

**PRESS RELEASE****UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway visits the United Republic of Tanzania**

**GENEVA/DAR ES SALAAM, 12 April 2016**—UNAIDS International Goodwill Ambassador Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway has completed a one-day mission to the United Republic of Tanzania to assess progress made in eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to see how young people are engaging in the country's AIDS response.

During her visit, Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess visited facilities providing services for women and young people living with HIV and also met with mothers living with HIV whose children have been born free from the virus. She went to one of the 26 PASADA (Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese) clinics operating in the Dar es Salaam and Pwani regions that provide HIV prevention, treatment and support services for people and communities most in need. The Crown Princess also engaged with youth activists at the Stepping Stones Community of Practice, which offers life-skills training for adolescents and young people, including comprehensive sexuality education and programmes relating to HIV and gender equality.

“It is moving to meet mothers who are in good health and caring for children born free from HIV thanks to antiretroviral medicines,” said Crown Princess Mette-Marit. “It is also particularly rewarding for me to see young people taking up leadership roles in the AIDS response and being equipped with the skills to guide the United Republic of Tanzania towards an AIDS-free generation.”

At the end of 2014, there were around 1.5 million people living with HIV in the United Republic of Tanzania. The number of new HIV infections declined by more than 50% between 2000 and 2014 and the number of new HIV infections among children dropped by around 70% between 2009 and 2014 as access to HIV services increased.

Crown Princess Mette-Marit has been engaged in the AIDS response since 2003 and advocates for the empowerment of women and young people at events and speaking engagements all over the world.

“The Crown Princess is compassionate and committed to improving the lives of young people living with and affected by HIV around the world,” said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé. “Her engagement and sincerity are inspiring and we look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our common goal of ending the AIDS epidemic.”

The Crown Princess was accompanied on the visit by the United Republic of Tanzania's Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Seniors and Children, Umyy Mwalimu. Also on the delegation was the Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Section for Global Initiatives, Stein Inge Nesvåg, the Norwegian Ambassador to the United

Republic of Tanzania, Hanne-Marie Kaarstad, and the Director General of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Jon Lomøy.

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette-Marit of Norway is marking 10 years as an International Goodwill Ambassador for UNAIDS.

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### **Contact**

UNAIDS Geneva | Michael Hollingdale | tel. +41 22 791 5534 | [hollingdalem@unaids.org](mailto:hollingdalem@unaids.org)

### **UNAIDS**

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Learn more at [unaids.org](http://unaids.org) and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.