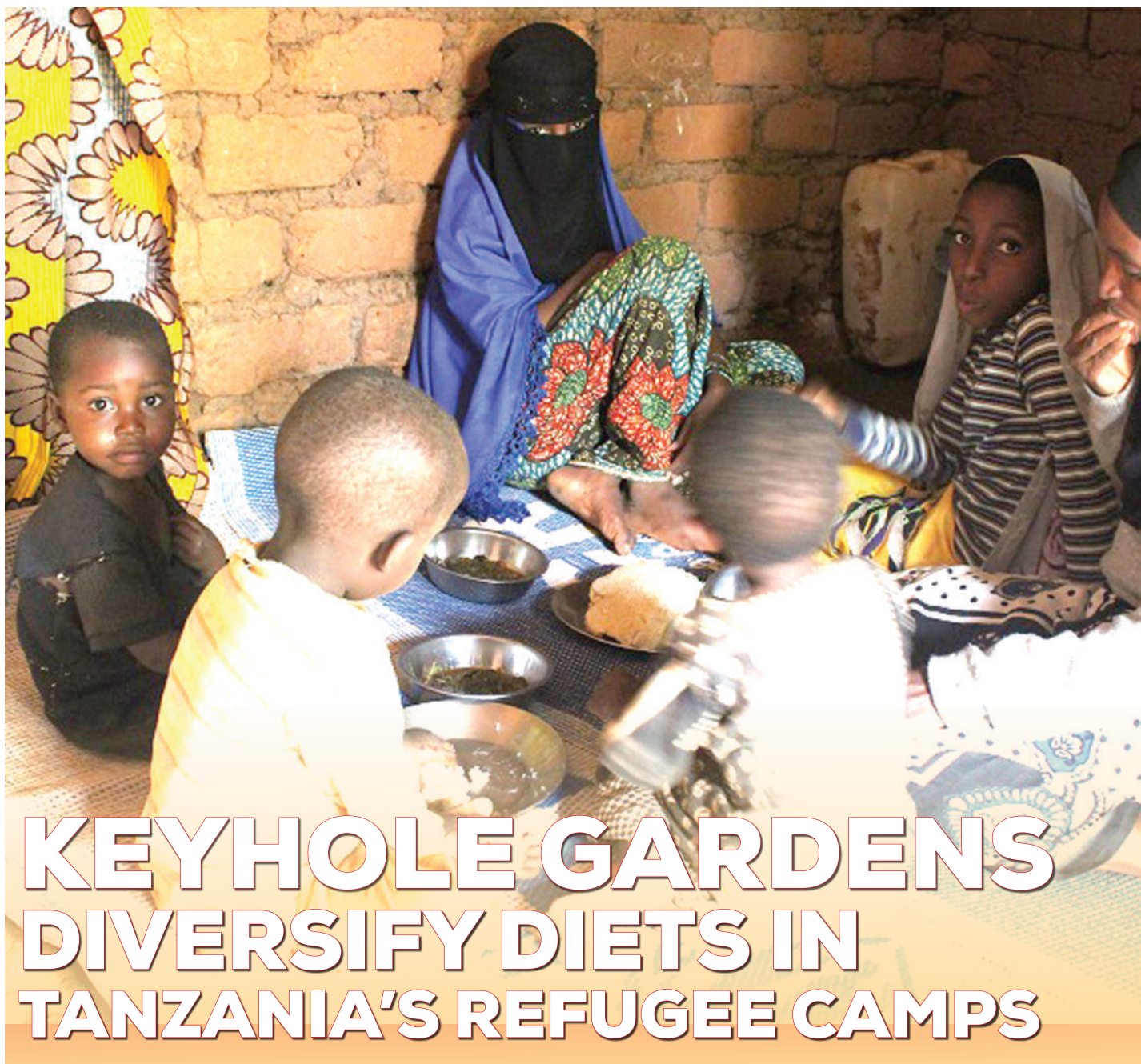


The
Guardian

KILIMO KWANZA

SUPPORTING THE PROMOTERS OF THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Friday October 16, 2020



**KEYHOLE GARDENS
DIVERSIFY DIETS IN
TANZANIA'S REFUGEE CAMPS**

Full Story page 2

**Building local
solutions to
undernutrition
in Tanzania**

By Vincent Browne and
Alice Maro

Joyce Mihinzo was newly pregnant, and already a mother of two boys, when she enrolled in Boresha Lishe, a European Union (EU) and Japan co-funded nutrition project implemented by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Dodoma and Singida regions in Tanzania. As part of the programme, Joyce received medical treatment and fortified porridge mix, Super Cereal, as she suffered from Moderate Acute Malnutrition. She also received nutrition counseling on best foods to eat during pregnancy, as well as tips on how to feed her family members.

This support from Boresha Lishe, along with regular check-ups at the health centre, allowed the first and second trimesters of her pregnancy to go smoothly. However, during her last trimester, she experienced complications while traveling to visit her family in another town, in part due to being far away from the prenatal care centre. She

Continues page 6

UN Women, UNFPA partnership to empower women
smallholders in Singida, Shinyanga regions

Full Story page 5

EDITORIAL



Wallace Mauggo

La Niña presents new challenges in nutrition in the incoming year

By Special Correspondent

STAKEHOLDERS are working day and night to popularise the use of appropriate farming methods and crop diversity to enable more parts of Tanzania to attain nutritional diversity suitable for child growth and adult balanced diets.

Meanwhile, there are fresh challenges, one being La Niña. This is an oceanic condition with vast consequences for rainfall and agriculture across most of the southern hemisphere, as it is centred in the southern Atlantic Ocean.

Already there are reports relating to this from districts with perennial planting ability for various food and cash crops that mature in three to four months.

This year - and especially the past month or so - has been different, as rains that were expected towards the start of this month are not falling to satisfaction, and even routine vegetables are drying up.

That spells trouble for nutritional balances and even food security in that, when families must buy their direct needs instead of obtaining them from farms, their ability to square up with the situation becomes especially selective.

This situation might not however change the reality reported here, and particularly on the work being done to end malnutrition.

There is a gradual but visible drop in the scale or intensity of malnutrition especially as

many districts learn to grow drought-resilient crops. However, upcountry visits and subsequent reports show that most growers prefer traditional crop varieties that are more edible and at times have better yields on the farm than some newer seed varieties. So, crop research and extension work has to take into account local opportunities and food preferences.

We haven't so far glanced at the cited report on a survey on the matter published with support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the European Union.

Yet the range of stakeholders and issues surveyed in the research show how local and foreign experts are taking pains to cover various aspects upon which proper nutrition, child growth and elimination of stunting hinge.

The frequency of retardation in child growth has much to do with perennial insufficiency that limits the ability of the supply of crucial nutrients even to unborn babies, if the condition for the nutritional care of expectant mothers is poor.

The resilience of local varieties of food crops as well as patterns of nutrition - among other factors - paint a discomfiting picture relating to the pursuit of the 17 global sustainable development goals or, more narrowly, extension work for adopting drought-resistant crops or changing food patterns.

Authoritative data show that average monthly temperatures have been rising by 0.6 degrees Celsius and rainfall has been decreasing by 6.4mm.

In that the trend likely to worsen in coming months and more so, the picture is somewhat sobering. It has long been established that warmer temperatures make it easier for pests to blossom and withstand pesticides, while people understandably want to witness green agriculture that is free from pesticides.

Advice for extension officials, as contained here, is likely to reach most of the relevant officials in its media cast or official communication as part of routine training and directives has La Niña to contend with.

The basic framework under which small-holder farmers can practise crop diversity is rainfall. This is primarily because, aside from river basins with resilient water sources and soil moisture, irrigation per se is at best partial in its use especially for the cultivation of commercial-scale vegetables and other crops.

In most other areas, the climatic basics and downturn in rainfall expectations for late this year and the early part of 2021 could be hard to predict - could mean a big impact on crop production and, by extension, the state of nutrition. Accordingly, adaptation will be necessary from household to national level, and that isn't always easy.

Keyhole gardens diversify diets in Tanzania's refugee camps

By UNHCR and DRC

Venancia Nibitanga appears from the back of her house with a bunch of green vegetables. She proceeds to wash them carefully with clean water and cut them into smaller pieces in preparation for cooking. All along, her youngest daughter watches on intently. "She is three years old and always by my side," says Venancia, "I think she will one day be a great cook, just like her mother," she laughs loudly.

Venancia fled Burundi in April 2016 after her husband became increasingly violent towards her and her children. "After the political crisis in 2015, he became more violent. One day, I just got up and ran away with my children. We left Burundi with nothing else apart from the clothes on our backs," she recounts. "After a three-day torturous journey, we reached the Tanzanian border. Exhausted and sick, we were received by UNHCR, the Refugee Agency. I miss nothing of the horrible life I left behind," she adds.



Venancia and her daughter outside her home in Nduta refugee camp ©DRC/Christina John

She is happy to be one of the 1,300 families in the refugee camps that have been engaged in a vegetable production project aimed at diversifying diets and improving household nutrition. Through this project, UNHCR and Danish Refugee Council help the families to establish keyhole gardens and also provide them with vegetable seeds, tools and training on good agronomic practices.

Keyhole gardens are small round beds, made with low-cost locally available materials. Compared to regular vegetable gardens, keyhole gardens require less labour (ideal for elderly, children, or sick persons), less water, and no costly fertilizers or pesticides. Additional comparative advantages of the keyhole gardens are; ability to produce food all year round even under harsh temperatures; supports the production of at least five varieties of vegetables at a time - thus supporting dietary diversity. It is also so prolific that its produce is more than

Continues page 8



©Photo UNHCR

Small-animal production improves access to nutritious food at Mgama Village

By UNICEF, CUAMM and TAHEA

Mgama village, in Iringa District Council, is well known for commercial food production which is mostly transported to various regions in Tanzania. The village has a high number of under-five children (725) compared to other villages in Mgama ward. Most of the households, in the village, are food insecure due to unavailability of food for household consumption.

Bringing Nutrition Actions to Scale, a Programme funded by Irish aimed at reducing the prevalence of chronic undernutrition among young children in Njombe and Iringa regions. UNICEF in partnership with the Government and a Consortium of CUAMM and TAHEA implemented the Programme to enhance availability and access to diverse and nutrient-rich foods at household level.

Sabina Pilla, 54, is a progressive farmer living in the village. Her role as a progressive farmer is to serve as contact for agriculture and livestock education in the village. She is amongst the 96 progressive farmers from Ir-



Through the Bringing Nutrition Actions to Scale project, 2 rabbits were provided to every progressive farmer. The aim was to reproduce more rabbits and pass on to other group members and project beneficiaries (pregnant women and mothers/caregivers of under two years). After 4 months, Sabina had 20 rabbits of which she gave 16 rabbits to 8 members of her group who continued the cycle.

inga region who were trained on livestock and agricultural practices. In 2018, Sabina sensitized the community and established a counseling group named "Mtoto Kwanza" which helped its 25 members put more emphasis on home gardening and small livestock keeping.

Through the Bringing Nutrition Actions to Scale project, 2 rabbits were provided to every progressive farmer. The aim was to reproduce more rabbits and pass on to other group members and project beneficiaries (pregnant women and mothers/caregivers of under two years). After 4 months, Sabina had 20 rabbits of which she gave 16 rabbits to 8 members of her group who continued the cycle.

In September 2018, 56 households with children in Mgama and nearby village of Ibumila benefited from the distribution of 112 rabbits. 72 households participating in the 'pass on' rabbit production model had home gardens for consumption to supplement their nutrition intake. Households were sensitized to sell a few rabbits and consume the rest to improve their protein intake. The cash from selling the rabbits bought fertilizers for maize and tomato production. Moreover, waste products of rabbit production have been used in home gardening and mushroom production.

Agnes Kitime, 35, lives with her family including her husband and 4 children. She is also Sabina's neighbor and chairperson of "Mtoto Kwanza" group. After being sensitized, she adopted the practices that led her to chair the group. Among other benefits, the initiative has helped her manage the nutrition of her family. She explains, "My 2 years old daughter, Oliva Kalinga is growing well with good nutrition as I feed her well supplementing different types of food with protein source which she needs most for her physical and mental growth."

Agnes continues, "My family and I never consumed rabbit meat and I did not believe that rabbit production could generate income as its price was low. However, through the counseling group I came to realize that rabbit meat is nutritious especially for young children like mine. My children have also come to love the taste and often ask me to cook rabbit meat for them."

KILIMO KWANZA

Directory

INDUSTRY SUPPORT AND ASSOCIATIONS
Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT)
 022 212 4851,
 Email: act@actanzania.or.tz
Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA)
 +255 27 2544568
 Email: taha@habari.co.tz
Tanzania Milk Processors Association (TAMPA)
 +255 22 2450426
 Email: tampa.office2012@gmail.com
Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Trade (TCCIA)
 +255-28-2502890
 Email: info@tccia.com
Tanzania Edible Oilseed (TEOSA)
 0767-888704 / 0754-776148.
 Email: teosaoil@gmail.com.
Zanzibar. Nat. Chamber of Comm., Industry and Agriculture (ZNCCLIA)
 255 24 223 1710
 Email: info@zncclia.or.tz
Jumuiya ya Vikundi vya Bi-ashara Ndogondogo (VIBINDO)
 0754 419318 / 0754096254 / 0756 429613
 Email: vibindo@hotmail.com
Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA)
 +255-22-2119436, +255-22-2128136
 Email: info@tccia.com
Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF)
 +255 22 260 1913 / 22 260 1938
 Email: info@tpsftz.org
Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative 'SUGEKO'
 +255-0787024645
 Email: info(at)sugeco.org
Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF)
 022 277 1566
 Email: ansaf.tanzania@gmail.com.
AGRO-PROCESSING
ERTH Food - Tel: +255 22 2862040
MUKPAR Tanzania Ltd
 Tel: +255 28 250038/184
ASAS Diaries Limited -
 Tel: +255 26 2725200
Tanga Fresh - Tel +255 27 2644238
NatureRipe Kilimanjaro Limited
 Tel: +255 22 21 51457
EQUIPMENT
Gurudumu Tatu Limited
 Tel: +255 22 2865632 / 2863699
National Service Corporation Sole (SUMAJKT)
 Cell: +255 717 993 874, 715 787 887
FINANCE
Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS)
 Tel: 023-3752/3758/3765
Cotton & Textile Development Programme
 Tel: +255 0718 835 679
 Email: ctdp@tanzania-gatsby.com

ENDING malnutrition is in our hands

Agriculture can make a greater contribution to nutrition if the right conditions are set

By Charles Tulahi

Available information indicates that national stunting rates have decreased by 3.2 percent since 2012. Food production is thriving in the country, with regions such as Mbeya, Rukwa, and Ruvuma producing over 40 percent more food than what their populations need.

These and other figures illustrate Tanzania's remarkable achievements in the last decade. Paradoxically some high food-producing regions are those with the highest rates of stunting. Economic growth has also caused new forms of malnutrition, such as overweight and obesity, which are on the rise, together with diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

These two apparent paradoxes teach us a lesson that population growth calls for even greater efforts if we want to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. They remind us that producing more food does not automatically reduce undernourishment or stunting. And they highlight the need not to just feed people, but to provide healthy diets for all.

A recent report by the Food and Nutrition Security Impact,



To this end, awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of dietary diversity would help consumers make healthier choices and send the right signals to farmers, marketers, and other actors in the food value chains to adopt practices that better link agriculture and nutrition.



Secondly, enhanced training programs around nutrition and agriculture to both nutrition and agriculture personnel, and strengthening coordination between the health and agriculture sectors would strengthen the fight against malnutrition.



©FAO/Daniel Hayduk



©Photo FAO/Daniel Hayduk

Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme - a partnership between the Government of Tanzania, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the European Union (EU) to improve policies in the food and nutrition security domain reinforces the importance of investing in healthy diets.

Climate change and other shocks seem to have an adverse impact on food & nutrition security as well. Between 1961 and 2016, the country's average monthly temperature increased by 0.6 degrees Celsius, and rainfall decreased by 6.4 mm. These changes have tended to undermine food production and aggravate diseases and pests such as the Fall Army Worm (FAW), among others.

Therefore, it is crucial to invest in systems that will reduce the fragility of farmers, pastoralists, and fisherfolk who are facing observed challenges and support them in adapting to a changing climate, the report insists. It also calls for enhanced interventions that focus on building climate resilience and enabling environment that attracts private sector (from smallholders to big farming industries) investments. Developing and promoting the adoption of appropriate climate-smart agriculture technologies in all agroecological zones is one of many promising options.

Through qualitative and quantitative analysis and extensive consultations with key stakeholders in the food, and nutrition sectors, the report has identified three major avenues to accelerate progress:

First, the blooming Tanzanian agriculture offers excellent potential for contributing towards ending malnutrition through a more nutrition-sensitive approach. Besides food availability, deliberate interventions that focus on dietary diversity and food safety for all will have a lasting positive impact on human resource development. Increasing the production and consumption of nutrition-dense commodities such as fruits, vegetables, legumes and nuts, fish, and livestock products has a very significant impact on reducing malnutrition.

To this end, awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of dietary diversity would help consumers make healthier choices and send the right signals to farmers, marketers, and other actors in the food value chains to adopt practices that better link agriculture and nutrition.

Secondly, enhanced training programs around nutrition and agriculture to both nutrition and agriculture personnel, and strengthening coordination between the health and agriculture sectors would strengthen the fight against malnutrition.

Lastly, little can be done without resources. Despite its importance, agriculture needs enhanced investments for nutrition-sensitive interventions. Earmarking investments for the agriculture sector (especially for research on how agriculture can help prevent NCDs or adapt to climate threats), tracking commitments, and mobilizing additional resources are effective policy options. Given that Tanzania has entered the Middle-income economy status, deliberate enhanced investments have to be made in human resource development to reverse prevailing stunting levels that impair the physical and cognitive abilities of a significant proportion of children under five years of age.

With so many competing priorities, along with Post Covid-19 responses, public funds will never be enough. Development partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), the private sector, and other interested parties need to engage and get involved in the nutrition agenda if we are to leave no one behind by the year 2030. Nutrition and health is everybody's business. Everybody should come on board; especially the youth and women, as they hold the keys to success. Grow. Nourish. Sustain. Together. Our Actions are our future.

The author is the Assistant FAO Representative to Tanzania



©Photo IFAD/Mwanzo Millinga

Working together to transform agriculture in rural Tanzania

By Francesco Maria Rispoli

Hunger is on the rise. In 2019, almost 690 million people went to bed hungry and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting food systems around the world. As the world marks the International World Food Day on 16th October 2020, its time to reflect on how we can get back on track to achieving a world free of hunger.

This year's theme, "Grow, Nourish, Sustain, Together," is in line with IFAD's mandate of investing in rural people to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience through agriculture.

Agriculture is not only the key driver of food production but also creates jobs, produces raw materials for industries and generates foreign exchange earnings. It accounts for 31 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), contributes up to 24.9 per cent of export earnings and employs nearly 37 million people in Tanzania.

IFAD recognizes the significant contribution the agriculture sector plays and provides support to the Tanzanian government to modernize agriculture and transform rural areas. To date IFAD's investments of USD 430 million has reached over 4 million rural poor households in Tanzania.

About 80 per cent of agricultural production in the country comes from small-scale farmers. These farmers play a crucial role in feeding local people and developing the rural economy. However, many of them still rely on manual cultivation and rain-fed production. This has made them highly vulnerable to shocks - from weather or from other emergencies.

Small-scale farmers are at the centre of IFAD-supported projects. Not only are they among the main beneficiaries but their work and knowledge make vital contributions to the long-term success of projects. IFAD has supported 15 projects in Tanzania whose focus has been to increase productivity and profitability through provision of farm inputs, extension support and adoption of good agricultural practices.

Farmers in Magu, Kagera and Zanzibar are some of the beneficiaries of such investments. Under the Marketing Infrastructure, Value addition and Rural Finance support programme, paddy productivity by small-scale farmers has significantly increased. For example, rice yields have increased by 150 per cent in Magu, maize yields by 350 per cent in Kagera and tomato yields by 200 per cent in Zanzibar. For most small-scale farmers such significant increase in yields creates commercial opportunities, enabling them to raise their incomes and invest in modern technology.

Higher incomes are also used to purchase more nutritious



Small-scale farmers are at the centre of IFAD-supported projects. Not only are they among the main beneficiaries but their work and knowledge make vital contributions to the long-term success of projects. IFAD has supported 15 projects in Tanzania whose focus has been to increase productivity and profitability through provision of farm inputs, extension support and adoption of good agricultural practices.

Continues page 8

BUILDING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO undernutrition in Tanzania

From page 1

delivered a premature baby girl after just seven months of pregnancy, weighing only 2.3kg. Following the training she had, Joyce was able to immediately start breast-feeding her baby ensuring she received critical nutrition for her recovery and growth.

Following Tamari's premature birth, Joyce continued to include Super Cereal in her diet, which enabled her to produce sufficient milk to meet her baby's specific needs. When she and her baby returned home from the hospital, Joyce continued using the fortified porridge. Once Tamari was six months old, she was old enough to consume the porridge directly. Joyce also received continued support from Boresha Lishe, in the form of regular antenatal care, nutrition counseling, home gardening support to promote the cultivation of different vegetables to improve dietary diversity, and instructions in water, sanitation and hygiene practices (WASH).

For mothers like Joyce - having an effective and affordable local source of fortified cereal could be a matter of life or death. One of the most significant obstacles to overcoming childhood malnutrition in Tanzania is the lack of reasonably priced, locally available, nutritionally diverse, and culturally appropriate food supplements. In order to effectively support mothers WFP is working to support local production of nutritious supplements. In August this year, the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, in collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania Bureau of Standards, with technical and financial support from WFP and the EU, launched a project to support the prevention of malnutrition in children between 6 months and 5 years old in Tanzania. Developed as part of Boresha Lishe, this initiative aims to create a local solution to undernutrition plague in the country.

The project includes the development of ready-to-use complementary and



Giving a tour of the new nutritional supplement production facility at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro during the recent launch of the RUFs project. Photo: WFP/ Vincent Browne



Tamari is a happy and healthy toddler thanks to the supplemental nutritional food that Boresha Lishe provided her mother Joyce. Photo: WFP/Alice Maro

supplementary foods (also referred to as RUFs) for the prevention of stunting and the treatment of acute malnutrition. These products will be developed from locally available ingredients, commonly used in daily meals, prepared to meet the required nutrient quality and safety standards associated.



The project includes the development of ready-to-use complementary and supplementary foods (also referred to as RUFs) for the prevention of stunting and the treatment of acute malnutrition. These products will be developed from locally available ingredients, commonly used in daily meals, prepared to meet the required nutrient quality and safety standards associated.

Additionally, the project sets specifications and standards for the local production of specialised nutritious foods. This allows local entrepreneurs and food manufacturers in Tanzania to use these standards and develop their own products, thereby increasing the availability of safe and nutritious foods in the country. This collaboration also provides the opportunity to strengthen the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 - building on private-public partnerships with academia and the government - to scale up nutrition, and to work towards SDG 2 - Zero Hunger. Therefore, not only is this project helping to improve nutrition in Tanzania, but it can also yield economic benefits for the country in the medium and long terms.

The authors work with the Communications unit at WFP Tanzania



UN Women, UNFPA in partnership to empower women smallholders in Singida, Shinyanga regions



"We will seek to address barriers that affect women smallholders' productivity head on, and with a strong focus on strengthening good agricultural and climate resilient practices. UN Women will also support collective marketing strategies including putting in place key infrastructure, such as a sunflower warehouse for storage, and greenhouses to increase productivity," Ms. Addou said.

By Staff Reporter

UN Women and UNFPA have launched a USD 5 million joint project seeking to empower women smallholders in Singida, Shinyanga regions. The joint project, "Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls" is funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA.)

Through the KOICA's support the Joint Programme will reach over 48,000 remote households, targeting women and girls in Tanzania's Ikungi District, Singida Region and Msalala District, Shinyanga Region - for over three years period.

The UN Women/ UNFPA partnership seeks to enhance the social and economic resilience of women and adolescent girls in the two project districts by addressing the crucially intertwined socioeconomic challenges that women and adolescent girls face in the rural setting. The social economic challenges are barriers to women's economic and social empowerment, hence place them at risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices.

At a recent occasion in Singida region, the UN Women Representative, H.E Hodan Addou said a total of 2,350 women and adolescent girls will bene-

fit from the programme, specifically in the horticulture and sunflower value chains and through efforts that aim to enhance the capacity of communities to prevent, and respond to gender-based violence.

"We will seek to address barriers that affect women smallholders' productivity head on, and with a strong focus on strengthening good agricultural and climate resilient practices.

UN Women will also support collective marketing strategies including putting in place key infrastructure, such as a sunflower warehouse for storage, and greenhouses to increase productivity," Ms. Addou said.

UN Women will work with women farmers and the local authorities to increase access to markets by linking buyers to farmers, in addition to strengthening their entrepreneurial

skills and economic agency. To implement these initiatives successfully, the programme will also work to address challenges such as women's limited access to land and ownership.

"We are aware that when women are deprived of land ownership, this can limit their decision-making power on production, marketing capacity and income - whether individually or as a collective. UN Women will work with the government to strengthen land tenure security by promoting women's sole and joint land ownership.

We are also going to support participatory village land use planning, and the issuance of Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to women," H.E. Addou said.

On a whole, it is expected that the project through extensive outreach campaigns will reach more than 48,000 people in both project districts, to promote positive shifts in social norms around women's economic welfare, land rights, GBV and other harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation.



H.E Hodan Addou delivering a UN Women and UNFPA joint statement during the programme launch in Singida region on 29 September.

Working together to transform agriculture in rural Tanzania

From page 5

food, and as farms become more productive, we are working with them to improve the nutritional quality of their produce. Nutrition is one of the key developmental priorities Tanzania has committed to achieve by 2030 under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Research shows that malnutrition causes health problems and losses in economic productivity. Without access to adequate, affordable, nutritious food, generations remain trapped in poverty, unable to take advantage of educational and job opportunities to fulfil their potential.

Investing in nutrition through agriculture is not only socially responsible but sound development and good economics.

In Zanzibar, IFAD has supported the production of healthy food products for children through the Vegetable Tungalipo Cooperative Society that supplies nearby schools with bananas and vegetables. This has increased intake of vitamins by school children.

IFAD's success in Tanzania over the years can be attributed to strong partnerships with Government. Crucially, the various levels of government have continued the successful approaches of IFAD-supported projects. This ownership extends to other institutions like farmer organisations and the private sector.

Kinyasini market in Ugunja is an example of how ownership by government has sustained project impacts. The market was constructed and equipped with cold room facilities for vegetables, fruits and fish in 2017. Since it was handed over to the district council in 2018, the market has benefited 350 traders selling a variety of agricultural produce to the local popula-



tion and the tourist hotel zone. This has transformed their livelihoods and helped build the resilience of the local food system.

For everything to come together, partnership is at the heart of IFAD's work. We work hand-in-hand with rural people, the government, other United Nations agencies, development partners and the private sector with a shared goal of transforming agriculture in rural Tanzania aligned to the Sustain-

able Development Goals, African Union Agenda 2063 and Tanzania National Development Plans.

Working together towards these goals not only improves efficiency of projects but also allows us to reach more people and have a bigger impact in the country. Our partnership with other Rome Based United Nations Agencies like Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) has ensured mil-

lions of Tanzanians do not go to bed hungry.

With ten years left towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the time for action is now! IFAD re-affirms its commitment to zero hunger by 2030. Join us as we make this happen.

The Author is IFAD Country Director for Tanzania

Keyhole gardens diversifying diets in Tanzania's refugee camps

From page 2

enough to feed a family of eight persons.

Before the project, 35-year-old Venancia was solely dependent on the food rations distributed in the camps to feed her seven children. "We are grateful for the food we receive, but it was not enough and did not contain vegetables," she says. "The kids used to have a single meal per day because I was afraid the monthly food ration to finish early, now they have more to eat, and it is nutritious too," she adds with a smile.

The general food distribution in the refugee camps and the past few months gradually reduced to the current 72 percent of the food basket's monthly needs. The reduction in rations is, in part, caused by a cost adjustment to accommodate the increased distribution cost that came with the need to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission. US\$21 million is required to ensure that refugees can receive their full monthly



One of the keyhole garden owned by Venancia in Nduta camp ©DRC/Christina John

food rations from now up to March 2021.

Having witnessed the benefits of the project, Venancia wants others to benefit too. "At first, I used to share my excess vegetables with neighbours who had none," she says. "But now I am also teaching others how to establish the keyhole garden and produce their own food. It is easy, and everyone can do it," she says.

With limited opportunities to earn a living, refugees in Tanzania are almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance. Such projects are thus essential and ensure refugees like Venancia and the 240,000 others living in camps in Tanzania can play an active role in ensuring their food and nutrition security.