



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Dar es Salaam Office

PRESS RELEASE

Dissemination meeting for impact evaluation on community-based intervention to tackle violence and discrimination against people with albinism

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Protea Courtyard Hotel, Dar es Salaam

UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office is organising a meeting on 7th November in the Protea Courtyard Hotel, to disseminate the impact evaluation report on its intervention in support of people with albinism (PWA). The meeting will be officiated by Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, the honourable Dr Abdallah Possi.

PWA in Tanzania face wide-spread discrimination and attacks which stem largely from various harmful beliefs that the body-parts of PWA bring wealth and good fortune, that PWA are cursed and regarded as people with misfortune, that sexual intercourse with a person with albinism will cure HIV/AIDS or even that they are not human beings at all. Between the years 2000- 2015 over 150 attacks were recorded in Tanzania and due to the secretive nature of such violence, it's thought that many murders and attacks have gone unreported.

Over the past 2 years, UNESCO in collaboration and consultation with a broad range of partners has carried out multi-sectorial interventions aimed at tackling violence and discrimination against people with albinism. The interventions at community level were carried out in four districts, namely; Misungwi and Sengerema in Mwanza, Msalala in Shinyanga and Bariadi in Simiyu, areas in which PWA were at a higher risk of attack. The objectives of these interventions were to empower community leaders to mobilize and sensitize communities in relation to people with albinism, to promote positive attitudes, perceptions and practices towards people with albinism amongst community and family members and to improve quality of services and care provided to children with albinism at Buhangija residential centre and Mitindo school through training of care-givers.

As part of this program, in August 2016, UNESCO engaged a consultant to evaluate the intervention, in particular to examine the effectiveness of the intervention in relation to its relevance, effectiveness, inclusiveness and sustainability. The consultant has now completed this evaluation and her completed evaluation will be distributed to key Ministry, district council, UN and NGO partners at the meeting on 7th November. The report found that substantial changes in people's beliefs, knowledge and perceptions regarding people with albinism have occurred and that it had been instrumental in empowering government and local leaders to mobilize and sensitize communities to support people with albinism.

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



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About UNESCO:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) and promotes international co-operation among its 195 Member States and eight Associate Members to contribute to the building of a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO is particularly well placed to intervene in relation to people with albinism due to a number of factors. UNESCO employs a multi-sectorial approach whereby culture, education, science and communications and information are engaged. In order to achieve the goal of supporting communities to protect the rights and wellbeing of people with albinism, this multi-sectorial approach is vital. The cornerstone of UNESCO's approach in relation to transforming harmful cultural practices is the socio-cultural approach. This approach considers that behavior is shaped by socialization taking place in a specific cultural context, therefore, it is through the same socialization process that behavior change needs to be targeted. It considers that all activities must be tailored to the local context, that a diverse range of key community stakeholders must be targeted and considers these community stakeholders as key partners in transforming harmful cultural beliefs as they are their custodians. These key community stakeholders are all leaders within their community and serve a key role in influencing their fellow community members.

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