



# WIC NEWS

The monthly Bulletin of the  
Women's Information Centre

## WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE

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## FROM WIC'S MANAGEMENT

Dear reader,

We are happy to present you issue n.3 of the WIC News Bulletin.

In this 3rd edition, in the section *ISSUES*, we are bringing you two articles. The first one is to inform you about the opening, officiated by Dr Asha Rose Migiro (MP), Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, of a vocational training centre for children living in difficult circumstances in Bunju A, in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. The second one is the summary of a presentation made by Dr Moshi from the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), during a workshop held in Kibaha, Coast Region, on "Gender Gaps in HIV/AIDS interventions" organized by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC).

In the section *THE MINISTRY IN ACTION*, we are presenting two more summaries of presentations proposed at the same workshop in Kibaha. The first article is about the new strategy to protect women and children from HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases, presented by the Permanent Secretary of MCDGC, Mrs. Mary Mushi. The second one is a summary of the presentation made by the Director of the Department of Policy and Planning of MCDGC, Mr. John Zayumba, on poverty and HIV infection.

A third article in the same section, provides information about a Judicial Colloquium on the application of human rights law at domestic level, held in Arusha, and jointly organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the MCDGC.

The last article in the section reports on the Ministerial Annual Meeting of the Ministry, held in Dodoma, which put together more than 240 officials with the aim of enhancing the efficiency of the work done by the Ministry at all levels.

The section *WIC DOCUMENTATION CENTRE* continues to provide our readers with suggestions for further reading and with advices for interesting websites to visit, for those interested in getting more information on the topics discussed in this issue.

For any additional information, comment or suggestion on any topic discussed in this issue or in previous one, please do not hesitate to contact us. The contact details are provided on page 8.

Thank you and enjoy the reading.

WIC Management.

## ISSUES

**STREET CHILDREN URGED TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT**

The Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, Dr Asha-Rose Migiro (MP) has urged centres and people dealing with children who are in difficult circumstances to give emphasis and to develop mechanisms to enable the children to become self-reliant.

The remarks were made by the Minister, while officiating Dogodogo Vocational Training Centre at Bunju A, in Dar es Salaam outskirts. She said that many centres, which take care of street children, represent just part of and a temporary solution for problems of children in difficult circumstances.

Dr Migiro further stressed that the society's responsibility is to take care of the street children and to build capacity to ensure that they lead a decent life through self reliance. She praised the new Dogodogo centre, which in additions to offering street children clothing, shelter and food, aims at equipping them with vocational skills that will enable them to become self-reliant.

Welcoming the Minister, the coordinator of the centre Mr Nicholas Shemsanga, said that the centre normally receives children living in difficult conditions between the age of 7 and 17 from different regions, especially from Dodoma, Shinyanga, Mara, Kigoma, Singida and Morogoro.

He explained that the aim of the centre is to help children who are in difficult conditions by providing education, shelter vocational skills, food, counseling and family reunion services. He pointed out that since the establishment of the centre, about 17,600 street children have benefited from the different services offered.

Mr Shemsanga highlighted that the centre has managed to reunite about 609 children with their families, in order to decrease the number of street children in the cities, and to pay school fees for 48 school children, 18 of whom have managed to continue with secondary education. Finally the centre offered vocational training to 42 children.

He said that children have been given information and education about HIV/AIDS, poverty and children rights through drama sessions.

This is one of the seven centres under Dogodogo. Others are Dogodogo Drop in, Kigogo home, Chan'gombe, Mabibo, Kurasini all in Dar es Salaam and Kameco located in Korogwe district in Tanga region.



**Dr Migiro at the  
Dogodogo Vocational  
Training Centre at Bunju A**



**Participants and children of Dogodogo centre.**

## THE STATE OF HIV/AIDS IN TANZANIA

### ISSUES

The Tanzania Commission for AIDS, TACAIDS, has given the latest situation of HIV/AIDS pandemic in the country, 20 years after the first three victims were identified in Kagera Region .

According to statistics presented at a workshop on "Gender gaps in HIV/AIDS interventions" held in Kibaha, Coast Region 3, August 2003, the struggle against HIV infection in Tanzania continues to be unabated.

In a paper on "The State of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania" presented at the workshop by Dr Adeline Moshi from TACAIDS, Dr Moshi illustrated that the HIV infection rate in Tanzania has risen from 7.2 in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2000. "About 2 million people are HIV positive, of whom only 10 per cent are aware of their status and 44 per cent of HIV/AIDS victims are married couples" said Dr. Moshi.

According to the TACAIDS official, patients of HIV/AIDS related diseases are now occupying 50 to 60 per cent of hospital beds, at least 72,000 babies are born HIV positive annually and the number of AIDS orphans is between 1.5 to 2 million.

Amongst the actions taken by the government to control the disease, she mentioned the set up of a Technical Task Force (1983-1984), a Short Term Plan (1984-1985) and three Five Medium -Term Plans or MTP I, II, and III between 1986-2002. The objectives of the plans were to control infections by educating the society, safe blood, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, voluntary counseling and testing and the use of condoms. Other objectives of the plan were to take care for HIV/AIDS victims, orphans and research.

In her paper, Dr Moshi singled out the obstacles undermining the struggle against HIV/AIDS. The main ones being stigma surrounding the disease, causing people not to be open in discussing the pandemic. She also highlighted the poor services available for HIV/AIDS victims. In particular the lack of care and of essential drugs, especially of anti-retroviral drugs which instead help lengthen the lives of HIV/AIDS victims

Dr Moshi noted that there is now a political will to support the struggle. So far, she said, Ministries, City, Municipal and District Councils and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have initiated and are implementing their own HIV/AIDS control programmes. But she emphasized that the major challenge ahead is for every individual to be responsible to protect himself or herself against HIV infection. "It is a responsibility of every individual and of the society as a whole to control AIDS" she said.

It is not the task of Government, nor of TACAIDS, and of Ministries to protect one's health. The Government, TACAIDS and Ministries can only create a conducive environment including mobilizing resources to help individuals to protect themselves.

***"About 2 million people are HIV positive, of whom only 10 per cent are aware of their status and 44 per cent of HIV/AIDS are married couples"***

## STRATEGY TO PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN AGAINST HIV

THE MINISTRY  
IN ACTION

The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC) has unveiled a strategy to protect women and children against HIV infection and other Sexually Transmitted Infections.

The strategy was announced by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Ms Mary Mushi, at a workshop to identify "Gender Gaps in HIV/AIDS interventions" held in Kibaha, Coast Region 3 August 2003.

"We, in the development community, believe that HIV/AIDS is a social disaster and that efforts to eradicate the scourge should involve every member of the family and society whether at home or at place of work," she said.

Mrs Mushi told workshop participants, that although the HIV/AIDS strategy targets women and children it would be implemented by the whole society by involving men as well.

"Taking into account the traditional norms of most Tanzanians, men can make a difference in the struggle against HIV infection to save their own lives and also of their wives and children. Therefore any achievement of the strategy, to a large extent, will depend on men" she said.

She explained that the strategy against the spread of HIV infection aims at women and children through societal efforts led mainly by men, whose change in their behavior would mean a success in the war against the scourge.

The Permanent Secretary of the MCDGC told the workshop that according to a research carried out by the hospital in 2000, at least 10 per cent of the babies get infected while in the womb, 20 per cent during delivery and 10 per cent after delivery through breast-feeding.

In her opening speech, Ms Mushi added that another group in the society should be given priority in implementing the Ministry's strategy against HIV/AIDS, namely the youth, who represents the largest group in the Tanzanian society.

She noted that some youth have no reliable employment, sometimes lack information on their reproductive health and unfortunately parents fail to communicate with them on matters pertaining to sex. "It is our expectations that this strategy will be strengthened by taking into account special needs of this important group in the society" she said. But she emphasized that the main task in the whole struggle should be placed on individuals in order to ensure a permanent solution.

Mrs Mushi based her argument on the experience of a Mwanza-based Non-Governmental Organization, Tanzania Netherlands Support to AIDS Control (TANESA) which has been using a participatory approach to combat the disease. Its experience shows that if people are fully involved in initiating and planning strategies to combat the scourge they will be able to understand and identify risk areas of infection and make concrete recommendations to avoid it.

***"We, in the development community, believe that HIV/AIDS is a social disaster and that efforts to eradicate the scourge should involve every member of the family and society whether at home or at place of work"***

## POVERTY AND HIV INFECTION

THE MINISTRY  
IN ACTION

A senior official of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, (MCDGC), has warned that unless the reality of the lives of the poor in the society is changed, they will persist with behaviours which expose them to HIV infection.

The warning was given by the Director of Policy and Planning Division in the Ministry, Mr. John Zayumba, while presenting a paper on "AIDS and Poverty in a Family – Father, Mother, Children, Relatives" at the workshop "Gender Gaps in HIV/AIDS intervention".

He told participants to the workshop, that poor families have a reduced capacity to deal with the effects of morbidity and mortality than richer ones. "These include the absence of savings and other assets which can cushion the impact of illness and death".

He said that in such a situation, HIV/AIDS victims who are poor become on the margins of survival and thus are also unable to deal with the consequent health and other costs such as of drugs, when available, to treat the infections.

Mr. Zayumba warned that against this background, the potential impact of AIDS over the short, medium and long terms may be extremely serious, and as a matter of fact, the situation described above is the actual Tanzanian situation.

He has advised Tanzania to learn from Uganda, where in order to break the HIV Poverty Cycle they have developed simple technologies, which are less labor intensive and which enable people living with HIV/AIDS to continue to create wealth.

According to Mr Zayumba, Uganda has developed a type of coffee plant which grows faster and starts producing within a shorter time, and does not cost much to be taken care. Uganda Government is helping people living with HIV/AIDS to grow fast growing fruits which can fetch quick money, for example passion fruits. "Uganda has introduced simple methodology to grow vegetables with increased production" he said.

Like elsewhere in poor countries, in Tanzania individuals, families and communities are impoverished by their experience of HIV/AIDS in ways that are typical of long drawn-out and terminal illnesses.

It is a feature of HIV infection that it clusters in families with HIV positive parents who in time experience morbidity and mortality.

On coping with HIV and AIDS Mr Zayumba said: "There is an enormous strain on the capacity of families to cope with psycho-social and economic consequences of illness, such that many families experience great distress and often disintegrate as social and economic units."

He conceded that the family is a nucleus of socio-economic development and as such poverty has serious consequences on a family and on the overall development of a country. "Various measures must be taken to break the HIV Poverty Cycle", he emphasized.

***"Poor families have a reduced capacity to deal with the effects of morbidity and mortality than richer ones. These include the absence of savings and other assets which can cushion the impact of illness and death"***

## WOMEN SUFFER AFTER FORCED STAY IN MARRIAGE

THE MINISTRY  
IN ACTION

The High Court Judge in charge of Arusha and Manyara regions, Judge January Msofe, said that some women have become disabled or killed after being forced to live with their cruel husbands.

Judge Msofe made the remarks, while officially opening a three-day Judicial Colloquium on the Application of Human Rights Law at Domestic Level in Arusha. He explained that economic dependence has led women to stay in marriages that are full of tortures and disappointments.

He further pointed out that some men as well suffer quietly in relationships whereby they are being subjected to brutality, since tradition has made it shameful for a man to be beaten by a woman. They would rather keep quiet, than come out to admit brutality by women.

However, Judge Msofe said it was becoming increasingly urgent and important that securing rights for women be regarded as central to development by both women and men. As a matter of policy and practice, one of the most significant developments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been the declaration on gender and development adopted by the heads of state of SADC in September 1997 and the addendum on the prevention and eradication of violence against women and children in the SADC region.

Judge Msofe highlighted the importance of the UNDP's Human Development Report, which characterises development as a process of enlarging people's choices. He added that it is not possible to enlarge people's choices without increasing their opportunities, their access to resources, their capacity and ability to fully participate in all aspects of development of the society.

In her welcoming remarks, on behalf of Carolyn Hannan, Director of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW) in New York, Ms Christine Brautigam, said that the Judicial Colloquium for the African region builds on similar events organized by UNDAW such as the one in 1999 to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the one in 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand, for the Asian region.

She added that at such events judges and magistrates, representing most legal cultures and traditions, considered the application of international human rights laws at the national level as a strategy to advance the rights of women.

The participants to the three day meeting focused on key areas of concern, namely:

- i. nationality marriage and family relations
- ii. violence against women
- iii. work-related rights of women and girls

The meeting provided an opportunity for judicial practitioners from developing countries to examine how international human rights laws can be used at the domestic level to achieve equality for women and girls.

The participants to the three day colloquium, organized by UNDAW in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, were judges and senior magistrates from 17 African countries.

*"It is not possible to enlarge people's choices without increasing their opportunities, their access to resources, their capacity and ability to fully participate in all aspects of development of the society"*

## MINISTERIAL ANNUAL MEETING

THE MINISTRY  
IN ACTION

The role of Community Development Officers (CDOs) as agents of change has been underlined by the Regional Commissioner for Dodoma, Alhaj Musa Nkangaa. He made this remark while officially opening the third annual meeting for the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC) which brought together the Ministry, Regional Community Development Advisers, Executives, the District Community Development Officers, and Principals of Folk Community Officers, and Development Training Institutes.

The Regional Commissioner said that the CDO's are instrumental in coordinating the work of people in implementing government policies in all sectors including agriculture, education, health, water, security and good governance. He added that there is ample evidence that where other ministries have involved CDOs, great changes have taken place. He further pointed out that "the community development cadre is therefore a catalyst of change in all sectors of development". He urged the cadre to use its expertise to control the spread of HIV/AIDS and requested anti-HIV/AIDS campaigners to utilize the community development cadre. He also urged the participants to the meeting to get closer and closer to people, and to use their ability and skills to support their development. Alhaj Nkangaa urged participants to encourage people in the villages to take their children to school and to let them undergo vaccination.

In her welcoming remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the MGDGC, Ms Mary Mushi, said that the aim of the meeting was to bring together all the experts to exchange ideas and to strengthen responsibilities. She added that it was important to discuss the responsibilities of the workers of community development, gender and children development and to lay down a strategy of cooperation between the ministry, the regions, the districts, and the colleges for the implementation development plans in coordination with other ministries with common goals.

Among the fifteen topics discussed the major issues were HIV/AIDS poverty, child labour financial auditing. The officers from the regions and districts were reminded that their offices are the gender focal points and that they must collect gender disaggregated data.

Closing the meeting, the Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children, Hon Shamim Khan (MP) urged city municipal/town directors to allocate 10% of their budgets for credit to women and youth. Hon Khan commended 30 districts in the country, which are already contributing and implementing the women development funds, as recommended by a 2002 government directive. She also commended the districts of Iringa, Sengerema, Kondoa, Kwimba, Geita, Hanang, Mbulu, Ngorongoro, Mwanza and Arusha municipalities for sending back funds with interest and urged other municipalities to send back money in order for other women to benefit from loans. Those who do so get more money for credit to the women. She finally urged participants to the meeting to urge their leaders in the regions, districts, towns and municipalities to deal with the issue of HIV/AIDS.

More than 240 officials attended the meeting, aimed at developing strategies to boost the efficiency of the work done by the Ministry at all levels.



**MCDGC officials at the Ministerial Annual Meeting**



## WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE

Kivukoni Front  
P.O Box 3448  
Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania

Phone +255 22 2111 459.  
Fax: +255 22 2110 933.  
Email: info\_wic@uccmail.co.tz

info\_wic@uccmail.co.tz



Desk editor: Emyy  
Marealle  
Graphics: Sophia  
M.Chando

Pictures:  
Page 1-5: MCDGC and  
WIC

The views expressed in  
this bulletin do not  
necessarily represent the  
views of the Ministry of  
Community Development,  
Gender and Children.

### WIC DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

In its endeavor to educate the community on its core role of bringing about gender mainstreaming in various social and economic aspects in the country, the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children organized a workshop on 'Gender gaps in HIV/AIDS interventions' in Kibaha. Some of the key documents on the topics discussed are available at WIC information documentation/centre : "*The Impact of HIV/AIDS: a population and development perspective*"; "*Street Children in Mwanza: a situation analysis*" and "*The rights of women and girls in Tanzania: a study on KAP with a gender perspective in twelve selected districts*".

ABSTRACTS OF KEY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO ISSUE No.3

**1. *The Impact of HIV/AIDS: a population and development perspective-UNFPA,2003.***

This is a comprehensive UNFPA report on the assessment of HIV/AIDS impact on population and development. It provides an important analytical tool for understanding how communities and societies are affected by and are responding to the pandemic. Since the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a global phenomena, effective response to the pandemic calls for concerted efforts, to enhance the possibility of dealing effectively and simultaneously with the critical issues of both poverty and HIV/AIDS in their many direct and indirect manifestations.

**2. *Street Children in Mwanza: a situation analysis-Rajani R. and Kudrati M., 1994***

This is a research report carried out by Kuleana Center for children's rights with support from UNICEF. The report is the result of a seven-month field research done in Mwanza. It traces the reasons behind and the structure of children leaving on the streets of the Municipality. It is a useful tool for all those concerned with the plight of street children in Tanzania. The report concludes with specific recommendations for action.

**3. *The rights of women and girls in Tanzania: a study on KAP with a gender perspective in twelve selected districts- A. G. Nkhoma-Wamunza...[et al.], 1998***

This document is a research report carried out in 12 selected districts and in selected Ministries and NGOs in Dar es Salaam, whose focus is on education, reproductive rights, participation in decision-making, inheritance rights, sexual harassment and violence against women and girls. The document provides recommendations on awareness creation for women, girls and men on the effective ways of disseminating information and knowledge on these issues to leaders, policy makers, planners and program implementers at various levels.

#### USEFUL LINKS

**1. <http://www.unfpa.org/hiv/strategic/index.htm>**

This is the link to United Nations Population Fund, (UNFPA) Strategic Guidance on HIV Prevention, aiming at providing guidance in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, especially at the country level. It is a useful guide in our planning of action on how we can best impact the intervention programme against the pandemic. It takes into account key issues such as: integration HIV/AIDS issues into country's programmes, countries situations, enabling environment for HIV prevention, new technologies, and regional HIV/AIDS statistics.

**2. <http://www.skcv.com>**

This website designed and maintained by former street children of SKCV Children's Trust (Street Child Rescue Projects). SKCV helps street children who have no other form of support in South India. Through SKCV, multitudes of deprived youngsters are gaining self-confidence and self-esteem, through comprehensive programmes which include shelter, nutrition, skill training, medical aid, recreation and counseling and education enabling their inborn talents and capabilities to unfold naturally.

**3. <http://www.unifem.undp.org/CEDAW/>**

This is a link site of UNIFEM official website, aiming at sensitizing the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1979. In essence CEDAW is the international bill of rights for women that requires states to ensure that women enjoy all civil, political, economic and cultural rights. It is a useful resource site for quick reference on the CEDAW and UNIFEM activities, for learners, institutions and various groups.