance. Such projects are thus essential and ensure 240,000 refugees living in camps in Tanzania can play an active role in ensuring their food and nutrition security.

“Food and shelter are the first humanitarian, indeed human, needs. The sense of human dignity however is not



Venancia and her family enjoying their meal with vegetables from her keyhole garden in Nduta camp in Kigoma region. *Photo | ©DRC/Christina John*

advanced by keeping populations dependent on food handouts that are always insufficient, inadequate, and often culturally not adapted”

says Antonio Canhandula, UNHCR Representative in Tanzania.

UN CAPACITATES CHVS ON COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE

After the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Zanzibar, intensive efforts were put in place to mitigate the spread of this disease. Among the key strategies of information sharing was to build on existing mechanisms for disseminating information at the community level, which included the use of community health volunteers (CHV).

To this regard, the UN continued to support CHVs in helping communities understand preventive measures against COVID-19. Specifically,

UNICEF in collaboration with Save the Children supported the Ministry of Health to build the capacity of 1300 CHVs, and 80 CHVs supervisors across 11 districts on safe use of PPE, on the provision of COVID-19 preventive messages and in the continuity of essential care given a context of COVID-19. To protect these frontline workers UNICEF procured PPE supplies (masks, sanitizers and boots) worth TZS 260million for CHVs and Health care providers at Mnazi Mmoja hospital and for use at a designated isolation center

for prevention of COVID-19. In addition, 680 CHVs from Unguja and Pemba were trained by WHO on community-based surveillance.

As a community resource, CHVs were able to share health education materials; support community-based surveillance; and counsel those affected by COVID-19. The UN continues to support CHVs to help communities understand how to prevent oneself from COVID-19.

Continues on page 9

Continued from page 8



Training sessions for CHVs in Zanzibar being conducted in compliance with the COVID-19 preventive measures. *Photo | UN Tanzania*

LOCAL WOMEN CONTRIBUTE TO COMBATING COVID-19 IN THEIR COMMUNITY



Miza Makame Pandu is among the 60 local women tailors for whom UN Women and Barefoot College provided training on entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy. *Photo | Barefoot College*

After the first confirmed COVID-19 case in Zanzibar, intensive efforts were put in place to mitigate the spread of this disease. Among the key strategies of information sharing was to build on existing mechanisms for disseminating information at the community level, which included the use of community health volunteers (CHV).

To this regard, the UN continued to support CHVs in helping communities understand preventive measures against COVID-19. Specifically, UNICEF in collaboration with Save the Children supported the Ministry of Health to build the capacity of 1300 CHVs, and 80 CHVs supervisors across 11 districts on safe use of PPE, on the provision of COVID-19 preventive messages and in the continuity of essential care given a context of COVID-19. To protect these frontline workers UNICEF procured PPE supplies (masks, sanitizers and boots) worth TZS 260million for CHVs and Health care providers at Mnazi Mmoja hospital and for use at a designated isolation center for prevention of COVID-19. In addition, 680 CHVs from Unguja and Pemba were

trained by WHO on community-based surveillance.

As a community resource, CHVs were able to share health education materials; support community-based surveillance; and counsel those affected by COVID-19. The UN continues to support CHVs to help communities understand how to prevent oneself from COVID-19.



Distribution of face masks in different villages in Zanzibar which prioritizing the elderly and students. Villages include Kisiwa panza, Makoongwe, Kendwa and Matele. *Photo | Barefoot College*

YOUTH AND WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



The Ujiji Abattoir will support value chain development in Kigoma region.
Photo | UNCDF/Mariam Simba

Ujiji is among 8 councils that constitute Kigoma region and the only council that has attained Municipality status since 2005. The main economic activities in Kigoma region are agriculture and livestock husbandry. Over the years, residents of Ujiji have relied on an old abattoir which lacked proper facilities for slaughtering and handling of meat, running water, electricity and proper waste management systems. These conditions exposed the residents to health risks.

UNCDF through the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) supported the council to construct a modern abattoir

with twice the capacity of the existing abattoir and which will meet all required health and hygiene standards.

The project will undoubtedly unlock the huge economic potential of the meat sub sector in Kigoma, address health risks and expand the market to the neighboring regions and countries.

Hear the story of Mr. Abdillah Mohamedi (32) a meat trader from Ujiji Municipal council explaining about the abattoir situation specifically during COVID 19 period. Abdillah purchases up to 100Kg of daily from Ujiji abattoir and sell to small traders who are

mainly women. He says: *“It was such a hard time for us meat traders to go to the facility during the pandemic period (COVID 19) as the facility is very small which made it harder for people to abide with health requirements. This project is key to us traders as it will provide enough space for us to do our work effectively and efficiently while observing health requirements.”*

Once the new abattoir is built, Ujiji Municipal Council will be able to enforce by-laws which prohibit informal slaughtering places thus creating a bigger demand for the new abattoir and ensuring high quality and safe products.

Meet Balibwa Azuhuri Issa (41), a mother of two children, a meat retailer and a food vendor at a current slaughtering facility in Ujiji. Balibwa sells meat to other women food vendors in Ujiji, Kigoma. Balibwa says: *“The current facility doesn’t have adequate infrastructures which allow us, women to conduct our businesses effectively and protect our products from rainy, We expect the new abattoir will address various challenges facing traders especially women who sometimes forced to go with their kids as they can’t afford to hire housemaids.*

Continues on page 11

Continued from page 10

She adds: “The modernization of the abattoir will provide me with additional income as the number of meat traders and other players like cleaners will increase. This will enlarge my capital and henceforth meet my family needs”.

The project will bring economic transformation in term of employment, poverty reduction and increase in local government revenues through various levies and taxes.



Balibwa at a meat selling point in Ujiji, Kigoma region. *Photo | UNCDF/Mariam Simba*

ILO TRAINS ROAD CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS ON LOW VOLUME SEALED ROADS TECHNOLOGY



Dr. Benelith Mahenge, Dodoma Regional Commissioner, visited the site and addressed participants encouraging them to make the most of the training. *Photo | ILO Tanzania*

Continues on page 12

Continued from page 11

A total of twenty (20) Road Construction Engineers participated in a three weeks training on Low Volume Sealed Roads (LVSR) Technology in Chamwino, Dodoma from 17th August to 5th September 2020. The training, which was conducted through the ILO's Employment Intensive Investment (EIIP) programme, drew participants from the Appropriate Technology Training Institute (ATTI), Mbeya, Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Authority (TARURA), Ministry of Works Transportation and Communication, Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), Zanzibar Min of Infrastructure, Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication, PO-RALG-Infrastructure Development, LBT Contractors and PMO-LYED.

The training was undertaken in two phases; Phase I covering mainly classroom review on the fundamentals of LVSRs and the second one on practical/field demonstration of LVSRs through using Emulsion Treated Base (ETB). This was done along a 100m long stretch at Chamwino area in Dodoma region.

According to the EIIP National Programme Coordinator Mr. Dampu Ndenzako the training will not only contribute to promoting full and productive employment and decent work but also in addressing the



As part of the practical component of the training, participants take part in the laying and compaction of Emulsion Treated Base. *Photo | ILO Tanzania*

rising unemployment among young men and women in the country. "...This will contribute to learning new feasible technological options for roads construction and rehabilitation while impacting skills for enterprises development and future employment potential..." he said.

In recent times, accessibility especially in rural areas have been a challenge. However, Tanzania, through its Ministry of Works and other relevant organs, has invested a lot in infrastructure development, including roads planning, design, development, rehabilitation and maintenance to ensure improved accessibility. These initiatives are essential to promoting a more efficient utilization of our nation's resources for improved eco-

nomic growth.

Commenting on the above exercise at the practical site, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works Transportation and communication, Architect Elius Mwakalinga, commended the ILO and the Irish Government for their financial and technical support in this noble initiative.

"...Technologies like these, attract use of employment intensive approaches (Labor Based Technology) which create employment and income to community members, specifically for the vulnerable ones, hence improve their livelihoods and access to social protection..." he said.

Continues on page 13

Continued from page 12

The ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) is one of the vehicles to promote full and productive employment & decent work. It was introduced in Tanzania in 2016 to address rising un/under-employment,

declining wage rates coupled with growing market distortions.

The programme has consistently promoted employment-intensive approaches for infrastructure creation and maintenance

because 1) its social benefits (employment generation, social protection, wages distributed) and 2) this approach is technically and financially competitive in the economic situation of most developing countries today.

MVUGWE - SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL VALUE ADDITION IN THE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES OF KASULU DISTRICT



Mvugwe aggregation center under construction. *Photo | UNCDF/Mariam Simba*

Mvugwe village is one of the 62 villages in Kasulu District with a population of about 15,745 people. Agriculture is the main activity in the village where about 4,000 women and 3,000 youth are engaged in agriculture and trade. However, farmers in Mvugwe village are stuck in a poverty cycle created by post-harvest losses and

weak farm to market linkages caused by lack of collection/aggregation centers for their produce.

UNCDF through Kigoma Joint Programme supported Kasulu District Council to build a modern aggregation center to support smallholder farmers in the district. The Mvugwe aggregation center will be a

one-stop shop for buyers and sellers (smallholder farmers). Once completed, the center is expected to offer storage facilities with a capacity of 640 tons, cassava drying services (solar dryer), cassava cleaning facilities, loading/unloading bays/spaces for trucks, and space for private sector retail businesses.

Continues on page 14

Continued from page 13

Mvugwe center will be co-owned by the district council, Mvugwe village government and the Mvugwe agricultural marketing cooperative. Through this community participatory ownership (Public Private Community Partnership), the center will provide a ready market for its residents (smallholder farmers) but also distribute business profits back to the Mvugwe community at large.

Meet Esta Yosam (36) a farmer from Kasulu and Mvugwe aggregation center beneficiary, says:

“Currently, we store our crops

outside our homes which is very challenging during rainy season, I sometimes take my crops to my brother’s house. Few years ago, during the harvest season I lost 3 bags of maize, it happened when I took my crops to the market for selling, this was all because of lack of proper storage facilities. “This facility will cut off all middlemen who normally exploit farmers by selling their products at lowest price, now farmers and traders will be able to buy and sell crops directly from the facility which will provide them with stable price,”. Esta adds “Most of village women are like me, they never went to school (uneducated) which

makes them to continue stand as housewives and caretakers, I believe with this facility women will be provided with different opportunities to engage in production activities such food vending, salons and groceries”.

The center will go beyond buying, storing and selling of unprocessed crops into processing, packaging and marketing of processed products. This will create employment opportunities for the local population, bringing in extra income for the residents of Mvugwe and increasing the council’s own source revenues.



Esta Yosam (36) a farmer from Kasulu and Mvugwe aggregation center beneficiary. *Photo | UNCDF/Mariam Simba*

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

December 3rd – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 5th - International Volunteer Day

December 10th - International Human Rights Day

December 18th - International Migrants Day

A STRONGER UNITED NATIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD



**UNITED NATIONS
TANZANIA**



UN Resident Coordinator's Office

+255 22 219 5021

info.untz@one.un.org

Website: tanzania.un.org

This newsletter is published by the UN Communication Group in Tanzania. To subscribe and provide feedback, please contact us at: info.untz@one.un.org | Website: tanzania.un.org | Tel: (+255) 22-219-5021