

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

September 2019

## Kilwa Marks International Day of the Girl Child

**K**ilwa District recently joined the rest of the world to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child under the theme; 'Empowering Girls for Bright Future' (Mwezeshe Mtoto wa Kike kwa Kesho Iliyo Bora).

The event, which took place at Kilwa Masoko on the 17th of October 2019, was led by TUJILWAKI (Women rights association) in collaboration with other CSOs and stakeholders in the District with major support from the LRP.

The activities to commemorate the day, that is observed every year on the 11th of October, were launched on September 20th and involved a series of engagements at community level. They were aimed at raising awareness targeting children especially girls, women, youth, religious leaders, LGA and those taking traditional initiations.

Some of the activities included radio programmes and community sensitization ses-

sions in 13 wards.

Also, children, especially girls, were engaged to assess the status and magnitude of early pregnancies in Kilwa and come up with recommendations for its elimination. The report was then presented during the commemoration event.

The culmination event which was coloured by different performances from children with messages related to the challenge of early pregnancies and how to curb it, brought together pupils, teachers, women, youth from different villages and other stakeholders working with children and women.

Support services to survivors of violence (victims) and awareness raising on the rights of girls, and policies and provisions that safeguard girl child rights were also provided during the event.

Explaining the objective on behalf of the



Students holding placards with messages during the event

coalition, AATZ Kilwa LRP Officer, Joyce John highlighted that they are joining other Tanzanian stakeholders in advocating the rights of the girl child by opposing all forms of violence, especially early pregnancies. She went on to call upon various stakeholders at different levels to put together strategies to ensure that the rights of the girl child are protected and services are improved.

She also added that Kilwa is one of the districts in Tanzania where girls have been going through various challenges including school dropouts, forced labour, rape and neglect and leading them to fail to fulfil their dreams, citing an example that from January to date, 48 pregnancies were reported within Kilwa District.

*"This situation is unsatisfactory, and it needs deliberate efforts to combat it. We feel that it is important to reconsider the legal, social, cultural and systematic challenges which are hindering a girl child in her development, recognizing her basic rights such as access to education and all basic needs, but also, to enable her to learn how to fight against all forms of violence she faces in society, especially early pregnancy," emphasized Joyce.*

Continues page 2.....

Girls performing during the commemoration of the international day of the girl child





# Kilwa Marks.....

From page 1.....

Presenting their speech to the guest of honour, a representative of the girls said that in an assessment they conducted, they realized that there are challenges that leads to pregnancies for girls at school or who are under age and kill their dreams. Some of them includes poverty, extreme cruelty on children, long distances to and from schools, shifting cultivation, making children source of income, divorce, temptations, lack of infrastructure and social services eg water.

Some of their recommendations to the government were continuous awareness raising to children on their rights and responsibilities, more awareness on SRHR, government to improve learning and teaching infrastructure such as availability of hostels for girls, decent toilets and water in schools, etc.

In his remarks, the Kilwa District Council Chairperson, Hon Abuu Mussa Mjaka who was the guest of honour, appreciated AATZ for taking the lead in fight against early pregnancies and promoting the rights of the girl child in the district.

He said that the District Council was aware of the challenges facing girls including long walking distances to and from school which exposes them to dangerous situations.

*"We have already started to address some of the challenges including construction of hostels in some of the public secondary schools. This is to avoid girls walking long distances to access schools. The district has also budgeted to address the water challenge in Miguruwe Ward which is also major contribution towards early pregnancies,"* insisted Hon Mjaka.

At the end of the event, fundraising was done to support provision of sanitary packs to girls in six schools. This was done to build a base for advocating improved sanitary services in schools to create conducive learning and teaching environments. A total of six boxes of sanitary packs were provided to the six secondary schools which participated in the event and these are: Kilwa, Mtanga, Mibuyuni, Dodomezi, Miguruwe and Kipatimu secondary schools, and a total of Tshs 500,000 was raised for the same purpose and sanitary packs will be provided to other 12 secondary schools during the coming climax of the 16 Days of Activism in December.

ActionAid is committed to enhance capacity of women in addressing structural causes of violence against women and girls (traditions, values, laws, practices, policies).



Joyce John, Kilwa LRP Programme officer, explaining about the objective of the event



Girls presenting their speech during the launch of campaign at ward level



NMB Bank representative handing over boxes of sanitary packs to the chairperson of TUJIWAKI for distribution to girls in schools



# Female Youth Launch Campaign to Bring Back Girls to School

A female youth organization in Pemba has launched an ambitious campaign to bring back to school girls who dropped out.

The campaign dubbed, '*Rudi shule Jenga Mai-sha Yako*' (go back to school and build your life) is aimed at reaching girls in and out of schools and ensure they are educated so that they can be able to realize their dreams in the future.

They launched the campaign after realizing that many girls are dropping out of school and are in streets engaging in various activities to earn a living, such as working in sea weed farms.

The Chairperson of Pemba Female Youth Organisation, Sadda Saleh, explained that they have realized if girls are continuing to drop out of school, they will be missing the opportunity of being educated which will ultimately increase the cycle of poverty.

*"We have witnessed in the community that most women facing violence are the ones who are not educated. They lack awareness of their rights and available opportunities, no source of income and they have the perception that it is normal,"* narrated Sadda.

She gave an example that in the three schools of Tumbe, Ukwinji and Micheweni which they have already visited, they discovered that 10 girls have dropped out of school and some of them are working in sea weed farms to earn income.

She added that the activities of the campaign involve visiting schools and conducting discussions with teachers, school clubs, students and



Representatives of Pemba female youth organization conducting discussion with girls

parents on the challenge of rising drop outs and importance of education to a girl child.

*"We also look for and meet girls who dropped out of school wherever they are and discuss with them why they have decided to leave their studies. Sometimes we follow them in seaweed farms and other places,"* she said.

The major reason for the drop out, according to Sadda, is the high levels of poverty in families.

***"Some of the girls say when they go back home after school, they find nothing to eat, they have no school uniforms and other basic needs for them to be at school such as exercise books, that's why they have decided***

***to go and work so that they get money for themselves and their families,"*** she added.

Sadda further explained that some of the girls confirmed that they are ready to go back to school, but they can't because

they lack support for basic needs such as uniforms.

*"For girls who are ready to go back to school, what we do is to talk to teachers to accept them even if they don't have uniforms or exercise books,"* added Sadda.

Sharing about the progress of the campaign, Sadda said up to now they have reached 300 pupils in four shekhias. *"Our dream is to make sure girls are getting the opportunity to enjoy their right to education for better life in the future. We have so many plans, but we also have a challenge of resources to fund implementation of our activities."*

Pemba youth female organization has been established as a result of ActionAid Pemba interventions on youth and women including trainings and mobilisation.

In Pemba, women especially in rural areas are facing many development challenges such as high illiteracy rate which is a result of earlier termination of school due to early marriage, big burden of family care as number of families are female headed, domestic violence, poverty/low economic status, as well as low participation in decision making processes.



Discussion in progress in one of the school





Some of Pemba Youth Voice Organisation (PYVO) members in one of their discussion at Pemba

## Pemba Youth Push to Establish Opportunity Platform

**Y**outh in Pemba Island, through their organization known as Pemba Youth Voice organization (PYVO) are planning to establish a platform (**Jukwaa la Fursa**) meant to bring them together for learning and accessing economic opportunities.

PYVO was established as a result of ActionAid Pemba's trainings to youth which motivated them to mobilise themselves and establish the organization, which is legally registered and currently working in 18 shekhias. The organization has so far reached about 500 youth through its awareness programmes.

Speaking about the plans to establish the platform of opportunities PYVO Chairman, Mr Said Mussa said apart from the campaign work they have been doing, currently they are working on to initiate a platform which will bring all youth in Pemba together for learning and accessing economic opportunities. The platform will include young entrepreneurs and those who have not yet entered entrepreneurship.

On what prompted them to initiate the platform, Mussa said that their aim is to free young people from economic dependency and empower them to demand change to eliminate poverty.

*"The biggest challenge we have is that many youths in Pemba are generally still lagging*

*behind. They don't know their rights as they are dependent, and they face challenges when they finish their studies because they do not know what they are going to do afterward as they are not prepared. They end up in despair and become involved in drugs and immoral acts,"* said Mussa.

He further explained that what they will do is to encourage young people to become self-aware, to interact with leaders and to be informed and get connected to different economic opportunities.

*"Our approach is that we will be visiting the youth in all colleges in Pemba, talk to them and get them motivated to seek the change they want to see in their lives, including self-employment and civic education. The aim is to prepare them psychologically before they come out to the street after*

*their studies,"* he said.

Mussa added that the forum would connect young people with key entities like financial institutions, markets and Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS) and other important institutions because many of them are facing the challenge of lack of capital and markets for their products and services. The forum will also create a space for youth to connect with their leaders and other key stakeholders

*"We believe that this opportunity forum will help provide solutions to some of the challenges facing young people. What we will do is mobilise more youth to be part of the forum. We will also work closely with shekhia leadership,"* he said.

On challenges they are facing in implementing their responsibilities, Mussa said the biggest challenge is that community members still do not believe in them as they feel that they are being used to spy on them. Similarly, low awareness for young people is also a problem as they feel like they are wasting time.

PYVO is currently working on awareness raising to youth on their rights and roles and how to demand them and budget analysis. The organization operates on a membership system, but their aim is to reach youth in all shekhias

Since last year, AATZ Pemba has been working with youth to empower them on governance leadership and economic empowerment.



PYVO in one of their awareness session with youth



# Supporter Visit to Singida

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) Singida LRP recently received a sponsor from Italy Funding Affiliate, Mr Marco Venturelli whose aim was to visit sponsored children, their community and assess programme achievements within the child community.

The visit that was held at the end of September, started at a child home where the supporter got an opportunity to interact with the family. He then visited the school where the child learns and was welcomed by traditional dance from a women's group from Sekoture Village where the child lives. The event was graced by other community members, village leaders, school management committee and teachers of that school.

The supporter was excited to exchange experiences and discuss various development priorities in the community with village leaders and community members, on initiatives they take apart from AA support. The supporter was impressed by their responses as the community members revealed that they had contributed towards various development initiatives such as the ongoing construction of a classroom at Sekoture and plans for a health centre in the village.

Child sponsors are often keen travelers and if they have the chance, are very interested in visiting their sponsored children in communities. This is a great opportunity for

the sponsor, the community and ActionAid (AA) as the supporter will be able to share experiences with community members, see AA works around that community, and meet the sponsored child physically, unlike before where they knew each other through the communication we share with the supporter from the child.

Child sponsorship remains one of the relevant income streams and currently, a larger amount of our Individual Giving Income, which funds one third of the organizations long term rights and social justice work that is rooted in communities and our intention, is to

continue to retain and transform this income making it more relevant to fund our strategy.





# Reflection Workshop Pushes to Boost AATZ Funding

**W**ith the aim to diversify funding base as per the Country Strategy Paper IV (2018 – 2022) commitment, the organization recently held a five-days fundraising workshop that brought together all programme staff and management.

The training which took place in Dar-es-Salaam from the 16th – 20th of September 2019, and was facilitated by Suzan Otieno, Head of Fund-raising ActionAid Kenya, was aimed at developing the fundraising capacity of staff. The facilitator used reflection kind of approach in the training which made it more participatory.

The training generally focused on resource mobilisation cycle which includes identification of resource gaps, scanning of new business opportunities, intelligence gathering, go/no go decisions, proposal development, start-up work plans and budget implementation and support, financial management and phase out.

Through the reflection, it was realized that fundraising is competitive, and is not a responsibility of one person, but every staff has a role to play. Therefore there is need for a well-coordinated fundraising process.

Contributing during the workshop, AATZ Country Director Yaekob Metena said,

***“The workshop has come at the right time and we hope that after this, we will unpack reflections into both individual and collective actions. No business as usual.”***

The facilitator also advised participants on the need to identify key selling points of the CSP, who to involve, what spaces to use and generally to become good ambassadors and biggest supporters of the organization.

She also insisted that without effective communication and relationship building strategies, resource mobilisation will be a myth.

As common across the Federation, the organization solicits funding from two sources: Regular Giving Income (Sponsorship Funding) and Partnership Income.



**AATZ Country Director(Standing) talking to participants during the training**



**Reflection on resource mobilisation phases**

