



## PRESS RELEASE

UNESCO in close collaboration with Dodoma FM and technical support from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children will on May 28 conduct a 5 days training to 50 community radio practitioners in Tanzania.

The objective of the training is to enhance knowledge of community radio practitioners in designing effective and interactive programs in Sexuality & Reproductive Health (SRH), HIV and AIDS, Gender based Violence (Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Girls Education).

During the session, UNESCO will equip community radio practitioners with the appropriate information, knowledge, and skills to produce and broadcast relevant programs that will influence positive behavior change among young people and the society. Specifically, the training will focus on developing capacity of community radios in particular addressing sexual behaviors that elevate risk of HIV infection, Early & Unintended Pregnancy and Gender Based Violence amongst adolescents and young people in Tanzania through interactive radio programs in line with relevant national SBCC strategies.

Through this training, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children will orient radio practitioners on how to use regional-based FGM messages while producing and broadcasting programs around FGM issues in their respective regions.

Further to the training, all participating radios (25 CRs) will receive seeding funds from UNESCO to facilitate application of skills developed during this training in particular production and broadcasting six-months programs around the areas of HIV, EUP and Gender Based Violence including FGM.

UNESCO acknowledges that while the schools has a key role to play in equipping children and young people through delivering Life skills-based sexuality & reproductive health education curriculum, it alone cannot meet all sexual and reproductive information needs of young people as they transition from children to adulthood. Ever since 2013, UNESCO has been working with broader range of partners including community radios and religious leaders to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention amongst children and young people.

UNESCO's initiatives through its social cultural approach in Ngorongoro district have gained community support and achieved notable impact including change of mind-set of some of the traditional leaders and Ngaribas (the female circumcisers.)

In May 2017, UNESCO conducted a capacity building session to 29 journalists and reporters from 14 community radios (15 male and 14 female) in Bunda to improve the ability of community radios to produce, broadcast and monitor high quality radio programmes on specific issues of local concern mainly girls' education and reproductive health. Each of the participating radio stations managed to identify issues of local concern in their areas on teen pregnancy, child marriage, school dropouts and FGM, where they managed to develop and air radio programs around the identified issues.

The list of CRs benefiting from this training and seeding funds with regions in brackets are Boma Hai (Kilimanjaro), Tripple A and Loliondo (Arusha), ORS (Manyara), Pangani (Tanga), Pambazuko (Morogoro), Nuru (Iringa), Kitulo (Njombe), Ileje (Songwe) and Chai (Mbeya). Others are Dodoma (Dodoma), Kahama (Shinyanga), Sengerema (Mwanza), Storm (Geita), Mazingira (Mara), Kwizera (Kagera), Uvinza (Kigoma), Mpanda (Katavi), Jamii and Fadhila (Mtwara), Ruangwa (Lindi), Mtegani (Unguja South), Tumbatu (Unguja North), Mkoani (Pemba South) and Micheweni (Pemba North).

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