

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

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AATZ & Partners Join Hands in Marking International Youth Day

By Emmanuel Mabodo & Mwanaidi Said

As part of mobilizing youth to air their views, concerns and share their experiences, AATZ in collaboration with Activista Tanzania, YPC and TYVA joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International Youth Day (IYD), which was commemorated at national-level in Arusha Region.

The event whose theme was, 'Safe Spaces for Youth,' was held from the 09th - 12th of August, this year.

The objectives of the event were to bring together youth from various backgrounds to participate in marking the IYD and provide a forum for them to discuss possibilities of sustainable safe spaces in advancing good governance and sustainable development for all.

In contributing to this year's theme, 'Safe Space for Youth,' youth from different parts of the country gathered in Arusha city and engaged in a number of activities related to their diverse needs and interests. The activities included planting trees at Tengeru Police Station as a sign to secure the physical space, an event which was also participated by Hon Jerry Muro, the Arumeru District Commissioner.



Section of youth from Activista marching during the climax day

On the next day, the youth gathered for a symposium which was conducted at AICC hall, where they had a chance to present their claims through individual contributions, on topics discussed. All the youth demands and concerns were consolidated and submitted to the Deputy Minister for Labour, Youth and Employment, Hon Anthony Mavunde, on the final day.

tives, motives, and various activities done by Activista as a youth network.

Speaking during the event, Hon Mavunde advised that youth should no longer be used for political gains by other people, but rather they should take part in political and economic opportunities to influence a positive change in the country. In this way, youth will be able to participate in creating safe spaces for better life within themselves.

"Youth should be vibrant and aggressive to grab all opportunities that are available in the government. In order to apply "safe spaces for youth", currently, there are about 19 special schemes for youth within the government which should be utilized by youth," Said Hon Mavunde.

Also on the culmination day, youth networks exhibited and presented their works to different participants and guests.

Activista Tanzania also had a booth where they got the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Minister and other stakeholders, and explain specific objec-

Regarding the youth schemes it was evident that most of the youth did not have information or do not want to take initiatives to know these scheme funds. But, the African Youth Charter and Tanzania Youth Development Policy (2007), indicates that youth have the obligation to fulfil their responsibilities including seeking for information on opportunities in social, economic and political aspects.



Maria Kayombo(activista secretary) explaining about their work to Hon Antony Mavunde Minister for Youth

International Youth Day....



Pemba Youth in a discussion forum during International Youth Day

Activista promised to work closely to help solve the discussed issues including the youth council and make sure that it will be used effectively to address the problems of youth in Tanzania. They also promised to develop projects and raise awareness to youth about the youth council so that they can use it effectively.

At local level, Pemba LRP in collaboration with Pemba Youth Council and youth clubs commemorated the day through cleaning elders' residents at Limbani Wete and holding

a discussion forum.

The forum was attended by guest of honour, the North Regional Commissioner, Mr Omar Khamis Othman, government officials from responsible ministry and youth.

Challenges raised during the forum included youth being used for political gains, lack of guarantor; unemployment, inadequate understanding on their rights and responsibilities and low level of formal education.

The RC advised youth to make effective use of entrepreneurship opportunities and to search for hidden/new opportunities. He also encouraged them not to fear challenges rather than finding solution, while they are in groups.

"Let's use this day as an agent for development. You must be bold to speak out your concerns, challenges and interests Also lets fight against challenges of rape, violence and drug abuse. advised RC Omar Khamis.

ActionAid Tanzania through DANIDA Project has continued to support youth organizations and other movements at local, national, regional and international levels to claim youth's rights to participation and freedom of expression.

Every year, the world commemorates youth day on August 12. UN set this day to provide an opportunity to youth, stakeholders, and policy makers to reflect on challenges facing youth around the globe. Also, this day aims to build solidarity among youth in the world, showing their role as defenders of human rights and human equality in the society.

Africa Regional Youth Consultation Meeting

By Mwanaidi Said, Pemba LRP

The East and Southern Africa 2018 Regional Youth Consultation meeting took place in Gaborone Botswana from 15-18th August with the theme "Leveraging Youth Capacities for the Fight Against Corruption in Africa".

ActionAid Tanzania(AATZ) through EC - PANAF project, supported one youth Activista from Tanzania Youth Vision Association(TYVA) to participate in the meeting as part of the project initiatives towards youth. TYVA is a youth organisation partnering with AATZ in implementation of the project.

The overall goal of the meeting was to provide a collaborative, open and inclusive space to leverage and foster the meaningful participation of young people in the fight against corruption in Africa.

The consultation focused largely on corruption in Africa, key drivers of the problem and the role of young people in turning the tide the problem.



Participants in a group photo



Some of the issues emerged from the consultation were; Corruption increases inequality and prevents citizens from accessing public services, Safe spaces for the youths are critical in decision making, Corruption fight should start with building a culture with the young generation from kindergarten to tertiary education and in our daily lives and Corruption is not being reported in most cases.

On the role of youth against corruption it was said actions like holding meetings with academia, religious leaders and ordinary citizens, youth being organized to

understand the system, whistle blowing and protection of whistle blowers are key.

Moreover, youth need to be informed on the use of different strategies for campaign like use of music in building collective consciousness.

Other countries attended the meeting were Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Mozambique, Angola, South Africa, Malawi, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mauritius and Madagascar.

AATZ Board Members Visit Chamwino & Singida LRP

As part of the 2018 Board Governance Plan, five members of the ActionAid Tanzania Board, accompanied by staff members from the head office, visited Chamwino and Singida LRP.

Members of the board who took part in the visit were; Ms Mary Nsemwa (Board Chair), Maimuna Kanyamala (Member), Dr Azaveli Lwaitama (Member), Deus Kibamba (Member) and Daniel Luhamo (Treasurer).

The visit was aimed at familiarising Board members with grassroots development works of the organization to help inform future directions. The tour also created an opportunity for new Board members to know more about ActionAid development approaches and working modalities.

In Dodoma, the team had a brief meeting at AATZ Dodoma Office, where they were oriented about Chamwino and Singida LRP and its work. They also visited AFNET (AATZ partner) with the aim to understand their work.

Thereafter, the team visited Chamwino Women Farmers' Platform (JUWWACHA) where they were briefed about achievements and challenges of the platform.

The visitors also toured Msanga B Primary School, which was started as a satellite school through ActionAid support and later transformed into a formal primary school by the government. The Board members held meetings with the School Management Committee, School Clubs and CDFs.

In Singida, the team met the District Executive Director Mr Rashid Mandoa, to learn on how the organisation relates with the government. Afterwards, the board members visited Women Rights Association (SAPAWA) and mentor farmers. They also visited Agro-ecology project under SNAP and held a meeting with farmers in Mrama Village.

Commenting on the visit, the Board members said that they had witnessed a mutual relationship working approach with the government which is a good thing and should be maintained for smooth opera-

tions of AATZ.

They also acknowledged that empowerment was visible, particularly for Chamwino Women Farmers' Platform (JUWWACHA) and Women Rights Association (SAPAWA) as they are well equipped and understand their rights as they can demand them from the government. They emphasized that more empowerment is still needed due to the fact that community dependency on AATZ is high; hence they need to be capacitated to be able to demand resources from the government.

The Board members further requested the organisation to increase visibility of its work, through having posters that show its work, in all of its offices, and ensure documentation of best practices and organisational processes that are taking place at grassroots.



Board Members in a meeting with Singida District Executive Director at his office



Board members in a group photo with JUWWACHA members



Msanga B primary school pupils singing during a visit by AATZ Board Members

SRJS Partners Reflect Project Progress

By Elias Mtinda- Agriculture & Land Rights Manager

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) joined other Shared Resources Joint Solution (SRJS) project implementing partners for a mid-term review and planning meeting held in Katavi Region from the 20th to 25th of August, this year.

The SRJS is a partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL), and the World Wildlife Fund Netherland (WWF NL) under the 'Dialogue and Dissent Budget' of the Dutch Government and runs from 2017 to 2020.

The aim of the initiative is to ensure that the Rukwa-Katavi Landscape is sustainably managed and climate resilient, with its water sources, biodiversity, and local communities livelihoods secured and the communities actively taking part in its management.

The meeting which was organised by Legal and Environmental Action Team (LEAT) was also attended by other implementing partners; Hakiardhi, local CBOs (REMSO, UDESO, RUSUDESO, KAWODEO), district officials as well as representatives from IUCN Netherlands.

The aim of the meeting was to reflect and analyse the progress of the project, lessons learnt from the implementation and how to use them to inform the rest of the implementation period.

In his welcome note, Lawyers Environmental Team (LEAT) Director, Dr Ruge-meleza Nshala advised participants to have an honest discussion of the project successes, challenges, lessons from the implementation and chart the way forward.

"As CSOs, this is an opportunity to make positive impact in the communities in landscape. Use the opportunity for learning, partnership building and create the legitimacy of your work in the landscape," insisted Dr Nshala.

During the review, the team went

through the journey of the project since its inception at the end of 2016.

It was observed that by 2017, where the project officially started, most of the activities were implemented and set the direction for its implementation.

From the collective timelines, most of the project activities were implemented between Jan and June 2018 and concentrated on capacity building activities. Also, there were some engagement activities with the government and policy makers.

More work has been done on gender inclusion in natural resources management through capacity building initiatives by AATZ and Hakiardhi. It was reported that there are some improvements and notable changes in practice, in terms of women's rights to land and other natural resources as well as shifting attitude of men towards women's rights to land and other resources.

Generally, participants had the opinion that despite the challenges faced at the beginning, still the project is moving towards the right direction because the first two years of implementation were more of foundation setting and learning.

In order to improve project performance for the remaining period, participants had the following recommendations: continuous capacity building for local communities, especially women and landscape CSOs

Consultant leading participants to reflect on the collective timeline



to know their rights on natural resources management; policy advocacy and lobbying and SRJS core team to continuously use experience of joint planning and implementation because this approach has proved to yield good results. Others are: to develop strategy to engage with private sector at the landscape; IUCN to increase funding to implementing partners to increase coverage; more media engagement in the implementation and preparation for fund raising before the project comes to an end.

SRJS is being implemented in two regions of Rukwa and Katavi, four districts (Sumbawanga, Kalambo, Nsimbo and Mpimbwe) and in ten villages of the both regions.

The main focus of the initiative is to mobilise and establish dialogue with key stakeholders, build institutional capacity of local CSOs on lobbying and advocacy for public and private sector and empower communities, especially women to know their rights on land and other natural resources.



Group discussion on key learnings from the project.....

Transforming Mafia Women's Lives Through Economic Empowerment

By Samwel Mesiak - Mafia LRP

Life has never been the same for Fatuma Shamsha (44), a resident of Mafia Island, from the time she joined Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia, (SAWAMA), a women's rights association in the Isles.

During the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) meeting which took place at Kanga Village, Fatuma could not hide her joy as she shared her testimony on how economic empowerment programmes within the association had set them free from poverty and dependency.

She explained that apart from being engaged in rights advocacy programmes, meant to fight all forms of injustices within and around their society, they have been also empowered on their contribution to economic activities and how to fully participate in leadership.

“Initially, we didn't know how to grab or participate in economic opportunities and activities. This affected the majority of us simply because we thought this situation cannot be changed. But, after mobilization programmes and capacity building activities supported by AATZ through SAWAMA, we are now seeing a bright future ahead of us.”

She added that the programme was centered on giving power to women towards discovering their freedom and choices in all spheres of life. Also, the mobilization and series of trainings helped women to open up their minds towards discovering new opportunities within their localities including engaging in small-scale businesses.

“We have started to engage in income generating activities, for example other women are engaging in fishing, poultry keeping, art craft and farming. We also formed our village Savings and Loans scheme popularly known as VICOBA.

“As a result of this, there is increased food security in our houses and community due to farming; We are now able to support our



Fatuma (from left) and her fellow women during the PRRP meeting discussion

family needs through income from our businesses and VICOBA scheme. This motivated the spirit of establishing income generating activities to spread across all 23 women rights groups in Mafia,” added Fatma.

She concluded that apart from economic empowerment, women in Mafia were also mobilized against discriminatory laws, such as unequal land rights for women, and inequitable distribution of economic benefits at family level.

“With the support of SAWAMA the women are now running a successful rights advocacy campaign against harmful customs and traditions that affect them in all aspects.

According to Mafia LRP, it is estimated that 460 women from all the villages in the District are direct beneficiaries of the programme. In its Country Strategic Paper IV (CSP), AATZ women's rights intervention focused on trainings and sensitization for strengthening the institutional capacity of Women Rights Associations, developing entrepreneurship skills for women and supporting women economic groups to access market and networking.



Fatuma (with mic) contributing during one of the women forums in Mafia

Unguja LRP Organises Refresher Training to CDFs & CRPs



By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP

Child Sponsorship has remained as major source of organizational funding which is done by linking sponsors in developed countries with children in poor communities through Child Messages.

In Child Sponsorship Programme, children are representatives of the community who play important roles for maintaining the fund for community development. Unguja LRP works with 16 sponsorship communities (schools) with more than 1,000 children directly involved in the child sponsorship programme through child messages and photo update exercise, which is done twice a year.

Child Message collection is facilitated by Community Development Facilitators (CDF's) and CRP's who receive special training before the beginning of every Child Message collection exercise.

In early August, AATZ Unguja LRP conducted a one-day refresher training with CRPs and CDFs as preparation for child collection for phase II. The training was attended by CRPs, CDFs and Community Facilitators from 16 Shehias on which child message collection exercise took place.

The LRP Coordinator, Ms Khadija Juma

explained that the objectives of the training was to assess AATZ contribution in development of communities where Child Sponsorship operates (both tangible and non tangible), evaluate the past child collection exercise for improvement, be oriented with changes in child message collection in phase II etc.

In the discussion, almost all Shehias admitted that AATZ has made great contribution in their development through child sponsorship programme. A number of community projects in education were outlined as achievements by majority of participants including construction of nursery schools in Kijini, Kiongwe Kidogo, Muwanda, and Kikobweni.

However, for Mbuyu Tende Shehia, participants said that they have not been able to benefit much since their Shehia was divided into two parts, which are Kijini and Mbuyu Tende, where by Kijini seems to benefit more with community projects by ActionAid. On the other hand, participants acknowledged AATZ contribution in knowledge building and awareness rising of rights issues, prevention of violence, gender sensitiveness as well as women

economic empowerment.

Wambile Hamid Mohd, a CRP from Muwanda Shehia had the following to say, "A result of sponsorship programme in our area currently there is construction of a nursery school and three classrooms. The nursery school will help our children to get nursery education nearby. Before this building, our children were not attending nursery school or some parents had to take their children far away to neighbouring schools to access early childhood education."

From the performance report which was presented to them, participants were able to see and compare their performances with other LRPs in Tanzania and other countries. Sharing of the performance report was important for them to understand that AATZ Zanzibar competes with other LRPs, hence create a sense of ownership, commitment and teamwork in the whole child message collection exercise. The overall performance of child message collection in phase I was good.

Despite the good performance some existing challenges include inadequate cooperation from some parents, religious obstacles, supporter withdrawn etc

In closing remarks, the coordinator appreciated good cooperation from participants and insisted on working hard in ensuring that they maintain or increase such high score in phase II of the exercise.



OAK Trains VAC Partners On Appropriate M&E Plan



By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP

Violence against children remains a major challenge for Zanzibar despite efforts by the government and other stakeholders such as nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) to eliminate the social anomaly.

It is a sorry state of affairs as children from all walks of life are subjected to different types of violence, such as physical, sexual, emotional and psychological, being perpetrated by different people like close relatives, teachers, fellow pupils and students, neighbours, and sometimes their own parents.

With no light shining at the end of the tunnel for the problem, joint efforts in curbing the problem is paramount, especially in areas where children are nursed and cared for.

It is against this background that ActionAid Tanzania's Unguja LRP, since 2015, has been implementing the OAK project, "Prevention of Violence against Children in North Unguja," in partnership with two organisations

namely Pathfinder and CSEMA and the project is now in its second phase.

ActionAid has been preventing violence against children (VAC) in schools by training school management committees and school clubs on violence prevention, while Pathfinder International works with communities through families and religious leaders in providing good parenting skills and also uses men engagement approach. On the other hand, CSEMA undertakes advocacy through data from National Child Help Line, children's opinions and VAC dialogues with the communities.

For better monitoring of the results, in August this year, ActionAid staff both

in Unguja and Head office attended a four-day Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) partnership workshop from OAK, organised by International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) at Serena Hotel in Zanzibar, as a continuation of the meeting done in June, this year. The workshop was attended by all the three partner organisations implementing the OAK project including Action Aid, Pathfinder and CSEMA.

The main goal of the workshop was to come up with a comprehensive and appropriate M&E plan, for the joint project and for the consortium to get knowledge on how to use data to improve project performance.

The first part of the workshop focused on the project theory of change (ToC), initiated during the last ICRW and project partners meeting in Dar es Salaam, which led to the development of the project M&E framework. The methodologies used in the workshop included presentations, case study and participatory exercises that allowed peer and facilitator feedback.

Participants were also introduced on how to develop theory of change, M&E overview, planning, M&E Logic framework, defining indicators, data collection, data quality as well as using data for decision making.

At the end of the workshop, the consortium was able to complete a project theory of change, develop a framework that synergistically links each partner's project activities, to project outcome



Tandahimba Discuss Women Access and Ownership of Land



Community members & LGA officials in a discussion about land ownership

By Dinno Celestine, Tandahimba LRP

Though access to land is crucial for combating discrimination, but it still remains a pipeline dream for many women in the country as all the societal stacks are against them.

It is true that women who are denied access to land tend to be disadvantaged, a pattern that results in economic powerlessness and throwing them in a vicious circle of poverty. Tandahimba is among districts in Tanzania, where gender inequalities with respect to accessing land is still a challenge.

Various findings indicate that majority of women within villages are illiterate; unaware of any existing entitlements and lack sufficient assets to fight for their rights, and that their involvement in land administration institutions is limited.

At family level, women are deprived of rights to possess land through inheritance because relatives believe they will be married to other families from which they will then gain access to land.

In trying to address this challenge, Tandahimba and Newala LRP organized a forum with local government officials and community members to discuss and advocate about acquisition of Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy by villagers, with special focus on women.

The meeting was intended to provide a forum for stakeholders to reflect the

status of the community members, specifically women on ownership of customary right of occupancy (CCROs) at local level.

According to the Local Government

presentation, it shows that over 75% of people who own land in the district are doing so traditionally and informally, mostly through inheriting land from their parents. Only a few, less than 15% of land owners own it either under customary or statutory tenure. Out of this percentage women occupy less than 10% of the people who own land.

Feruzi Mgheni, District Land Officer claimed that the reason for this low percentage is little understanding of community members on the importance of having land tenure. He gave an example that even those whose land was surveyed by government through a pilot project 15 years ago, have not yet collected their CCROs from District land office due to reluctance of paying surveying fee of Tshs. 40,000 only per certificate.

"In 2001, the government started distributing certificates of customary right of occupancy in two villages which are Kitama and Miuta, but community members did not take their certificates from the land office up today, simply because there is some amount of money which must be paid by each individual whose land has been surveyed, so that the government can raise resources to survey other villages," he added.

Some of the women who participated in the meeting blamed traditional and Islamic laws, which are dominant in the district, for recognizing men and male children in property ownership while ignoring women

and girls. *"We women own land traditionally, but actually land belongs to our husbands, so when we divorce we also lose access to the land,"* said Ms Hawa Rada (57).

"Even when we take the case to BAKWATA (Islamic Supreme Council of Tanzania) we are told that a man is the one with responsibilities to take care of children, hence he remains with the right to ownership of properties," she added.

The community appreciated AATZ for organizing a platform for them to meet local government officials easily and get knowledge of acquisition of land tenure.

"Every day, we solve land related conflicts in villages because land is owned haphazardly; Also if we have formal tenure then the land will help us access even financial services," said Mr. Mchila (46).

Ms Hadija Mwalim (28) from Mihambwe Village insisted on the necessity of having such kind of forums for discussion and awareness creation, so as to advocate for women's right to ownership and utilization of land.

She pointed out that ignorance and discriminating customs and traditions are the major factors for having such small number of women owning land totally.

"If we put more effort in providing education and making people understand the significance of having formal land ownership, the number will increase, and women discrimination will be reduced." she concluded.

In her concluding remarks at the end of the meeting, Esther Simon who is the Tandahimba and Newala LRP Officer said, *"Access to land and other resources is imperative for creating economic benefits for women. Women's access to land improves their well-being, efficiency, parity and empowerment."*