



EUROPEAN UNION

**PRESS RELEASE (For immediate Release)**

April 17, 2012

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES A PROJECT WHICH AIMS TO ERADICATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN GEITA.**

THE International Non-Governmental Organisation, Plan International with financial support from the European Union, is going to run a project aimed to fight the worst forms of child labour in the Geita.

European Union has granted 800,000 EUR (Eight hundred thousand Euro) or Tshs 1.6 Billion to support the financial aspects of the project which will be run for three years from 2012 to 2014.

The official launch of the project was today Tuesday April 17, 2012 held at Katoro ward in Geita Region. The project will cover eight wards in the district and is expected to directly reach 61,000 children.

The project will improve the situation of communities by enhancing social protection nets in order to prevent child labor, particularly to children, parents and mining employers so they can have an improved awareness of child labor situation and its consequences. The project will also promote prevention of child labor by addressing the rights of children and the importance of education at community level while creating a better preventive environment for 129,900 children living in the 8 mining wards.

"The European Union strongly emphasizes on child and human rights in general. The European Union Action Plan on Children Rights in External Action identifies child labour as one of the four main priority areas requiring action at regional and global level," said the EU Ambassador to Tanzania Filiberto Ceriani Sebrengondi in a speech that was read on his behalf by the Head of Economic Section of the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania, Stefan Schleuning adding: "This is why we feel so much honored to be part of this noble cause in bringing about hope to thousands of children in Geita through this project."

Plan International Country Director David Muthungu said; "This project was initiated after various researches which proves that worst forms of child labour continues to develop rapidly on a daily basis. Children have been working as cheap laborers in the mines causing them to abandon their crucial early education or worst, get affected with a slow effect of poisonous mercury which is being used during processing of gold." He added that the project aims to ensure that children return to school and continue with education while those children whose decision to go to the mines were due to family's economic difficulties, are empowered in the economic aspect.

Officials and experts from the Government of Tanzania, Plan International, European Union, partner local NGOs Officials, Ministry of labour, French Embassy, Tanzania Parliament, ILO representative, Children, Community members and the media are among many who are expected to attend the occasion.

Weak capacities, poor awareness on child rights, poverty as well as lack of quality educational and social services -for better prevention and reintegration of working children, constitute the grassroots of child labor in Geita. The project aims to provide action which will contribute towards the eradication of the worst forms of child labor.

### **About Plan International**

Plan International is a child centered community development organization committed to promoting the rights of children including their right to be protected from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation. In Tanzania it runs programmes in Geita, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Kibaha, Kisarawe and Ifakara.

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### **For more information contact:**

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