Message From the Head of Office, UNESCO Dar es Salaam

Dear readers, friends and colleagues,

Albeit a bit late, we are happy to share with you the last Newsletter of 2015.

We will not reflect on the year’s events but instead will let you know what we were up to during the last 3 months of the past year.

I think the most important event was surely the elections, to which we may proudly say, we have greatly contributed for being peaceful. Indeed, COMNETA, the Community Radios Network of Tanzania received a letter of appreciation from the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania Mainland for well rendered services in the electoral process.

In addition, we have concluded the evaluation of the Young Mothers Second Chance Education project, funded by our Japanese partners. Definitely the project has not only given hope and perspective to 149 young mothers and their children, but it has also demonstrated its value now that Regional Administration of Shinyanga has adopted the programme and budgeted for its continuation.

Another positive note is that the Dar Office has managed to reinforce its Education and Communication and Information programmes. A 4M USD project was signed with Swiss Embassy in Dar es Salaam to support sustainability of 20 Community Radios. Another 1.9M USD were mobilised for supporting innovative approaches for early literacy and numeracy of children through a partnership with XPRIZE. This project, may be a breakthrough for the millions of out of school children around the world.

In addition, over 0.5M USD were raised from GIZ-BACKUP and GPE to support the Ministry of Education, Sciences, Technology and Vocational Training in the undertaking of the Education Sector Analysis and the elaboration of the 2016 - 2021 Education Sector Development Plan. The latter is bringing the best of UNESCO’s capacities together as IIEP, UIS, UIL and UNESCO HQs and the Dar Office team up together for this key planning exercise.

We are happy to inform that we have rallied the traditional leaders of Maasai in Ngorongoro to abolish the harmful practices of Female Genital Mutilation as well as child marriage. This is proof that culture is not static and communities are bale to change!

Less cheerful was that we had to say goodbye to our colleague Al Amin who became the Regional Advisor for Communication in the UNESCO New Delhi. We wish him well of course but we will definitely miss his smiley face as well as his great expertise.
UNESCO Dar es Salaam signs over 2M USD agreements for early literacy and numeracy development through ICTs and open source technologies

In December 2015, UNESCO and the XPRIZE signed an agreement for nearly 2M USD for a partnership for the implementation of a project titled “Xprize Project for Promotion of Early Learning through Innovative Technologies in Tanzania”. The project intends to support the development of software solutions aimed at accelerating child-driven learning. The project will enable the testing of open software solutions that are being developed through a competition. The project will benefit nearly 40,000 children who will be given access to learning through digital modes in Swahili in Tanzanian Tanga region and part of the Ngorongoro District in the Arusha Region.

The XPRIZE Foundation is an educational non-profit organization whose mission is to bring about radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity. The Foundation addresses the world’s Grand Challenges by creating and managing large-scale, high-profile, incentivized prize competitions that stimulate investment in research and development worth far more than the prize itself. It motivates and inspires brilliant innovators from all disciplines to leverage their intellectual and financial capital.

The project is expected to address the learning crisis for out-of-school children in the world in a cost effective and time effective manner.

UNESCO signs agreement with GIZ and GPE for support to Government in the elaboration of the Education Sector Development Plan

Following a request by the Education authorities in Tanzania, UNESCO has successfully concluded an agreement with GIZ-Backup and GPE (Global Partnerships for Education) for the underrating of the Education Sector Analysis and the elaboration for the Education Sector Development Plan, respectively. The financial contribution amounting 0.5M USD will enable exchanges between interaction and national experts of the different subsectors of the Education System in a joint exercises to arrive at the plan that will steer the country’s education Agenda over the next 5 years.

The exercise, coordinated by the UNESCO Dar Es Salaam Office is technically lead by the UNESCO International Institute of Education Planning in Paris and counts with the technical and financial support of the UNESCO Institute of Life Long Learning in Hamburg, the UNESCO Institute of Statistics through the Africa Advisor in Dakar, the Teachers, the Technical and Vocational Training and the Higher Education Units of the Education Sector in Paris.

This exercise is the first of its nature where UNESCO diverse capacities in Education are brought together in an effort to support a Member State to further its development agenda and can indeed be consider a best practice for SDG 17 in the promotion of partnerships for development within the context of the SDG4 advancement.
The result of a 3 years project, supported by the Japanese UNESCO fund in trust, targeting teenage mothers who were forced out of secondary schools due to teenage pregnancies was presented in an event held in Dar es Salaam in early December 2015.

The project, “Provision of Alternative Learning Opportunities for Adolescent Girls Forced Out of School Due to Teenage Pregnancies”, has enabled 149 teenage mothers to re-gain access to education through open and distance learning, a modality used for non-formal education. These girls were excluded from furthering their education and denied their basic right to education as well as the opportunity to improve their lives.

The success of the project was demonstrated in the final evaluation report as well by the testimonies delivered by 2 representatives of the teenage mother, the Regional Administrative Secretary of Shinyanga and several of his District Council Commissioners.

In Shinyanga, the number of girls dropping out of school due to pregnancy is high. Cultural norms and traditions such as the high bride price offered for young girls in the region are said to encourage poor families to marry off their daughters early, and this is supported by a legal framework allowing girls to be married as young as 15 years old. In addition poor knowledge about their own sexual contribute to teenage pregnancy. Country wide, yearly, at least 7,500 girls are forced to abandon school due to teenage pregnancy.

The event was officiated by the Commissioner of Education, Professor Eustella Bhalalusesa, alongside several dignitaries including the Ambassador of Japan in Tanzania, H.E. Masaharu Yoshida, UNESCO Dar es Salaam Head of Office and Representative, Ms Zulmira Rodrigues, and the Shinyanga Regional Administrative Secretary, Mr Abdoul Rashid Dachi.
Tanzania, for the first time ever, has commemorated World Science Day for Peace and Development, two months after the agreement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that embodies a new vision for humanity, planet, and peace for the next 15 years.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development commemoration aimed at reminding Tanzanian decision-makers of the need to link science, technology, and innovation (STI) with sustainable national economic development for a knowledge-driven economy, greater productivity, and employment. The event was also intended to highlight the need to link STI with environmental protection, including increased preparedness for tackling the effects of climate change.

The commemoration, which took place in Dar es Salaam on the 10th November 2015 in Dar es Salaam, was organized by UNESCO Dar es Salaam in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication Science and Technology and was attended, government officials including the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication, Science, and Technology, who was also the guest of honour, Dr Yamungu Kayandabila, representatives from the academia, the private sector, and the media.
Tanzanian heritage management and conservation stakeholders convened in Dar es Salaam in October 2015 to discuss sustainable environmental preservation, increased local community ownership of natural resources, and heritage tourism that will benefit Tanzania. This is in response to increasing pressure for the government to justify the economic contribution of protected areas to national development and the livelihoods of communities adjacent to these areas.

The workshop was organised by the UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office in collaboration with the Antiquities Division of the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), bringing together managers from key heritage sites: Kilwa Ruins, Kondoa Rock Art, Serengeti and East Usambara Nature Reserve, The Lake Manyara MAB among others. The event launches the initiation of an intervention aimed at building management capacity as requested by the Division of Antiquities, the entity overseeing the World Heritage Sites in Tanzania.

The meeting was officiated by the Permanent Secretary of MNRT, Dr Adelhelm Meru, who thanked UNESCO for bringing together managers from the World Heritage Sites and Man and Biosphere Reserves programmes and key stakeholders in the country to discuss issues of management. He underscored the need for shared responsibilities between local communities and government regarding heritage site management, including shared benefits. This global recognition has come from the increased understanding of the role protected areas can play in the livelihoods of local communities.

The UNESCO Dar es Salaam Head of Office and Representative, Ms Zulmira Rodrigues, stated that these sites are sources of income, enjoyment, and education; therefore, there is a need to unleash their potential. She emphasized that community ownership and engagement in the heritage sites and biosphere reserves is key to sustainability, and that local communities need to be viewed and treated as partners instead of as a threat to the sites.

The participants from national and local government, civil society, academia, and heritage and biosphere reserves management discussed how to improve the prospects of the sites. They agreed on the drafting of a roadmap to address the challenges of management of the sites, in particular around capacity building for the promotion of the natural and cultural heritage, partnering with the communities, diversifying the tourist products and areas, and promoting sustainability of the heritage resources.
Within the framework of the UNESCO project “Empowering Local Radios with ICTs”, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation, UNESCO Dar es Salaam conducted a training aimed at improving cultural sensitivity and professionalism in programming of 12 members of Loliondo Community Radio in Loliondo District, Ngorongoro in November 2015.

The training was developed to improve participants’ knowledge and ability to manage radio news and programming to meet the information needs of their community audience; to develop content objectively and fairly, with balanced views and promotion of gender equality; and to establish programming guidelines and operations to encourage community participation. Through the training the participants were able to understand the concept of gender, list issues of concern related to culture and gender, develop content messages, and develop programme matrices to be used in programming. The participants showed improvements in generating story ideas and creative thinking.

Given the role that community radios play in raising awareness, promoting dialogue and addressing social norms at the community level, UNESCO Dar es Salaam will continue working with Loliondo Community Radio to ensure that it is culturally and gender sensitive, and to expand the coverage and outreach of UNESCO’s socio-cultural programme in Ngorongoro.

Loliondo Community Radio will play a pivotal role in rolling out sexual reproductive health programmes for young people and promote other relevant projects initiated by UNESCO.
Participants of a four-day workshop on ICTs for news correspondents held in Sengerema, Mwanza from 26 – 29 November 2015 applauded the training by appealing to UNESCO to scale up the training to other community media support staff.

In evaluating the workshop, most correspondents said other community media support staff such as accountants and financial officers need to be equipped with ICTs as most of them lack the knowledge and skills to improve professional performance in their duties. New skills will help staff to be more efficient in programming and financial records keeping, enhance sustainability of the radio stations, and improve free flow of information for a wider coverage.

The ICT training for news desks is one in a series to roll out across the country to local radio stations over the next three years, under the framework of the UNESCO project “Empowering Local Radios with ICTs”, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The workshop, which brought together 22 correspondents from 10 community radios, intended to impart knowledge and skills on basic computer packages, such as Microsoft Office; on effective internet use; on operating sound recorders and machines; and on practicing mobile applications. The workshop also intended to establish and improve communication systems, such as information sharing procedures between the community and radio stations; code of ethics; principles of community relations; programme monitoring; radio production; visual communications such as the use of pictures, graphics, and video; and social media use for information dissemination and monitoring.

The project is implemented under the umbrella of the Community Media Network of Tanzania (COMNETA), enabling 20 community radio stations to apply best business and professional practice in the production of high quality content that aims to enhance credibility of the radio station to the community.
A three-day workshop was held in October 2015 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha East African Community (EAC), bringing together five EAC Community Media representatives, the UNESCO Chair on Community Radio of Hyderabad, India and the UNESCO Dar es Salam Office in Tanzania.

35 participants from community radio stations from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda joined the facilitators teams from the University of Hyderabad and the Dar Office to work on a “Community Radio Continuous Improvement”.

During the workshop, UNESCO pledged to continue the organization’s support to community media initiatives in Tanzania as well as opening up cooperation with community media in the EAC Region to promote increased access information, particularly to populations in hard to reach rural communities.

The host of the event, the EAC Deputy Secretary in charge of Finance and Administration, Mr. Liberat Mfumukeko, welcomed the initiative and requested UNESCO support to strengthen the EAC role in supporting Community Radios in the region in promoting awareness, debate and involvement of the broad range of stakeholders on the EAC integration. He urged the media to embrace regional integration with passion, dedication and commitment for the benefit of the present and future generations of East Africa, adding that the Secretariat would continue to partner with the media in sensitizing stakeholders on the integration process.

UNESCO is committed to furthering support to the Community Media Network in Tanzania and strengthening partnerships for sustainability within its networks.
Tanzania commemorates International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

A national consultation on the situation of the safety of journalists was held on 24 November 2015 in Dar es Salaam in commemoration of International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. This was the first commemoration in Tanzania, covering issues that are pertinent to build and maintain a safer environment for journalists. This commitment among media stakeholders, including media owners, the government, and development partners, was sealed by a “proposal for a resolution on action for joint partnership for the safety of journalists and media workers”. The event was opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, and the UNESCO Head of Office and Representative. UNESCO disseminated key resources to stakeholders including the Handbook for the Safety and Protection of Journalists; UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity; and World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Special Digital Focus 2015.

Democratic process votes in new community media network management

On 3 October 2015, UNESCO supported the election of the new executive committee of the Community Media Network of Tanzania (COMNETA). COMNETA is the umbrella media network that receives funds from UNESCO for the “Empowering Local Radios with ICTs” project through the Swedish International Development Cooperation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The new Chairperson of COMNETA, Mr Joseph Sekiku, commended the move as a step in the right direction towards strengthening COMNETA’s management structure through a democratic transition. He further credited the election as a show of growth of COMNETA, which was formalized in 2012. COMNETA currently has a membership of over 100 community radios that collectively reach over 16 million people in rural communities across Tanzania.

UNESCO will continue to provide support and mentorship to COMNETA to ensure that effective and efficient management systems are further strengthened to build accountability, transparency, and professionalism of the network in delivering service to its members, partners, and hard to reach communities.
UNESCO through the United Nations Development Programme-funded “Democratic Empowerment Project” has supported 28 community radios to produce and broadcast jingles and feature programmes to promote peace during the critical period of the elections from 16–30 October 2015. Community radios also organized bonanzas and side events to bring communities – including women, youth, and children – together to discuss and build consensus for peace. As a result of this promotion, a common theme organically emerged showing an overwhelming support from audiences and participants to prioritize peace.

Most of the community radios reported a peaceful polling day in their areas on the Tanzania mainland, as well as an overwhelming acceptance of the results announced by National Electoral Commission. Some radios reported that there was a clear understanding and knowledge among listeners of their rights and responsibilities. Furthermore, a common opinion of many listeners to the radios was a shared call for peace.

Overall the community radios’ interactions with their audiences throughout the election period contributed to a positive impact on the situation of peace in their respective areas and provided a safe environment for dialogue on issues of concern. The feedback from the listeners and audiences on the education they received in advance of the election enabled them to register and vote, and helped them to encourage other members of their community to listen to the radio for information and increased understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

UNESCO Dar es Salaam signs $4m agreement for community radio sustainability

In December 2015, UNESCO and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation signed an agreement for partnership for the implementation of a project titled “Empowering Local Radios with ICTs for the Promotion of Rural Citizens’ Participation in Democratic Discourse and Development”. The project aims at strengthening the capacities of Community Radios with the objective of ensure that people in Tanzania – especially the poor and the remote and rural population – have the capacity to make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender responsive, and accurate information and knowledge. The project will address gaps and strengthen efforts for sustainability of the community radios and the umbrella Community Media Network of Tanzania that coordinates them.
It starts with a seed. And as a best practice for business development models adapted by community radios in Tanzania, in this case Orkonorei Community Radio, this seed has fed into a bio-fuel plant that lights up over 100 households in one of the most marginalized communities in Tanzania.

At a National Forum and Workshop on Empowering Local Radios with ICTs that was conducted under the framework of the SIDA Funded Project, Empowering Local Radios with ICTs, 20 community radio managers’ understanding on Sustainable Management of a Local Radio for Income Generation through Entrepreneurship was enhanced by on-site learning of social enterprise projects run to sustain Orkonorei Community Radio. The exchange is part of the support for the strengthening of capacities of local radios, specifically for improving sustainability through knowledge and entrepreneur skills development for complementary income generation.

From the Jathropha seed, the oil that is extracted is converted into biodiesel that generates electricity; and the press cake is used to make soap with the potential to be converted to detoxified animal feed, high-quality organic fertilizer, bio-pesticide or for medicinal purposes.

At the same time, Orkonorei Community Radio showcased how a centuries-old traditional practice led to the development of an award-winning initiative for women in Terrat-Simanjiro.

In the Maasai pastoralist community, the cow is an important source of livelihood and symbol of authority. The only part of a cow that a woman can solely own is the milk. Seeing this as an opportunity, the Institute for Orkonorei Pastoralist Advancement, with UNESCO’s support from the Science Sector, started a factory that now employs up to twenty women and involves dozens of others along the supply chain across several homesteads to produce cheese, yoghurt, and ghee. The “Women’s Factory Project” established in 2008, has grown to win several local and international awards for quality and compliance with sanitation and hygiene regulations. It continues to thrive as a business model for economic growth and women’s empowerment in rural communities.

UNESCO will continue to support and promote best practices for innovation and creative business models for sustainability initiatives such as these, which can be emulated by community radios across Tanzania.

A regal farewell to UNESCO Communications and Information Expert

Colleagues, friends, and work acquaintances got together to bid farewell to Yusuph Al-Amin who had been with UNESCO Dar es Salaam for close to a decade to wish him well on his journey to India in his new appointment as a UNESCO Advisor for Communication and Information.

On his final mission to the Maasai community in Simanjiro District in Manyara, the elders initiated Al-Amin into the group of elders in recognition to his contribution to the establishment of the community radio and for efforts in the development of the community. The inauguration took him through a traditional rite that honoured him with a Maasai title of Laigwanan, meaning ‘Maasai elder’.

It all starts with a seed, a Maasai elder displaying a jatropha seed

UNESCO is welcomed into the group of elders of the Maasai community in Simanjiro

Yusuph Al Amin, Communications National Programme Officer at UNESCO is welcomed into the group of elders of the Maasai community in Simanjiro

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Maasai community leaders (Laigwanans) have adopted the Loliondo Declaration that aims at protecting women and ensuring that their rights are met.

The resolution, signed at the end of a two-day symposium organized by UNESCO Dar es Salaam in October 2015, opposes the traditions and practices which are harmful and affect women and adolescent girls. The adoption and signature is a result of a capacity building intervention that promoted dialogue on sexuality education. After a 3 days debates, the community leaders agreed on changing the practices that harm girls and women wellbeing, in particular female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage.

Community leaders have pledged to use their influential positions to mobilize and educate the community on the need and importance of girls' education and the abandoning of FGM. "I urge my colleagues to educate the community about the effects of female genital mutilation in our community" said Chairman of the Council of Malaigwanan Ngorongoro District, Joseph Oletiripai- bellow in the picture using his thumb to sign the resolution. The declaration also specifies the need of pastoralist communities of stopping forcing girls into marriages.

The signatories of the Loliondo Declaration included traditional healers, and the event was witnessed by the Ngorongoro District Administrative Secretary Mr. Lemuel Alcohol and the UNESCO staff facilitating the training: Mr. Herman Mathias and Ms. Rose Haji Mwalimu.

Twice a year in Ngorongoro, hundreds of girls fall to the horrible faith of having their genital mutilated or run away from their communities in order to escape such a dreadful ordeal.

In an effort to cut down this practice UNESCO has launched a multi-sectoral intervention, known as a “socio-cultural approaches to end harmful practices” in the Ngorongoro District, home to well-known World Heritage Sites, Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, homeland of Maasai people. The two-day symposium was held at the District Council hall under the auspices of the UNESCO Dar es Salaam office in collaboration with Ngorongoro District Council. The initiative is being implemented with funding from Azerbaijan and Sida (Swedish International Development Agency).
### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>Workshop for identification of education priorities for development of the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP)</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam</td>
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<td>29 January – 29 April 2016</td>
<td>Beadwork Training to Maasai Women</td>
<td>Ololosokwan, Arusha</td>
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<td>13 February 2016</td>
<td>World Radio Day</td>
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<td>19 February 2016</td>
<td>Community Art Space (CAS) Steering Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>22 – 24 February 2016</td>
<td>Biodiversity education for radio journalists and secondary school teachers and students</td>
<td>Ololosokwan, Arusha</td>
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<td>22 February – 04 March 2016</td>
<td>Training in ICT integration in teaching Science and Mathematics for tutors from Monduli and Tabora Teachers Colleges</td>
<td>Open University of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 February – 02 March 2016</td>
<td>Green Economy in Biosphere Reserves (GEBR) Project International Workshop</td>
<td>Tanga</td>
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<td><strong>February 2016</strong></td>
<td>Training workshop to mobilize and promote community engagement on addressing girls’ drop out of secondary school education due to teenage pregnancies and early marriages</td>
<td>Micheweni, Pemba</td>
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<td>03 March 2016</td>
<td>Culture Stakeholders’ Meeting</td>
<td>UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office</td>
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<td>07 – 18 March 2016</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship Training to Maasai Women</td>
<td>Ololosokwan, Arusha</td>
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PAST EVENTS

30 September – 08 October 2015
Capacity building on the role of correspondents to feed local news, collect testimonies
Arusha

05 October 2015
World Teachers Day

24 November 2015
International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists celebration
Courtyard Hotel, Dar es Salaam

11 – 15 November 2015
Training on guidelines on editorial, programming and monitoring matters, including radio formats, gender focus and investigative reporting
Ngorongoro Municipal Council, Wasso

25 – 29 November 2015
Training of radio practitioners on how to design and broadcast interactive and effective CSE and girls’ edutainment program
Sengerema Telecentre, Mwanza

25 – 29 November 2015
Workshop for News desks on work with correspondents’ network, including ICTs
Sengerema Telecentre, Mwanza

STAFF NEWS

ARRIVALS
Ms Tiina Elise Neuvonen (November 2015)
Junior Professional Officer
Kelvin Kunzugala (December 2015)
Administrative Assistant

DEPARTURES
Mr Al Amin Yusuph (October 2015)
CI Programme Officer
Tumsifu Mmari (December 2015)
Education Programme Officer
Annica Moore (December 2015)
Gender Specialist
Sophia Mataro (December 2015)
CI Assistant

UNESCO Dar Es Salaam Newsletter is published quarterly to highlight the activities of UNESCO in Tanzania.

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