

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

July 2019

## ActionAid hands over Unguja shelter to Zanzibar government



**Unguja LRP Coordinator Mr Bakar Khamis (1st right) handing over shelter documents to the Ministry leaders during the event**

### By Unguja LRP, Team

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ), through the Unguja Local Rights Programme (LRP), recently handed over the management of a shelter to the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elders, Women and Children.

A shelter is a safe house used to keep survivors of gender-based violence (women and children).

The event, which took place at the Ministry's offices on the 1st of July 2019 and officiated by the Deputy Secretary General, Ms Mwana-juma Majid, involved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry and AATZ on operationalization of the shelter.

The ceremony was attended by (among others) directors, heads of units and communication officer from the ministry. On the other

hand, ActionAid was represented by the Zanzibar LRP Coordinator, Mr. Bakar Khamis and Programme Officer, Aisha Iddi.

Shelters in both Unguja and Pemba were established in 2013 and have been running up to April 2019. A total of 117 survivors have been hosted at the Unguja shelter before being reintegrated with their communities and families.

When the project ended in 2016, AATZ continued to fund shelter services through its regular programme. However, due to increased challenges in funding and recognizing the need to promote ownership by linking the service with other institutions, ActionAid negotiated with the Ministry and partners over management of the shelter.

After a series of negotiations and close working collaborations, the Ministry agreed to take over management of the shelter and provide necessary support to women and girl victims of gen-

der based violence through funding it.

Speaking during the handover event, the Deputy Secretary General said,

*"Your work on supporting survivors of violence has been tremendous. So far, we have one shelter here in Unguja - the one has been managed by ActionAid. At the Ministry, we are extremely happy, and we thank AATZ for the efforts. I want to assure you that now, the Ministry is ready to take over the management of the shelter and support this cause so that the efforts become more sustainable."*

*"We know that ActionAid has a lot of experience on running the shelter. Therefore, I request that you continue supporting us and from time to time we will approach you to seek advice on proper management of the shelter."*

Unguja LRP Coordinator, Bakar Khamis acknowledged the collaboration between the organization and ministry officials.

*"We are extremely happy over the continued cooperation with the Ministry. The Minister herself has shown us how she values our work. She personally officiated the Day of the African Child event and participated in a study on case law management, which was commissioned by ActionAid,"* said Khamis.

AATZ also handed over to the Ministry all assets, equipment and tools used at the shelter.

# Stakeholders push for improved economic opportunities awareness



Kilwa District Executive Director, Mr Renatus Mchau contributing during the District level validation meeting

By Kilwa LRP Team

Stakeholders in Kilwa District have called upon the government and other key players to provide more awareness to youth and women in the area, on available economic opportunities and how to effectively utilise them.

The call was made during an event to validate findings of a research conducted by ActionAid on youth and women economic opportunities in the district, last month.

The event, which brought together experts from district departments, representatives from CSO/CBO working in Kilwa, representatives of youth and women's groups, was aimed at sharing the findings of the research and collect views from stakeholders with the aim to improve the report and come up with practical solutions.

Presenting the research findings, the facilitator, Mr. Jacob Kateri, told participants that the main objective of the research was to conduct a rapid needs assessment to identify economic status and business opportunities in youth and women's areas of interest, and the existing gaps.

He added that, the research findings show that some of the main business activities that the youth are undertaking include, selling fish, cultivating cash crops (sesame and pad), fishing, taxi drivers and bodaboda, carpentry, welding and masonry while for women, major business activities include selling fish in catchment

areas ,cultivating cash crops for sale(sesame, cashewnuts, coconut etc)food vending, basketry and mats making etc.

On formation of women and youths' groups, Kateri said the situation is encouraging, as in every ward more than one group has been formed, despite the existing challenges.

On financial opportunities, the report indicates that unlike in the past, today, there are a number of financial institutions, banks, SACCOS, VICOBA as well as government funds. But very few youth and women are maximizing the opportunity to improve their lives economically. Also, 73% of youths and 59% of women experience market challenges for their products.

Contributing to the discussion, stakeholders insisted that most youth and women lack knowledge and understanding on how to start and run businesses, and how to form sustainable development groups. Other challenges include youth and some of the women not owning any asset hence fail to access loans from financial institutions, missing links with other stakeholders (actors) and government, lack of effective and sustainable youth and women's development groups and corruption.

*"What is needed currently is more awareness to community members on how to utilise economic opportunities. Community members are just forming groups because they heard the government is issuing loans to groups. But they don't know how to use the loans,"* explained Mr Boston Chiboko.

They also added that many opportunities are currently directed to youth and women, but most of the youth are not settled and not trusted. But if these groups get proper knowledge and guidance on how to maximize economic opportunities it will help them achieve the objective.

Sharing his experience, the District Agriculture Officer, Mr. John Mkinga, said that in previous years they formed groups and distributed tractors and funds for the purpose of improving agriculture. But currently nothing is existing in those groups.

The Kilwa District Executive Director, Mr. Renatus Mchau said the government has allocated funds for women and youth hence the research findings will help them know the available opportunities, gaps and which groups to be given the loans.

He also insisted that stakeholders should continue mobilizing youth to form groups and engage themselves in economic activities, to help them access available opportunities such as loans, trainings etc.

*"When we were issuing loans to the youth for the first time, we struggled to get youth groups because they were not in groups. Therefore, the loans were issued to women's groups. But currently, formation of youth groups is increasing,"* said Mchau, adding, *"Let's look at what we can do so that Kilwa community will benefit from available opportunities in fishing, business, fertile land for agriculture etc."*

Participants went on to advise that all the recommendations should be implemented by all parties to help improve economic welfare of women and youth. Some of the proposed actions were trainings to women and youth on how to identify business opportunities, identifying and running business, and raising capital. Also, they insisted regular stakeholders' forums to discuss youth and women empowerment.

The research findings are expected to inform the LRP youth and women economic empowerment interventions. The research involved 7 wards which are Kivinje Singino, Lihimalyao, Mandawa, Masoko, Miguruwe, Mitole and Njinjo.

# Children parliament: A powerful advocacy tool

By Redimna Ginwas, IASL Manager

Children's parliament in Tandahimba is considered as one of the powerful platforms for raising awareness, community sensitization and advocacy. This was evidenced during a monitoring visit by AATZ to Mnyahi primary school where pupils demonstrated a full session of the children's parliament. The kids were very confident in explaining issues that affect their livelihoods.

Speaking during the discussion, pupils who are part of the parliament explained that it has helped them to boost their confidence and express themselves.

*"I have been the speaker of the parliament for a year now. I can now express myself confidently in any occasion. I now understand my rights at school, in various offices and in the community,"* a pupil, Joari Sam, explained.

Adding to that, the secretary of the parliament, Salmin Sadik, explained that they have been using the platform to raise awareness among community members and demanding government authorities to fulfill their roles in protecting the rights of children.

*"During the Day of the African Child commemorations, we spoke to district officials including the Tandahimba District Commissioner, Honorable Sebastian Wariyuba and asked them to look at challenges facing children, including early pregnancies and violence against children and they promised to work on them,"* said Salmin.

Speaking about challenges facing children, Salmin said the problem of early pregnancies is not a challenge only in his community but a national concern which needs to be addressed, because when a girl falls pregnant, she will have to stop her studies which leads to most of them failing to realize their dreams.

He also added that there are some children who fail to attend school due to low awareness on importance of education.



Members of children parliament in one of the session at Tandahimba

***"The government must ensure that all children have access to education so that they can fulfill their dreams,"*** Salmin said.

Zulfur Yussufu (15 years) Minister of Education also added; *"Parliament helps us know our rights and it plays a greater role in educating community on the effects of violence against children, pregnancies and early marriages"*

It was also revealed that as a response to children's parliament demands during the Day of the African Child, the DED was ordered to allocate budget for children's parliament to scale the concept to other schools. Also the parliament set to be invited to attend full council session to educate and air their views, parents to ensure and work closely with their children to report VAC cases and whoever impregnates a schoolgirl will be held liable, with necessary steps being taken.

The CDF for Lembela Village, Dadi Lulenje, explained that children's parliament in Tandahimba was started in 2010 and in the past, children and the society in general were not aware of their rights. But through these parliaments, children can express themselves anywhere; they know their basic rights and have helped to educate other children about the rights.

*"Children's parliament is recognized by the village leadership and contributes a lot in raising awareness for example whenever there is a village meeting, the leaders bring the meeting agenda, and we organize the children's parliament according to those agendas to help educate, specifically on the issues of education and children's rights,"* explained Lulenje.

On achievements, he said that, previously a girl child did not have the opportunity to get education due to limited understanding of

parents, but now they are accessing the right. This change has been fueled by the children's parliament through awareness they have been providing to the community, the ability of children to express themselves and demand their rights.

He said their plan is to improve the children's parliament and make sure children's voices will reach wider audience through the media.

The Mnyahi Primary School Head Teacher, Mr Amanzi Abdallah, said children's parliament is something which is recognized, and the district authorities have even given instructions for each school to establish such a platform.

He said that the parliament has helped to reduce early pregnancies through awareness; it has also helped children to learn civics in a practical way.

*"We have been using this parliament as a teaching aid during civics where students learn parliamentary structure, the role of speaker, prime minister and legislators hence, it helps children to understand more easily. Also, the understanding of children who are members of parliament is vastly different from those who are not in parliament,"* Mr. Abdallah said.

We are partnering with the CDF to improve this parliament because by participating, children are motivated to become leaders, so it helps prepare tomorrow's leaders.

***"If the establishment and strengthening of these children's parliaments is emphasized, they will help to prepare good leaders from early stages,"*** he said.



*Members of technical support team taking a school tour at Mahama primary during their visit*

schools were Mahama in Chamwino District and Kafanabo in Singida District. At the schools, the coordination team met with school children, teachers, school management committees, and village authorities.

The visit to schools was inspiring as at Mahama, there was strong evidence of female leadership and active children mobilisation. At Kafanabo, the female school management committee(SMC) Chair did a lot for the school, including lobbying for funds for classroom construction and for female teachers to be assigned to the school.

The team also had brief meetings with Policy Forum for the purpose of learning the way Policy Forum is creating local to national links in its work and update on work it has been performing in the context of

the project.

In concluding the visit, the team had a feedback meeting with senior management team(SMT) for the purpose of sharing observations from the visit and recommendations for the next steps/priorities, ongoing support and capacity development needs.

During the visit, it was evidenced that the approach of meeting and learning together, through partners and community helped generate a common understanding about implementation of the project. “The whole visit was a learning process for all concerned”

Breaking Barriers: Tax Justice & Gender Responsive Public Services is a Norad-funded, multi-country project that is running in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania from 1st July 2017 to 31st December 2021.

In Tanzania, the project is being implemented by ActionAid Tanzania in partnership with Mtinko Education Development Organisation (MEDO) in Singida District, AFNET in Chamwino District as well as TEN/MET and Policy Forum at national level

At district level, the project is targeting a total of 40 schools, and aims to reach boys and girls, as well as other key education stakeholders such as School Management Committee members, Reflection-Action Circle members, & Education Authorities. At national level, Policy Forum will lead on policy advocacy work in close coordination with ActionAid Tanzania as well as other stakeholders such as TEN/MET.

## AAI staff visit Tanzania for project technical support

Six ActionAid International staff recently conducted a programme support visit to Tanzania for the Breaking Barriers: Tax Justice & Gender Responsive Public Services(GRPS) project.

The team included Asmara Figue (International Project Coordinator), Laurette Abuya (Communications & Advocacy Officer), Lilian Musanga (International Project Accountant), Micheal Ssenoga (MEL & Research Adviser), David Sanda (Grants & Compliance Adviser) and Natasha Mulder (Content Coordinator).

The overall purpose of this technical support visit, which was held mid-July, was to enable members of the ActionAid International(AAI) project coordination team to work closely with project staff at ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) and partners to ensure the project is on track and that management and accountability systems are in place and functional in such a way that it ensures donor compliance and high quality standards are being observed.

Specifically, the visit intended to allow AAI and AATZ staff to meet and discuss key issues related to project implementation and management such as donor compliance, programme management and technical implementation.

It was also aimed to visit the project implementation areas and meet project stakeholders and beneficiaries in target schools and communities, engage with project implementing partners in Singida (MEDO), Chamwino (AFNET) and Dar es Salaam (Policy Forum and TEN/MET, capacity Development and enable AAI and AATZ team members to identify next steps/priorities and ongoing support and capacity development needs

The visit started with a capacity building session for two days at AATZ headquarters. The training session focused on finance, grant management & compliance, monitoring, evaluation & learning, photography & case study documentation skills. The aim was to increase understanding amongst AATZ and implementing partner staff of the donor’s compliance requirements and how to ensure they are observed during project management and implementation on an on-going basis.

The coordination team also had the opportunity to travel to the implementation area (Chamwino & Singida) and met implementing partners AFNET and MEDO, and beneficiaries in target schools and communities. The visited

# Mitole youth demand accountability for the village resources



Kilwa programme officer talking to some members of the committee at Mitole village

**M**itole Village is found in Mitole ward in Kilwa District, southern part of Tanzania. Despite being rich in forest resources that constitute the largest source of income for villagers, it has been affected by many challenges.

For a long time, there have been challenges when it comes to investment in the forest sector, fuelled by corruption, lack of transparency in issuing contracts, and lack of patriotism by some leaders. On the other hand, lack of awareness by community members, led to villagers, including young people, failing to benefit from the resources.

To mitigate this challenge, Said Edec Mukoba who was among youth who participated in different trainings organized by ActionAid decided that enough was enough, and it was time to act. He mobilized and led his fellow youth, who are members of Kilwa Youth Development Organisation (KIYODI) in Mitole to demand changes.

He explained that through Kilwa LRP, himself and other youth under KIYODI got an opportunity, last year, to participate in trainings on governance and accountability, tax, social entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Using the knowledge he got from trainings, he conducted regular feedback meetings with other youth where they discussed challenges facing their village and the importance of demanding changes from the village leadership, where they managed to push for the

formation of a new Village Natural Resource Committee which consists of 17 members (7 females and 10 males).

Mukoba explained that there are many reasons that prompted them to demand the formation of a Village Natural Resources Committee including lack of good social services in their village eg health, education, road infrastructure and, lack of employment to youth.

Explaining on why they decided to act against the situation, the youth said that they have every reason to invest and protect the available resources in their areas so that they can benefit. They also added that they demanded changes because due to unaccountable leaders, their village is losing a lot of income, which could have been used to support improvement of social services.

*“We are disturbed because 80% of our village income comes from forestry resources, but due to poor management, the village is losing a lot of income. Also, as youth and other villagers, we are not accessing the available opportunities in the sector which could have contributed to the economy of our village and country in general,”* said Hamis Ndiale, secretary of the committee.

He added that, *“The forest is a source of employment for us, so we want to benefit from it. We have seen other villages making great strides due to adequate protection of their forests. They earn a great income and benefit from the forests,”* added Ndiale.

On how they managed to move one step

ahead in the process, the youth explained that the process of demanding accountability and transparency was not simple.

*“For some time, we have been following up the investor who was given the contract to harvest logs, to monitor if he is adhering to the rules and regulations required and we realized that he was not complying, because he was harvesting up to water sources and harvesting small trees. We have been reporting it to the village office, but they were not cooperating. We also realized that the existing natural resources committee was not functioning,”* he said.

They continued to reveal that after realizing the challenge and its effects, they called for a ward meeting where the main agenda was about forest resources, how they are being lost and strategies to address the challenge specifically at Mitole Village which is the most affected.

They added that due to awareness they raised at ward level, it helped them to get support from other youth and villagers.

*“We agreed to speak to the village government and our request was the need for an urgent meeting with all villagers on one agenda only, which was investment in village forest resources. They agreed with us, we planned the meeting and we moved around to mobilise villagers to attend the meeting. During the meeting, we explained to them about the challenges facing our forest resources and how this is affecting our village,”* Ndiale added.

He went on to say that as a resolution, the meeting agreed that a temporary committee which was to conduct research on the issue be formed. The committee conducted the research and found out that the village has many forests and forest resources, but it is affected by arbitrary harvesting and it’s not benefiting the village as supposed to due to mismanagement.

Also, during the village general meeting, a Village Natural Resources Committee comprising 17 members (10 male, 7 females) was formed and given a formal responsibility of managing forestry investments for the interest of the village and nation through income collection and economic opportunities. The minutes for the establishment of the committee were also submitted to the District authorities as a procedural requirement.

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## Mitole youth....from page 5.

Explaining about the progress, the youth said the new committee has started work and as a starting point, they made a request to the village government that no any village meeting will be held without the representation of the natural resources committee.

They also requested a copy of the contract between the village authority and the investor to see if it's fairly benefiting both sides.

*"We have also succeeded to block the investor's request, which was submitted to the village leaders, in which he wanted to invest*

*in harvesting oak trees. We told the village leaders that currently, we don't want to see anyone running a forest harvesting operation. We also want those investment opportunities," explained the secretary.*

They youth explained that the biggest challenge is the type of leadership and lack of transparency, but they are not worried because community members are supporting them, and they have given them the mandate of monitoring the management of village resources.

On the way forward the youth explained that they are planning to mobilize all the young people in their village to participate in all the elections and seize leadership positions of the village, so that as

young people they will get the opportunity to make decisions which will benefit them.

*"Our biggest dream is ensuring that our leaders are accountable and transparent in managing our resources, hence reduce the level of poverty among Mitole villagers. We have abundant resources which are enough to generate good income and raise people's livelihoods. Villagers don't deserve to be this poor, simply because there is no proper management. As young people, we need space to bring change," he said.*

In conclusion, the youth said that the progress so far is good because previously the situation was different as youth were not aware of their roles, but now, they have been raising awareness to their fellow youth on their rights and responsibilities in their involvement in developmental processes.

*"Even though we have reached this stage, as a committee, we still need more trainings on how to do our work effectively" Ndiale said.*

The Mitole Village Chairperson, Said Abdallah, confirmed that as a village they are happy to get a new Village Natural Resources Committee.

*"It's true that the previous committee was not active because they were not aware of their roles and most of the members were not educated. But for this new committee, most of the members are youth and educated hence, I am sure they will do a good job. We will cooperate with them to make sure that our forestry resources are protected and benefit our people," said the Chairperson.*



*Some of Mitole youth following a discussion about findings on economic opportunities conducted by AATZ*

## SVAGS Project: Joining hands to encourage girls stay in school

By Mafia LRP Team

In a bid to ensure girls' right to free, quality, public and inclusive education while on the hand protecting their right to safety and self-determination, ActionAid Tanzania (AATz) has been implementing the Stop Violence Against Girls in School (SVAGS) project in Mafia Island.

The project, which has been implemented from 2016 to 2019, encompassed 34 primary schools and 6 secondary schools, in the Island which is home to 9,552 students, 52% of them being girls.

As part of its vision to seek sustained transformation at individual, school and community level, AATz developed a collaborative programme approach to help its engagement work -



*Mafia District Commissioner Hon Shaibu Mnunduma contributing during one of the forums about protecting child rights at Mafia.*

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## SVAGS Project....

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with every school and school community in the District in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

The organization collaborated with schools, community leaders, religious bodies and women groups to develop and deliver an initiative that addressed legal barriers, individual beliefs, and cultural norms, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate violence against girls in and around schools.

Violence against school girls in Mafia is largely exacerbated by cultural norms that cut across homes, schools and communities. Dropouts, early marriages, battery, domestic violence and attempted rape were some of the reported cases of violence in a 2016 study.

The ActionAid approach focuses on community-led initiatives to encourage girls to stay in school. This approach is premised on the fact that the school environment is closely linked with the attitudes, beliefs and norms that are created and reinforced outside the classroom.

*"Before going and after coming back from school, I used to perform all domestic chores alone without any support from my brother. When I arrive home from school, I have to wash dishes and collect firewood before preparing dinner for the whole family. Nobody at home considered that I had homework or assignments to do. It was painful to see my brother, after having his meal joining his friends in sporting activities, and when he gets back he went straight to do his homework and wait for me to serve him the food just because he is a boy,"* explained Warda Baleni, a schoolgirl.

She added, "The project helped to sensitize parents using mothers' groups in all the villages on how to encourage their children to finish homework. Also, the project saw the establishment of school clubs in which we all participated and challenged each other on how to promote children's rights. In the past two years, I have seen my father starting to insist that my brother and I share assigned duties at home and we now have spare time to finish our homework."

According to members of a mothers' group, the main challenge faced in was lack of evidence in court cases because community members refused to cooperate when required to provide evidence against child abuse cases due to Muhali practices.



A religious leader contributing during one of the forums about child rights in the district

*"After the implementation of the project, we witnessed increased reporting of violence against children(VAC) cases due to the serious attention given by government through considering Muhali as one of the corrupt practices in Mafia. Reporting of cases has increased from five cases per year in 2016, to 15 cases in 2017 and 19 cases in 2018, and this reflects change of community perspective on the importance of reporting VAC incidents,"* Zuena Nyundo – Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia (SAWAMA) Executive Coordinator, said.

The teachers also play a part in violence Against Children and this has been a great challenge for children to effectively learn. Children were not motivated to attend school every day due to violence they face in and out of school.

*"Before the project, it was hard to attract and retain children at school. We did everything we could to raise awareness, but this was not possible at the beginning. But now, at least parents understand the importance of girls' education and empowerment. My teachers also have a better understanding of violence against girls in and out of schools and how to handle cases related to violence against girls in and out of school,"* Stephen Emmanuel the Kilindoni Head teacher revealed.

On their side, religious leaders confirmed that through capacity building programmes initiated during the project implementation, they realized that they needed to stop entertaining child marriages. They agreed to request birth certificates for the couples before officiating marriages.

*"We used to officiate marriages without considering the age of the couples. We*

*used to only consider the willingness of the couples, as well as acceptance of the surrounding communities. This affected the girl children much as they were getting married without finishing their studies.*

After we started demanding birth certificates as a requirement for any marriage, we have started to realize some notable changes. We are witnessing girls performing much better than boys during their studies, something that proved that religion and community practices tend to deny girls their right to education." said Abdalla Maua - Muslim Religious leader in Bweni Village.

The Mafia District Commissioner, Shaibu Mkunduma, also confirmed that VAC cases in Mafia have been a result of traditions, values and customs of the communities who seems to embrace Muhali.

He added that for the government, it was a huge concern to receive information that there are some girls dropping out of school to get married with the consent of parents and the communities hide information in favour of perpetrators.

*At the beginning we thought that applying force without educating people would end the problem, but later we came to realize that it was a wrong perception. After the introduction of the project we have noticed that most of the communities now support the agenda of promoting and protecting children's rights. Women through SAWAMA networks established in each village and have been given a mandate to report any case of violence against children to the responsible authority. the DC added.*

# Mwanaidi: Mobilising women towards economic transformation

**M**wanaidi Madadi (31), is a mother of three kids living in Matandu Village of Kilwa District, Tanzania, who has dedicated her time and knowledge in making a difference in her village. Having been empowered by TUJIWAKI and ActionAid, she mobilizes women in her village so that they can bring change and contribute towards their economic development.

Mwanaidi explains that, last year, she participated in different trainings and forums organized by ActionAid and TUJIWAKI on areas such as women rights and gender, violence against women, leadership and accountability, social innovation and entrepreneurship and budget analysis.

*“I feel so lucky to be among women who got the opportunity to participate in these trainings because the knowledge I got helped to transform my life and other women in the village,”* Mwanaidi said.

Like in any other area, Mwanaidi explains that women participation in development activities was previously a major challenge in her village due to lack of understanding.

*“Before this knowledge, 99% of women in our village including myself, were not taking part in village meetings. We were not even able to establish any income generating activity. We were depending on men for survival. This led our lives to be difficult because some of us failed to pay school fees for our children, and we were not able to own houses,”* she said.

Mwanaidi added that after getting the know-how, she started to use it to change her life and that of other women. *“I started engaging in small income generating activities (businesses) and farming just to help me get income. I also mobilized other women to form groups so that they come up with joint income generating opportunities and help them improve economically.”*

Describing the changes she has brought to her Village, Mwanaidi said last year she encouraged women and succeeded in establishing four entrepreneurial groups. She was also able to educate women about violence against them and its effects, and set up reflection action circles, where they discuss challenges facing the villages and how they can solve them.



*Mwanaidi showing some of the products produced by women in one of her groups*

Speaking of achievements, Mwanaidi explains that she feels so proud to see women through their groups engaging in different income generating activities including sesame farming, gardening, businesses, making mats & handbags. She gave an example that through their group, they have been able to get a loan of Tsh 2 million from the District Council for a sesame farming project.

Her motivation and dedication was so high that she was selected by her group members as the chairperson of the group, which is today composed of 8 members.

She added that women now participate in village meetings and many women have joined groups and undertake various projects that have raised their income, hence they can now send their children to school, own plots and build houses.

She also pointed out that now, men have started to see the benefits of women in groups. Even when they see things go wrong at home, they encourage their wives to join groups

Commenting on Mwanaidi's initiative in the village, Amina Mikidadi, testifies that women now are aware of the importance of being together.

*“We have decided to set up groups in order to grow economically, earn a living and get out of poverty. Here in our village, there was not even one group established, but through the aware-*

*ness we have been given daily, we have now started to form groups. We realized that when you are alone you only have one idea, but if you are many it means you have more ideas, you learn from others and you get inspired and motivated to act”*

On how she managed to mobilise and educate women, Mwanaidi said whenever she gets a chance to take part in any training when she returns to the village, she makes sure she finds an opportunity to share what she learnt with other women.

*“So far, I have been able to reach 65% of women here in the village. Whenever I have anything to share with women, I normally use village meetings, group meetings and some time I walk door to door to look for women and talk to them”*said Mwanaidi

Talking about challenges, she says most women want to join the group and become successful on the same day, something which is not possible. But as we continue to educate them, they have begun to understand that for the group to be successful it needs commitment and hard work from all members to be able to see the benefits of being in groups.

*“Mobilizing people is not easy because they had a perception that I am being paid, hence, I am earning a lot of money.*

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# Mwanaidi.....

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*So sometimes when I call women for any session, some say you need to pay us because you are also being paid. Something which is not true,”* added Mwanaidi.

*“What motivated me to encourage formation of groups is the desire to promote development, because when we meet, we talk about development and we learn a variety of things about development.”*

In relation to market for their products, she said it is still a challenge for them, but they have been using different approaches to

market and sell their products including exhibitions in events such as nanenane or any other forums.

*“My biggest dream is to see women growing economically; contributing to the development of the Village and the nation and also to assuming leadership positions.*

The main thing that interests me in doing this work is seeing that I have contributed in changing someone’s life in the community, especially women and the disabled.

*My call to women is that we have many opportunities, but no opportunity will reach you without the desire to reach them, con-*

cluded Mwanaidi

Historically, Kilwa district is predominantly coastal community where polygamous marriages are common, and women given less value in various aspects of life from family to community level. Women have not been involved in decision making processes or contribute to influence decision making including those affecting their life such as ownership and distribution of resources.

ActionAid has been working with the community, other stakeholders and the district to organize several capacity development sessions to raise awareness to women and girls, religious and traditional leaders as well as the whole community on women rights and the need to safeguard women dignity.

## ActionAid equips youth on leadership and electoral processes

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer

To encourage youth participation in the country’s electoral processes, Action Tanzania organized a training on youth leadership, electoral participation processes and accountability which took place in Dar-es-Salaam recently.

The training, held in early July, brought together young people from Activista network and other youth organizations from Dar-es-Salaam and Pemba, and was facilitated by Global Platform Zambia (Bhekumusa Moyo and Nancy).

The aim of the training was to build capacity for young women and men on electoral participation process and cascading the same to other young women and men, to equip them on advocacy and mobilization skills in view of election process and monitoring of the same and to share experience of youth on civic participation process and on how to address challenges facing young women and men on mobilization strategies.

The training which was conducted in two phases of five days, was to empower youth in view of this year’s local government elections and up-coming general elections in 2020.

During the training, the facilitators introduced the overview of the training and asked questions to participants to measure their level of understanding on democracy, accountability and election process. Group discussion and

presentations were also used to share some experiences from youth to find out gaps of youth in Tanzania and identifying the reasons of young people’s failure to participate in elections.

Human right-based approach also was stressed during the training whereby participants were emphasized to apply human right based approach in addressing various issues to youth in different areas by considering the core elements such as participation, accountability, nondiscrimination, empowerment and legal issues in youth interventions.

Campaign strategy, campaign cycle and community organizing process was discussed whereby participants learnt that to conduct a successful campaign different aspect/strategy should be taken into consideration

*“As youth, we should be visible in order to raise awareness in the community and this can be done by conducting motivational education so that community members can be educated on civic education and election process,”* insisted Bhekumusa.

At the end of the training, participants were trained on developing strategic planning and how to develop campaign messages. The focus was on writing clear campaign message. The training was part of key national actions of the project (The Africa We want) which built on youth capabilities to mobilize, advocate and organize campaign.



Youth in group discussion during the training

# Pictorial



*A facilitator from Global Platform Zambia facilitating during the leadership training*



*Project officer, Emmanuel Mabodo (centre) facilitating youth group discussion during the leadership training*



*Mahama primary school club teacher, presenting a school report to visitors from ActionAid*



*Photo taking practice during the capacity building session at AATZ offices*



*A section of participant listening to the facilitator during a training on Journalism and Communication in Digital age at MS TCDC*



*Mahama school club pupils performing a tradition dance during a visit*