



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Inception Workshop of the Joint Project for the Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Education**

**23-24 May 2017**

**Protea Courtyard Hotel, Dar es Salaam**

UNESCO, UNFPA and UN Women bring together officials from various Ministries and five districts, namely Ngorongoro in Arusha, Kasulu in Kigoma, Sengerema in Mwanza and Micheweni and Mkoani in Pemba, to discuss and strategize how best to ensure the education of girls and young women in the selected districts over the next four years.

This inception meeting aims to kick off a Five Million USD project funded by the Korea International Development Agency (KOICA) through UNESCO, by having the beneficiary districts reflect on the constraints to girls' education in their localities, and design strategies to tackle those in an articulate manner so that girls have the opportunity to develop their full potential to become fully-fledged citizens.

This project is part of the Global Initiative by UNESCO, UNFPA and UN Women for the Empowerment of Girls through Education, launched in six countries around the world. The first phase targets three countries, namely Mali, Nepal and Tanzania and was signed in late 2016. The Ministry of Education, Science and Vocational Training; the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; and the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs coordinate the project on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. On behalf of the United Nations in Tanzania, UNESCO assumes the coordination role for the project, and implements jointly with UNFPA and UN Women.

The event will facilitate the selection of target communities and schools, based on district demographics and socio-economic profiles, to develop district specific roadmaps, and identify focal persons at district level to ensure smooth implementation of the project.

The project is expected to benefit directly nearly 8,000 in-school girls and 600 out-of-school girls and young women, providing them with opportunities to improve their basic, vocational and soft skills, which will enable them to become better global and local citizens, and contribute fully to Tanzania's development.

This will be achieved through fostering collaborative modalities between different sectors and institutions with a focus on improving service delivery to girls and young women; mobilizing communities against harmful practices like early marriage and FGM as well as providing opportunities for out-of-school adolescent girls who dropped out of school or who have missed out on formal education.

The workshop will be officiated by Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Leonard Akwilapo; the Director of KOICA Tanzania Office, Mr Joonsung Park; the UNESCO Head of Office and Representative, Ms Zulmira Rodrigues; the UNFPA Representative, Dr Hashina Begum; and the UN Women Representative Officer in Charge Ms Hodan Addou. The inception workshop will take place at the Protea Courtyard Hotel from 23 to 24 May.

More information about the work that UNESCO has carried out in relation to Education can be found at <http://www.unescodar.or.tz>

**Media enquiries: contact**

UNESCO Dar Office, Tanzania | Mairead de Faoite| +255 769 626 794| [m.defaoite@unesco.org](mailto:m.defaoite@unesco.org)