

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

May 2020

## AATZ Boosts Face Masks Production to Curtail COVID 19



*A Facilitator from SIDO, Mr. Mikidadi Makame guiding SAWAMA members on how to make local face masks during a training organised by AATZ*

**By Mafia LRP Team**

In a move to intensify the fight against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic in Mafia District, ActionAid Tanzanian (AATZ) recently organised a three-day training for 20 members of the Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia (SAWAMA) on the production of locally made face masks using recommended materials.

The aim of the training that was held at SAWAMA offices from the 11th to the 13th of May 2019, was to empower the women with skills to ensure improved availability of the face masks to the Mafia community and help curb the spread of Corona virus.

The training, which was conducted by Mikidadi Makame from Small Industry Development Organisation (Sido) Mafia, comprised both theory and practical and saw the masks being produced using recommended, washable and reusable material to ensure increased access and availability of the masks.

The trainer informed participants that in designing these masks, they should be innovative in creating good, attractive and durable masks so that they persuade people into

using them. He went on to give them recommended measurements and teaching them on best methods to produce the masks.

Zainabu Ally, a tailor from Kungwi Village who participated during the training said that she was happy to be part of the training.

*“As a member of SAWAMA, I promise that we will make face masks of high quality that are able to protect users from Coronavirus,” she said, adding that due to various reasons such as misinformation, myths and affordability, the rate of wearing face*

masks in the district is very low and leaves a lot to be desired.

Another participant, Msoma Tumbo from Shunguma Village thanked ActionAid for organizing the training, donating sewing machines and various materials, adding that the move will go a long way in improving wearing of masks in Mafia District.

*“Through this empowerment (training and donation), we are now able to make face masks to help the public protect themselves from the pandemic,” she said.*

SAWAMA Coordinator, Ms Zuwena Nyundo said the training on how to make face masks will empower the group economically through selling them at affordable prices, for all the members of the public to access the vital face covers.

She also went on to thank AATZ for donating three sewing machines, various materials that will be used in the production of the masks and the training they received.

As part of the process, AATZ also took the opportunity to donate three sewing machines, three bundles of clothing materials and other sewing materials such as elastics and thread to boost the production of the face masks.



*Zainabu Ally, beneficiary of the training ready in production of face mask.*



# Engaging Religious Leaders in The Fight Against COVID-19



Some of the religious leaders in a discussion during a meeting organised by AATZ recently in Kilwa

leaders in this district, we will relay the same message to the faithful so that they take care. I will also spread the teaching to all leaders at various mosques in the district, to help fight this war” he said.

In Pemba, during the training, religious leaders agreed that they will insist on issues of hygiene to people and ensure social distance is taken seriously during prayers. They also agreed to invite government officials and health workers

Religious leaders play a vital role in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. And, since the announcement of the first case of the disease in the country, the government did not ban churches and mosques from conducting their services, but provided directives to make the prayer houses safe for the faithful. The measures were taken because places of worship attract large numbers of people at a time, with keeping social distance being a major challenge.

On the other hand, one of the major setbacks identified during awareness interventions is the community’s perception that the disease has been brought by God, and He is the one who is able to end it. The perception affects government and other stakeholders’ efforts in fighting against COVID19, as some people do not take preventive measures seriously.

Recognizing that, ActionAid in Mafia, Pemba and Kilwa at different times organized training to 50 religious leaders from both Christian and Muslim religions (Mafia 15, Kilwa,10, Pemba,25). In all the three districts, majority of the population are Muslims and they highly believe and respect their religious leaders for issues that affect communities.

The aim of the training was to help curb the transmission of the deadly virus through equipping them with the right information on COVID-19, for them to take necessary steps to protect their followers from contracting the virus, while at the same time teaching them to take preventive measures that will keep their families and the community safe.

Dr Zuberi Ally Mzighe, Mafia District Medical Officer who facilitated the training in Mafia, insisted that religious leaders should take a leading role in the fight against the pandemic by teaching their followers to observe all preventive measures recommended by health experts and also enlighten them on the disease by dispelling rumours and myths.

During the training, Pastor Vicent Moses of the Anglican Church in Mafia said;

*“The training has helped me build capacity on preventive measures against the corona virus and has rekindled the zeal in me to go out there and teach the community, so that they also take the necessary steps to fight the pandemic,”* he said, adding that the community should adhere to what they are told by health experts on the disease.

Also, the Sheikh for Mafia District, Yusuf Suleman Juma, said that together with other religious leaders, they were attending this seminar so that they get more information on COVID-19.

*“The DMO has taught us many things we did not know. As religious*

to mosques and speak to followers on COVID 19 situation and bylaws that have been imposed to help prevent the spread of the virus.

They also planned to record and broadcast encouraging and inspirational messages from respected faith leaders, which can be shared online and other media platforms.

In Kilwa, religious leaders appreciated Action-Aid for bring them together and educating them on COVID19. They also admitted that there are still people in their communities who are not taking preventive measures seriously, hence promised to play an active role in educating them.



Dr Ally Mzighe (DMO-Mafia) showing religious leaders how to wear a mask during the training



# Pemba Youth Lead COVID-19 Awareness Campaign



*Faki Ally, member of Pemba Youth Voice Organisation conducting discussion with youth on COVID-19 and civic participation in Chwale Pemba*

**By Pemba LRP Team**

**P**emba Island, like any other area in Tanzania, has not been spared by the novel corona virus. As per last official information, Pemba had recorded 26 COVID-19 cases.

Responding to the situation, Pemba LRP took different initiatives including empowering and supporting youth, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to conduct COVID 19 awareness campaign in the district.

Young people from Pemba Youth Organisation (PYVO), and Pemba Female Youth Organisation were the ones who led the COVID 19 awareness campaign.

Rukia Ibrahim Kombo, a member of Pemba Female Youth Organisation, explained that due to their understanding of the community, they employed various approaches to make sure that every member is reached with information on COVID 19 and how to protect themselves.

She said that the awareness campaign started with road shows using loud public address system (PAS). The major message was encouraging community members to take preventive measures including keeping social distance, hygiene, and all-important

measurements towards COVID 19 and encouraging protection of children through learning from home.

*"In the areas that are hard to reach using a PA vehicle and people have no access to the media, we conducted door to door campaigns and distributed IEC materials. These areas include, Sea weed farming areas, beach and coastal areas which attract gatherings due to various activities,"* added Rukia.

She added that in collaboration with Radio Jamii Micheweni, Istiqama Radio and health officers from Micheweni and Wete districts, they managed to participate in 8 interactive radio shows which attracted and reached almost 3,000,000 listeners in Pemba and Unguja. The radio programmes were very interactive and more than 400 text messages were sent in form of questions.

The radio shows were complemented by comic jingles that were developed by famous local comedians. The jingles were aimed at reaching Pemba communities

as infotainment that made people to easily understand and adhere to the message.

Recognizing the vital role of digital platforms in sharing information, Rukia said they used twitter, facebook, instagram and WhatsApp groups just to make sure that social network users, who are mostly youth, are reached with COVID 19 information.

*"We created 20 WhatsApp groups with almost 15 to 20 participants each, including members from youth reflection action circles and clubs, who provide information among themselves and spread it to other members in the communities,"* added Rukia.

On how they managed to involve many youths in the awareness campaign, Rukia said:

*"Because we had different approaches of reaching Pemba audience, we divided ourselves and assumed different roles. Some of us took part in road shows, others volunteered to conduct door to door awareness visits, while others took part in radio programmes and social media.*

For future initiatives, Rukia said that they are currently assessing the effects of the pandemic on youth, considering that many of them are engaging in small income generating activities which are currently struggling.

*"We are using the same WhatsApp groups to collect information from youth across Pemba on the effects of COVID 19 pandemic to their lives and how to adapt and move on. We believe that, if young people will be aware of the impact of the virus and how to protect themselves, it will help protect the whole community,"* concluded Rukia.



*Rukia Kombo (right) participating in one of the radio discussion at Istikama radio station during the COVID19 awareness*





## AATZ Trains Mafia Bodaboda Riders to Fight COVID-19

By Mafia LRP Team

**A**ctionAid Tanzania recently organized a one-day training for motorcycle riders popularly known as Bodabodas in Mafia District to equip them with preventive measures against the deadly Corona virus.

The training that was conducted on the 15th of May, 2019 by the District Medical Officer, Dr Zubery Ally Mzige, was aimed at educating leaders of bodaboda riders association, together with those in charge of various motorcycle ranks in the district so that they could pass on the vital message to colleagues in their respective areas.

During the training, the DMO called upon the riders to observe all preventive measures against the pandemic because they are one of the most vulnerable groups and are in danger of contracting the virus due to the nature of their job.

"I am confident that we will win this war because we have timely provided this information so that you can also spread it to your colleagues and the general public who are your clients. Through God, our conscience should also fight against this pandemic together with measures provided by experts, otherwise without that we will fail, because you are one of the most vulnerable groups in the community," he said, adding that they must adhere to

what had been taught, because they have the potential to spread the virus broadly and fast.

The DMO went on to say that they have to put on face masks whenever they carry passengers and insisted that they should not share the masks.

*"I want to assure you that we will outclass this virus, and the secret behind the success is what we are teaching you today. This is the only way to succeed in this fight."*

**"**We thank AATZ for their efforts in helping us through different ways; they donated various equipment for our sake. So, wear face masks because you are the youth who are our soldiers in this war, and we will win," Dr Mzige said.

On the other hand, the AATZ Mafia District Co-ordinator, Samwel Mesiaki, thanked the DMO for the training on coronavirus because the outbreak of such pandemics is not planned, hence the need for everyone to be responsible and help protect the Mafia community during this time.

"I just want to remind you that if we have a good system to fight against this pandemic as a community from household level up to the district level, then we will win against it. There is no any other way, otherwise poverty will worsen. I will be disappointed if you do not

go and put into practice what we have learnt here today as it will be retrogressive towards the elimination of COVID 19," Samwel said.

The Chairperson of the Bodaboda association in the district, Maweno Shabani, appreciated AATZ for the training because COVID-19 is a pandemic crippling the world.

"We all need to be enlightened, starting from family level that comprises the old, youth and children, so that we know what we are supposed to do to protect ourselves from this dangerous pandemic that is threatening to bring in poverty into the community," he said.

"To be honest, before this seminar together with my friends, we did not know a lot about preventive measures against COVID 19. Through this training, I will be a peer educator among my fellow riders, and as their chairperson, they will listen to me and observe what I will tell them," added Shabani.

One of the participants, Musa Khamis, said that the move by AATZ was of great importance as the motorcyclists were the most vulnerable and could easily spread the virus.

**"**Most riders here in the district had a business as usual attitude when it comes to taking measures against corona virus. Most of them did not wear face masks, and they hardly washed their hands. In fact, they were fast becoming a corona time bomb,"

He said, adding that they expected to see some changes in the manner the riders conducted themselves.



# Kilwa LRP Intensifies Efforts Against COVID-19



Members of women platform conducting door to door awareness on COVID-19

By Kilwa LRP Team

As a continuation of efforts to ensure the Kilwa community is safe from COVID-19 and its impacts, the Local Rights Programme (LRP) in collaboration with TUJIWAKI (women rights network) and KIYODI (youth network) extended awareness initiatives to remote areas.

The women and youth network members, during the campaign, focused on street to street, door to door awareness and distri-

bution of information and communication materials like posters and fliers on COVID 19 and its preventive measures, to 9 wards within Kilwa district which are: Mandawa, Kinjumbi, Mingumbi, Namayuni, Somanga, Masoko, Miguruwe, Mitole and Njinjo.

The facilitation circle members from both youth and women networks managed to share knowledge on COVID 19 in villages in the 9 wards, of which more than five thousand (5,000) people were reached.

Awareness activities went hand in hand with the donation of three 500 litre water tanks that were placed at Kilwa main bus stand, Kilwa district hospital and bodaboda stand in Somanga area to be used by members of the community to wash their hands.

Dr Halfani Kazeba (DMO- Kilwa district) appreciated the efforts being done by the Women and Youth platforms of being in the frontline in providing awareness to communities since the eruption of the pandemic.

*"We appreciate because we could not reach everywhere due to lack of resources. We also appreciate for the support of hygiene items (tanks, soap) for villages and health workers,"* said Dr Kazeba while receiving the donated items.

Rashid Ally Omary, leader of fish market, also thanked ActionAid for reaching out to fishermen and educating them about COVID 19 pandemic and the required preventive measures.

*"As we all see, this place is always congested by people because of the fishing business. Therefore, this knowledge has come at the right time. As leaders in the area, we will use the knowledge to continue educating our people,"* concluded Mr Omary.

## Global Platform Tanzania is Back Again!

Tanzania was among of the countries that had Global Platform until it was closed in 2014 due to various reasons. Global Platforms are platforms established by ActionAid with the aim to nurture youth with knowledge and skills to leverage holistic development on one hand and serve as safe space for youth.

During its functional period in Tanzania, many organizations have benefitted through trainings organised by the platform.

Currently, Global Platforms exist in various forms in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Americas.

The re-establishment of GP Tanzania seeks to enhance the achievement of the CSP IV by increasing activism, movement building and creating space that will allow young people to address issues that affect them.

The objective of the GP is to build collective power and facilitate skills creating opportunities that will lead to youth-led social changes. GP will provide opportunities and spaces for young people to gather, meet, exchange ideas, network, learn and take joint actions.

A team of talented young women and men, products of Global platform programs have been selected as a consultative group. They are dedicated to ensuring that the new GP Tanzania will develop revolutionary concepts that totally disrupt the sector and change the field with how valuable and relevant to the context they are.

One such example has been a solidarity action in the form of a regional webinar in the SADC region on COVID-19 that brought together 4 GPs in the region, namely GP Zimbabwe, GP Zambia, GP Malawi and GP

Mozambique. The webinar was themed *"the Right to participation: navigating the blurry lines"* and it explored how measures put in place by many SADC states in response to COVID-19 have created an uncondusive environment that is hindering meaningful participation of young people. The East Africa webinar is in the pipeline and GP Tanzania will partner with GP Kenya and Uganda in exploring how young people from East African can recover economically from COVID-19.

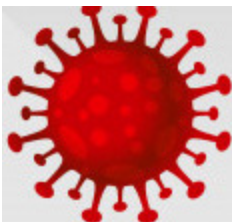
For more information about GP Tanzania and upcoming activities, follow them on

Twitter: @GP\_Tanzania,

Facebook: Globalplatform Tanzania

Stay tuned!





# AATZ Donates Water Tanks & Personal Protective Equipments To Curb COVID-19

**A**s part of intervention to support communities in the fight against COVID-19, ActionAid Tanzania has distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's) in the districts of Mafia, Kilwa, Singida, Chamwino Unguja and Pemba.

Under its direct support initiatives, the organisation has distributed 64 water tanks(1000ltrs, 500ltrs,50ltrs,20ltrs ) and other hygiene materials such as face masks, hand washing soap and 20 foot operated hand washing machines.

The distribution of water tanks was as follows; Mafia(3t anks), Kilwa (3 tanks) Singida (14 tanks),Chamwino(14 tanks),Pemba(30 buckets

The water tanks were allocated in public places such as markets,bus stand, health centres, primary &secondary schools as well as fish markets to help community members wash their hand regularly while in their normal businesses.

In Chamwino and Singida Districts, AATZ also has supported 100 personal protective equipment(PPE's) for health front line workers

Other items were ,11 themoscan(Mafia 3),Unguja (8) which were distributed in the identified places by district authorities.

Speaking while handing over the donations to the Mafia District Authorities, AATZ Mafia District Coordinator, Samweli Mesiak said the donation was part of the efforts by the organisation to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

*"The water tanks we donated will be strategically installed in open places for the public to be able to wash their hands and protect themselves against the dangerous virus," he said.*

The Mafia District Executive Director said, "We thank AATZ for the way they help the district council in various areas including health and education sectors. We appreciate how you have been fighting against the coronavirus through donating various equipment and working tools. T"

*"The district had only one non-contact infrared thermometer, so through this donation, one will be placed at the airport, another at the port while the remained will be used at the health facility designated for coronavirus patients.*

"We thank ActionAid for their efforts in fighting against this pandemic in Mafia. The people of Mafia, we are supposed to safeguard these tanks and the water has been chlorinated, and the service is free of charge so make sure you wash your hands regularly," he said.

"I would thank AATZ for the water tanks because they will help to increase the frequency people wash their hands. And on the other hand, the thermometers are a good development, because people were not having their temperatures taken at important areas such as the airport and port.," she said.



**Mafia resident washing her hands Using a donated water tank by AATZ**



**Mafia DMO & district Executive Director showing thermometers donated by AATZ**



**Kilwa resident washing his hands in one of the tanks donated by AATZ**



**Joram Wimmo(AATZ) handing over the donated PPEs to Chamwino District Commissioner Hon Vumilia Nyamoga**



**A student from Mchanga mdogo secondary school -Wete Pemba washing his hands using tanks donated by ActionAid**



# Youth & The Right To Participate During COVID-19

By Tayiona Sanangurai-Youth Advisor AATZ

On the 22nd of May 2020, young people from across 8 SADC countries (Angola, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe) gathered together under the auspice of Global Platform Tanzania in partnership with GP Zimbabwe. The solidarity meeting sort to explore how young people can navigate the blurry lines created by the restrictive COVID-19 measures. The webinar was graced by expert panelists who framed the context of participation as enshrined in the African Human Rights Charter namely Dewa Mavhinga from Human Rights Watch, Maria Malomalo from Mwapo and Gillian Bossman the Western Cape Member of Parliament from South Africa.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) like any other pandemic, has had a direct impact on the most vulnerable and their rights, and like in many other crises we are already seeing an exacerbation of existing injustices and inequalities. Around the world, Governments are being forced to make huge and unprecedented decisions because of the coronavirus pandemic. These decisions are vital to public health and, in many ways, can impact human rights and the economic success of countries around the world. The key issues that came from the webinar can be themed as follows:

## Young women's participation:

70% of the African economy is informal, street vendors, and domestic workers for example in Angola are mostly women. The quarantine has reduced the financial security for women hence affects their livelihood. Frontline workers are mostly women, but there are less women in decision making. Organizing for women has become very difficult because of the restrictions to movement and communication. One woman is quoted in every 3 men in the media coverage of COVID-19 according to women in global health.

When we have equal representation, applying a gender lens will be natural. We need to keep gender equality central and provide support to women human rights defenders. We need to call for a feminist and gender responsive approach to COVID-19 response and recovery.

We must acknowledge that COVID-19 has also increased women's unpaid labor and women are already relegated to the informal sector and when we talk about helping women recover their business, one demand



A section of youth club Members in Micheweni Pemba following discussion on COVID19 and Civic Rights organised by AATZ and Pemba Youth Voice

should be access to universal child care so that women can actually take on work outside the informal sector and be able to access decent working conditions.

## Enhanced transparency & accountability

Parliament has an important role to provide oversight, but does that always happen?. In South Africa we now see the government communicating with citizens through a dedicated COVID-19 WhatsApp platform, but across SADC there is limited opportunity for citizens to engage with government in COVID-19 related issues. Citizens have suffered at the hands of security forces who are hell bent on implementing the unclear lockdown guidelines. The challenge we have now is that those responsible for implementing the COVID-19 regulations, the police, and soldiers, appear to be the final arbiter and citizens do not have a recourse when their rights are violated. Parliaments appear to have taken a back sit in COVID-19 responses and the executive has gone unchecked and in some instances rogue.

Institutions of accountability must be strengthened, and parliament must play its oversight role as well as ensure public participation in decision making. There is need to promote and strengthen those institutions to be able to deliver on the right to participation and to prevent direct and indirect discrimination inspired by political differences, race, sex, religion and disability.

## Economic participation & recovery

With high youth unemployment in Africa, most economies are informal. With the current lockdown measures and resultant inability to operate informal businesses that are the source of livelihood for approximately +80% of our citizens, many will find it difficult to recover?

It is critical for countries to develop recovery funds for such businesses. South Africa has led the way but more needs to be done and a recovery plan at SADC level will help to address even cross boarder traders.

## Participation of the rural youth

Participation is now online, and most COVID-19 information and platforms have gravitated there. This has left the rural youth with no access to smartphones unable to access timely information. Further with schools closed, learning has become online leaving behind the rural youth. The high cost of data to go online makes it difficult for learning which is now online.

State authorities must ensure that there is reliable and unfettered access to the internet especially for those in poor communities to have access to Wi-Fi hotspot so that they have access to information and participate meaningfully. The use of radio is important to the dissemination of information for people to be aware of their rights and the relevant institutions that protect their rights.



