

UMOJA NEWSLETTER



UNITED NATIONS
TANZANIA

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ALL ROADS LEAD TO NAIROBI!

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Making water sources safe for communities in Kigoma Region
- Children and young people's voices are heard as key influencers pledge to support their rights on World Children's Day
- Volunteers working towards an inclusive future
- Communities make the difference in ending AIDS



Founder and Executive Director of Msichana Initiative, Rebeca Gyumi, receives the UNFPA Award in recognition of her commitment to achieving rights and choices for all in Tanzania. **Photo | UNFPA Tanzania**

In November, over 8,000 delegates from more than 170 countries took part in the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 convened by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with the

Governments of Kenya and Denmark uniting behind a shared agenda: to intensify efforts for the full and accelerated implementation and funding of the International Conference on Population

and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA). The PoA, the landmark outcome document from the ICPD in Cairo in 1994, called for women's girl's

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Word From The Government



"The presence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) affects the country's movements towards becoming a middle income economy through Industrialization due to much concerted efforts to curb the vice. The 5th phase government will not tolerate such acts as they directly affect the country's development."

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Hon. Umyy Mwalimu speaking at the Launch of 16 Days of Activism Against GBV Campaign in Dodoma on November 26th, 2019.

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reproductive health and rights to take centre stage in national and global development efforts as a prerequisite to sustainable, equitable and inclusive development.

Despite remarkable progress in the 25 years since the ICPD in Cairo which has paved the way for healthier, more productive lives for untold millions the promises made remain a distant reality for many, including for women and girls in Tanzania, and unless these promises are kept reaching the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will be difficult, if not impossible.

Conversations at the conference focused around a single number zero. Zero barriers to contraception and repro-

ductive health care; zero preventable deaths in pregnancy and childbirth; and zero gender-based violence, assault, and abuse.

Delegates from the Government of Tanzania joined the global community in Nairobi and reaffirmed commitments to accelerate the ICPD promise, pledging to increase the national health budget to 15 per cent and to step up efforts to end preventable maternal mortality with strengthened emergency obstetric and newborn care services. The Government also committed to increasing access to comprehensive, age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and information for the country's large youthful population. Notably, in recognition of her leadership and commitment to

achieving rights and choices for all and advocating for safe schools and quality education for the girls of Tanzania, Rebeca Gyumi, Founder and Executive Director of Msichana Initiative, received a UNFPA Award.

The Summit mobilized more than 1,250 commitments from around the world, including billions of dollars in pledges from public and private sector partners, and outlines a clear roadmap of actions to advance the ICPD agenda and transform the world over the next decade by ending all maternal deaths, the unmet need for family planning, and gender-based violence and harmful practices so that every woman and girl, no matter where she lives, has real rights and choices in her life.

THE UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND SHOWCASES ITS LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE APPROACH

In November, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) showcased the results of its Local Development Fund (LDF) in Tanzania and other countries, highlighting the need for innovative finance models, partnerships and collaboration to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at scale.

The event was officiated by Mr. Gerald Mweli, Deputy Permanent Secretary, President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government; Mr. Michael Dunford, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and World Food Programme Country Representative; and Mr. Peter Malika, Head of UNCDF Tanzania.

"The ultimate objective of our collaboration is to see positive changes in peoples' lives and communities".

**Mr. Peter Malika,
Head of UNCDF
Tanzania**

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Representatives from the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania, Nepal, Uganda, Bangladesh, Gambia, Guinea, and Lesotho, the public and private sector, diplomatic missions, and UN Agencies, among others, attended.

Partners, stakeholders and the media heard first-hand about the progress that UNCDF is making towards localizing the implementation of the SDGs through its development programmes in Tanzania and other countries. Highlights included the development of the

Mvugwe Aggregation Centre, a partnership between Kasulu District Council, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and UNCDF. At the centre the LDF approach combines seed capital grants and technical assistance to build a business model and appropriate governance structure that will ensure financial and operational sustainability beyond UNCDF's support.

Speaking at the event Mr. Mweli said: "The Government of Tanzania appreciates UNCDF's efforts to support local government to develop income-generating projects that enhance revenue and

meet development needs at the local level."

Mr. Peter Malika, Head of UNCDF Tanzania, added that UNCDF's LDF has supported the development and financing of 21 income-generating investments worth around USD20 million in both the public and private sectors. He commended the government, the United Nations Family and development partners for their sustained support and partnership in meeting local economic development objectives, emphasising that "the ultimate objective of our collaboration is to see positive changes in peoples' lives and communities".



Mr. Abraham Byamungu, UNCDF Senior Investment Officer, giving an overview of UNCDF project results to Ms. Leyla Cuevas Lopez, Public & Private Investments Portfolio Analysis Consultant from UNCDF Headquarters in New York.
Photo | UNCDF Tanzania

UNDP REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT TO THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR



Ms. Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative (left), hands over Tanzania's Voluntary National Review Report on SDGs to H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. **Photo | Ikulu Zanzibar**

“The next generation of development work must be linked to how people want to shape their lives and the United Nations must continue to build partnerships with governments, development partners and other stakeholders to ensure a people-centred approach”, urged Ms. Christine Musisi, UNDP Tanzania Resident Representative, when she recently met with H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar.

During her visit, Ms. Musisi commended the government for the sustained economic growth – an average of 6.6 per cent over the past four years – as well as the more

equitable access to quality social services, particularly education, health, water, sanitation and social protection. Ms. Musisi also recognized the considerable achievements made in reducing child and infant mortality, controlling HIV, and the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Zanzibar.

Ms. Musisi reiterated UNDP's role in supporting the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) to realize its development aspirations and improve the lives of its people as envisioned in its long-term Zanzibar Development Vision 2020 and medium-term development strategies, and acknowledged achievements

made as a result of the strong partnerships between the government and other development partners. UNDP's support to the RGoZ is primarily in the areas of Democratic Governance, Inclusive Growth, Climate Change and Energy, Environment and Natural Resources.

UNDP also supports the implementation of projects under the Small Grants Programme (SGP), which provides grants to local communities, including community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups. During her visit, Ms. Musisi was able to visit partners including the Community Fish Ponds Project at Jozani-Chwaka Bay National Park and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician.

In recognition of both the potential opportunities and challenges for Zanzibar's social and economic growth, Ms. Musisi reiterated UNDP's commitment to collaborating with the RGoZ and other partners in the implementation of Zanzibar's Development Strategies, including technical and financial support for the development of Zanzibar's Development Vision 2050.

RENEWING COMMITMENT TO FIGHT NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, launches a new national programme to tackle non-communicable diseases in Tanzania. He is joined by Hon. Umyy Mwalimu (left), Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, and Dr. Tigest Mengestu (right), WHO Country Representative to Tanzania. Photo | WHO Tanzania

In a bid to prevent and control the rising threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), a new national NCD programme was recently launched in Dodoma by Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, which underscores the contributions that individuals and communities can make to prevent NCDs.

According to a World Health Organization (WHO) report in 2016, four major NCDs – cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic pulmonary conditions – were

responsible for 71 per cent of all deaths globally. Tanzania and other low-income countries face a heavy burden of communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and cholera, which are still reported as major contributors to morbidities and deaths.

In Tanzania, statistics from routine health surveys show a 24 per cent increase in the number of patients treated for NCDs from 3.4 million in 2016 to 4.2 million in 2018. According to the same data, one in every four people treated at a health facility has raised

blood pressure, heart or other cardiovascular disease.

“Despite the increasing threat of NCDs, efforts to control the risks did not match the rate of the problem. That is why today we are launching a programme that will be more focused and comprehensive, and dedicated to practical solutions,” said the Prime Minister.

Non-communicable diseases targeted include cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic chest conditions, cancer, mental health, sickle cell, eye and oral health, and ears, nose and throat conditions.

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WHO is collaborating with the Ministry of Health and partners to raise awareness and resources for the prevention and control of NCDs and technical support is being provided to conduct nationwide surveys to show the burden and level of exposure to NCD risks. The new programme will work to reduce morbidity and premature deaths caused by NCDs through the provision of improved preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative care.

Sustainable Development

Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) requires countries to reduce untimely deaths from NCDs by a third by 2030, and to ensure the provision of preventive, curative and effective mental health services to improve the well-being of all people. Hon. Ummu Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Seniors and Children, confirmed that the new programme will harness more efficient approaches to improve the care and prevention of NCDs, stating: "This is an important task because if we do not direct our efforts to

it, our country will not attain international goals and our own national targets."

"This is an important task because if we do not direct our efforts to it, our country will not attain international goals and our own national targets."

**Hon. Ummu Mwalimu,
Minister of Health,
Community Development,
Gender, Seniors
and Children**

MAKING WATER SOURCES SAFE FOR COMMUNITIES IN KIGOMA REGION



Water quality monitoring is essential to ensure a safe and clean supply of water for communities in Kigoma. **Photo | WHO Tanzania**

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Improving access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is one of the six thematic areas of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP), which links the UN's current humanitarian response to refugees and migrants with an increased focus on supporting host communities in the region. Regular and systematic water quality monitoring and timely reporting are key to ensuring water safety.

In December 2019, WASH experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborated with the Regional Authorities in Kigoma Region and the Ministry of Water to organize a training in Kasulu

District for 116 district water supply managers and district health officers from five districts – Buhigwe, Uvinza, Kasulu, Kibondo and Kakonko – to build their capacity in regular and systematic water quality monitoring, timely reporting and water safety planning.

Participants at the training will share their knowledge with grassroots organizations in their respective districts. Participants also learned how to test for residual chlorine in the water supply as well as the proper handling and storage of chlorine.

To further strengthen the capacity of districts to conduct regular water quality monitoring, WHO will provide chlo-

rine test kits for trained personnel so that they are able to test and report results periodically and systematically for action.

WHO also supported training for community-based water supply organizations in Kibondo and Kasulu, where village leaders and water committees learned how to keep their sources of water safer.

The water quality monitoring training is part of the KJP initiative to address critical water and sanitation challenges in the region – primarily due to the existing antiquated water infrastructure – with a focus on rural communities to ensure that all people in Kigoma have access to safe and clean water.

VOLUNTEERS WORKING TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE



United Nations Volunteers and volunteers from various NGOs take a group picture with UN Officials during International Volunteer Day commemorations in Arusha. Over 250 volunteers from a variety of different organizations took part in the commemorations. **Photo | UNV Communications**

International Volunteer Day (IVD), celebrated annually on December 5th, is an opportunity to promote volunteerism, support volunteer efforts, and recognize volunteers' contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's IVD theme, 'Volunteer for an Inclusive Future' highlighted Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities and the pursuit of equality

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Mr. Christian Mwamanga, UNV Country Coordinator during a one on one interview with Ms. Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative prior to the International Volunteer Day 2019. Photo | UNV Communications

and inclusion through volunteerism.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme coordinated and partnered with over 27 non-governmental organizations to jointly celebrate IVD in Arusha. The

event was also supported by UN Agencies hosting UN Volunteers.

Speaking at the celebrations Ms. Christine Musisi, UNDP Resident Representative, highlighted that, "International Volunteer Day recognizes the power and potential

of volunteerism. To achieve sustainable development, we need to include everyone from all spheres of life. Having served as a UN Volunteer at the beginning of my career with the UN, I bear first-hand witness to the enormous benefits of volunteerism and its impact on achieving sustainable human development globally."

Mr. Christian Mwamanga, UNV Country Coordinator in Tanzania, also emphasized that IVD celebrates the relentless efforts of volunteers who answer calls in times of need for the common dignity of all and that UN volunteers are inspired by Tanzania's deep-rooted values on volunteering and its cultural philosophy of Ujamaa na Kujitegemea "Socialism and Self - Reliance."

Over 350 volunteers including community and youth volunteers from higher learning institutions, youth volunteer peer educators and UN Volunteers attended the celebrations in Arusha to speak about their experiences, with attendees joining in with tree planting and picking up litter in the hospital grounds.



UN Volunteers offering community outreach services through SDGs exhibition booth during the International Volunteer Day in Arusha. Photo | UNV Communications

SPECIAL REPORT : CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES ARE HEARD AS KEY INFLUENCERS PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THEIR RIGHTS ON WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



Tanzania's children "Go blue": Children #GoBlue for World Children's Day celebrations! 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a unique opportunity for world leaders and stakeholders to re-commit to advancing child rights in the country. **Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/ Studio 19**

UNICEF Tanzania supported the launch of the Children and Young People's Agenda, which was handed over to key stakeholders during the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC@30) and World Children's Day in Dar es Salaam on November 20th. The event was graced by H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; and Hon. Dr. Faustine Ndugulile, Deputy Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children (MoHCDEC) as well as Heads and Representative of

UN Agencies, Ambassadors, children and a wide range of other stakeholders.

The Agenda is a compilation of the views of over 50,600 children and young people who were involved in consultations and reached through the SMS-based 'U-Report' platform. Fema Magazine, which reaches about 5 million people, also sensitized children and young people on child rights and responsibilities.

The Agenda discusses the challenges that children and young people face around education, health, child pro-

tection and participation, as well as the opportunities they see to lead change and make a difference at home, at school and in their communities.

The commemoration was an opportunity for children to discuss the Agenda and its recommendations with key stakeholders, which resulted in a signed pledge by the government, media editors, interfaith leaders, Members of Parliament, development partners, online influencers and celebrities, and the private sector.

In his remarks, former President H. E. Mwinyi commended children and young people for speaking up about their rights as well as their responsibilities to find solutions: "I am very encouraged to hear not just the challenges, but that children and young people know that their rights come with responsibilities and they recognize their role in fulfilling the Agenda."

Rene Van Dongen, Acting UNICEF Representative, commended Tanzania for its progress in advancing children's rights since the country ratified the CRC in 1991.

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“Today we will be officially launching The Children and Young People’s Agenda—a document created by young people to further improve the rights of children in Tanzania” -Rene Van Dongen, UNICEF Tanzania Acting Representative holding the Agenda up at the World Children’s Day celebrations. Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/Studio 19

He urged all stakeholders to reflect on what children and young people are saying and to reaffirm their commitment

to advance the rights of children in the country.

Assuring children and young people that their agenda and recommendations are endorsed by government, Dr. Ndugulile said, “We have listened to you and we promise to work on your recommendations. The government is committed to continue to address all challenges facing children in the country including the issue of violence against children, which is indeed a problem in our country.”

As part of the commemorations, Mimi Mars, a famous musician, launched a special song “Watoto Tualinde” which she had composed for the children of Tanzania, and six buildings Umoja House, Canadian High Commission, National Microfinance Bank HQ, National Housing Corporation HQ, UN House and the UNICEF office “went blue” on 19 November as part of the global Go Blue campaign to celebrate 30 years since the signing of the CRC and to raise awareness about the issue of child rights.



Children and young people ask leaders and stakeholders to sign their pledge and commit to advancing child rights in Tanzania. Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/Studio 19

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Children launched 'The Children & Young People's Agenda' and leaders, including Former President H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, signed a pledge to reaffirm their commitment to supporting child rights in Tanzania. President Mwinyi ratified The Convention on the Rights of the Child in Tanzania in 1991. **Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/Studio 19**



Former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi reaffirm his commitment to supporting child rights in Tanzania, 30 years after he ratified The Convention on the Rights of the Child. **Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/Studio 19**



Children and young people look to government to intensify efforts to advance child rights in Tanzania. Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/Studio 19



Tanzanian singer Mimi Mars is joined by children on stage while making a surprise performance. She sang “Watoto ni taifa la kesho!” – a song she wrote for the children of Tanzania to mark 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Photo | UNICEF Tanzania/Studio 19

SPECIAL REPORT II : ACCELERATING EFFORTS TOWARDS ZERO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Hon. Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Seniors and Children, and Ms. Hodan Addou, UN Women Representative, share a moment with girls who attended the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign in Dodoma. **Photo | UN Women Tanzania**

On 25 November 2019, Hon. Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, launched the 16 Days of Activism in Dodoma – a global campaign which runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to Human Rights Day on 10 December – pledging the Government’s continued

commitment to accelerating efforts with its partners to end gender-based violence (GBV) in Tanzania.

Coinciding with 16 Days of Activism, four additional Police Gender and Children’s Desks (PGCDs) were opened in Mara Region to strengthen prevention and response services for women and children who are or have been subjected to violence. Mr. Simon Sirro,

Tanzania’s Inspector General of Police, officially opened UNFPA-supported desks in Bunda, Butiama (Mwitongo) and Serengeti Districts, and UN Women’s-supported desk in Butiama District (Kiabakari). Gender-based violence (GBV) survivors in these communities can now access health, legal and psychosocial services at the PGCDs and receive the support they need to start rebuilding their lives.

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The Police Gender and Children's Desk in Serengeti District, Mara Region, will ensure that survivors of violence receive the timely care and support they need to start rebuilding their lives. The desk, which was constructed through UNFPA support, was officially opened by the Mr. Simon Sirro, Inspector General of the Police (centre). To his immediate right is Ms. Jacqueline Mahon, UNFPA Representative.. **Photo | UNFPA Tanzania/Warren Bright**

As part of wider commemorations for 16 Days of Activism, 230 traditional leaders from nine regions renounced child marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices that violate the human rights of women and children at a two-day event organized by UN Women in Mwanza, establishing regional committees to sustain their advocacy work towards ending violence against women and girls. In

Kigoma, over 7,000 people were reached with messages to raise awareness of the harmful effects and impact of violence against women and girls at a UN Women-supported event.

And, in recognition of the role the media can play in shaping policy dialogue and raising awareness of GBV, Dr Harrison Mwakymbe, Minister for Information, Culture, Artists and Sports, launched UN

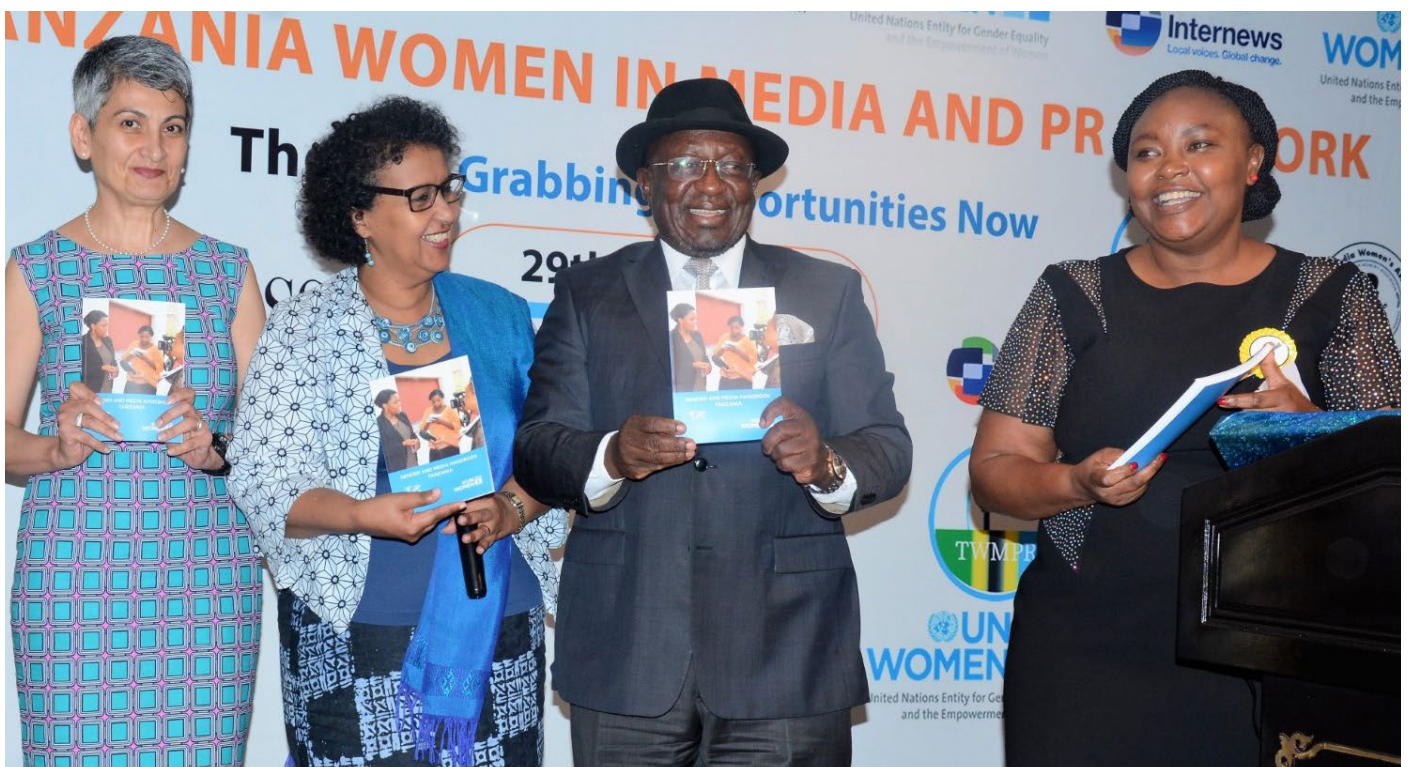
Women's Gender and Media Handbook. Speaking at the launch, Ms Hodan Addou, UN Women Representative in Tanzania, advocated for the mainstreaming of gender into media law and editorial policies, reiterating both UN Women's commitment – and the United Nations Agencies delivering as one in Tanzania – to intensifying efforts to end GBV and advance gender equality in Tanzania.

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Traditional leaders from nine different regions across the country committed to intensifying efforts to end violence against women and girls at the community level. **Photo | UN Tanzania/Edgar Kiliba**



Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe, Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, launches the Gender and Media Handbook developed by UN Women. **Photo | UN Women Tanzania**

BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MENSTRUATION IN KIGOMA



UNFPA is supporting girls in Kigoma to reach their full potential.
Photo | UNFPA/Karliene Truyens

“Many families in my village send their daughter to a friend’s or relatives house when she has her period”, says Aziah, * one of 650 adolescent girls who have attended education sessions that promote healthy menstrual hygiene management (MHM) at Nyarugusu Camp youth centre. The sessions are part of activities under the United Nations Population Fund’s (UNFPA) four-year Ujana Wangu Nguvu Yangu (My Youth, My Power) project, funded by Irish Aid, which is responding to the unique sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and young people living in four districts of Kigoma Region Kasulu DC, Kasulu TC, Kibondo DC and Kakonko

DC with targeted support to young people living in the three refugee camps in Kigoma region.

Puberty and menstruation can be confusing times for adolescents, particularly if they have no one to speak to at home or at school about the changes they are experiencing and challenging for the girls of Kigoma where stigma and social norms mean that this healthy biological process can restrict their daily activities and lead to isolation. For many of the young girls the MHM sessions are the first opportunity they’ve ever had to openly discuss their periods, ask questions, and realize that it’s a normal part of their adolescence and

lives. Zainab, * aged 14, now understands about the menstrual cycle and why she has periods. She says like many of her friends she used to miss school and stay at home during her monthly cycle. In addition to the sessions at Nyarugusu Camp youth centre, peer educator MHM outreach has also reached over 500 adolescent girls and young women in local communities in project districts.

Kagoma, * who recently attended a His Chance workshop in Kasulu, now understands that menstruation is a natural bodily function and that there is no reason why his mother or sister’s movements should be restricted during their period. Kagoma is one of 1,260 young men and adolescent boys from the local community and Nyarugusu Camp who have been sensitized about MHM so that they can support their female peers and challenge the culture of silence and shame that exists around menstruation.

Going into the second year of the Ujana project, efforts will be accelerated to build effective and sustainable MHM programmes so that every girl in Kigoma is supported and empowered to learn and reach her full potential.

COMMUNITIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN ENDING AIDS



Dr. Leo Zekeng, UNAIDS Tanzania Country Director (right), welcomes Hon. Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (centre) and Hon. Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (left) to the UN Tanzania exhibition during World AIDS Day Commemorations.

Photo | UN Tanzania/Istan Mutashobya

On December 1st every year the world commemorates World AIDS Day (WAD) to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

WAD is also an occasion to rally renewed support for the HIV response in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030.

In Tanzania, WAD was commemorated with a week of activities in Mwanza, organized by the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Mwanza Regional Authorities, civil society and development

partners, including the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This year's theme 'Communities make the difference' paid tribute to the role that communities play in ending AIDS as a public health threat.

Hon. Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office for Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, was guest of honour on WAD commemorations on December 1st, and was joined by Hon. George Mkuchika, Minister of State in the President's Office for Good Governance, Presi-

dent's Office; and Hon. Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, as well as Regional Commissioners.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Mhagama noted the decline in HIV prevalence since 2014 now at 4.7 per cent compared to 7 per cent and that 75 per cent of people living with HIV are now on antiretroviral treatment, a huge increase over the last decade. She encouraged everyone to be tested for HIV and to seek early treatment if found to be positive to accelerate efforts to stop new infections.

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World AIDS Day Week 2019 opens with a charity walk through Mwanza for the national AIDS Trust Fund. Photo | UN Tanzania/Istan Mutashobya

She also called for a well-coordinated, multisectoral and strengthened collaborative HIV response to reach the three zeros by 2030 zero new

HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Dr. Leo Zekeng, UNAIDS

Country Director, speaking on behalf of the UN in Tanzania, commended the government for its efforts in responding to HIV and AIDS, and for the recent amendments in Parliament that lower the voluntary HIV testing age from 18 to 15 years.

Throughout the week of WAD celebrations implementing partners, civil society and development partners exhibited their work in the grounds of the Rock City Mall in Mwanza, attracting more than 2,000 visitors who were able to learn more about HIV and AIDS. A total of 2,265 people used the occasion to test themselves for HIV, while others donated blood or were screened for cervical cancer.



More than 2,000 people visited the grounds of the Rock City Mall, Mwanza, during World AIDS Day celebrations. Photo | Magnus Minja/ILO Tanzania

OYSTERBAY FARMERS MARKET HANDED OVER TO A LOCAL COOPERATIVE



Standing in a group from left to right are Ms. Felista Kimalele, Local vendor; Ms. Wendy Bigham, WFP Deputy Country Director; Ms. Ruth Sabai, Swahili Farmers Market Cooperative Chairperson; Mr. Jose Correia Nunes, Head of Development Cooperation for the Delegation of the EU to Tanzania and the EAC; and Mr. Gabriele Maneo, CEFA Country Director, after the handover ceremony of the Oysterbay Farmers Market to the Swahili vendors. Photo | UNIC/Laurean Kiiza

In late 2019, the World Food Programme (WFP) and European Union (EU) handed over the Oysterbay Farmers Market (OFM) to the Swahili Farmers Market Cooperative – a newly-founded organization made up of local farmer market vendors.

The Oysterbay Farmers Market was founded in 2013 by the WFP in collaboration with CEFA - an Italian NGO - and has been funded by the EU since 2017 under the Boresha Lishe nutrition project.

For the last two years, the WFP and EU have used Oysterbay Farmers Market as a forum

to promote accomplishments under the Boresha Lishe project as well as to promote nutrition and healthy diets through a nutrition-themed Farmers Market that started in November 2018.

“It has been exciting to be part of the journey of the Oysterbay Farmers Market,” said Wendy Bigham, WFP Tanzania Deputy Country Director. “In the beginning the Market was set up to mobilize the urban community around local food production. Today it has gone way beyond that.”

During the event, Jose Correia Nunes, Head of Development

Cooperation for the EU, said the Farmers Market has been an opportunity for small scale farmers to increase their income and to achieve food security and there can be no doubt that markets play a big role in social and economic development.

CEFA supported the transition of the market through the formation and registration of the Cooperative as well as capacity building development.

Ruth Sabai, chairperson of the Swahili Farmers Market Cooperative, thanked the EU, the WFP and CEFA for their support since 2013, and added that: “Vendors in the Farmers Market are groups of small producers or family farmers involved in commercial industry and the market has provided them with an opportunity to become more competitive and to increase profits.”

From the end of 2019, the Oysterbay Farmers Market will be operated by the Swahili Farmers Market Cooperative.

“We would like to commend CEFA and the vendor committee for a job well done, and we wish them the best going forward,” said Ms. Bigham.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS

January 27th - International Day of Commemoration
in Memory of the Victims of Holocaust

February 4th - World Cancer Day

February 6th - International Day of Zero Tolerance
for FGM

February 20th - World Day of Social Justice

A STRONGER UNITED NATIONS FOR A BETTER WORLD



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