

BI-ANNUAL
Newsletter

ACTIONAID TANZANIA

JANUARY-JUNE 2017



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Dear Readers

I am humbled to share you ActionAid Tanzania's Bi-annual Newsletter. It is a dedicated piece of work to document processes and achievements on the organization's deliveries in the first half of 2017 to share them to our audience. In principle, documentation, sharing and learning are core programming elements of the organization.

The Newsletter contains news briefs on various organizational events and testimonies from community members whom we are working with.

The testimonies witness how our anti-poverty works are influencing changes at individual and community level.

I would like to thank all staff and partners who have contributed to the News Letter. Special thanks go to our Communications Office for organizing and compiling the product shouldering all the burden.

I hope you will enjoy reading it. We are grateful for any constructive comment you may make through the address indicated on the last page.

Yaekob Metena
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

ACTIONAID TANZANIA CORE IDENTITIES

ActionAid Tanzania is a registered organization in the Republic of Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar) and an Associate member of ActionAid International Federation. It started development programs in the country in 1998 and has a National Board and General Assembly.

VISION: Seeing Tanzania without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys his/her right to a life of dignity

MISSION: To work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice

CORE VALUES: Collective responsibility, Solidarity with people living in poverty, Accountability and transparency, Honesty and integrity, Mutual respect, Equity and justice and Humility

PROGRAM PRIORITIES: Sustainable agriculture and land rights (Climate resilient sustainable agriculture and land rights) , Governance, corporate and public accountability (Accountability, tax justice and education) and Women's rights (Women's social and economic empowerment)

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DAY OF AFRICAN CHILD: PUPILS DEMAND SPACE IN SCHOOL & VILLAGE GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

By Agnes Akwilini, MEDO coordinator

With the world marking the Day of the African Child on the 16th of June every year, ActionAid Tanzania and its partners organised various activities to reflect on the day.

The day can be traced as far back as 1976 when students in Soweto, South Africa, staged an uprising against poor quality of education. The march ended prematurely when they were massacred by the then apartheid regime.

In Singida District, Mtinko Education Development Organisation (MEDO), ActionAid's partner, the Local Rights Programme (LRP) and World Vision (Mtinko ADP) organized events at Malolo Primary School, bringing together 650 participants consisting of pupils, School Management Committees, ward Executive Officers, village chairpersons, government officials, teachers, CSOs and



A pupil from Mgori school (shazmina) speaking during the event

the media.

The aim of the gathering was to sensitize and empower children to demand their rights and fight violence, enhance understanding on their right to quality education and enable them voice their views on challenges they face in education.

During the event, poems, role plays, songs etc were presented to convey messages to decision makers. The children demanded space in school governance and village administration systems for them to present their issues. "There is need for us to be given space during meetings

organised to discuss education agenda as we have a lot to tell. We thank ActionAid and MEDO for helping us to know our rights and organizing the event," said Shazmina Jacob (Mgori Primary) when given the opportunity to present her views to the guest of honour.

In his speech, Mr John Tarimo, the Guest of Honour and District Commissioner for Singida Council outlined that the community has a role in protecting children's rights. "I also urge you to listen to children's demands and stop bad cultural practices which hinder them from their studies,".

The event created an opportunity to raise awareness on children rights and renew commitments by communities and authorities to observe and promote it. The theme for this year's event was, "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for children in Africa: Accelerating protection, empowerment, and equal opportunity."



AFRICANS RISING MOVEMENT LAUNCHED IN DAR ES SALAAM

By Andrew Mbega, Governance Coordinator

ActionAid Tanzania, joined other countries of ActionAid Federation, civil society organizations

and activists across 40 African countries to celebrate Africa Liberation Day on the 25th of May and launch the Africans Rising

Movement. The Africa Liberation Day is marked across Africa to commemorate the victory gained by our fathers and mothers who fought against colonialism decades ago. This year's event was linked to another core action: The Africans Rising Movement.

The Africans Rising Movement is a peoples' movement committed to a decentralised, citizen-owned future that is expected to support solidarity for local struggles, empowering local leaders and activists in the grassroots work of building social movements from below and linked beyond borders.

To mark the day, ActionAid Tanzania organized a workshop which has brought together delegates of civil society organizations and activists,

including youth groups, "the Activistas," and the media to discuss on the role of civil society in transforming Africa. A case presented to substantiate discussion on how Africa's resources are exploited was on issues hogging illicit financial flows in the extractive industry. The main objective of the event was to raise awareness among civil society groups on the Africa Rising Movement and lay foundation for supporting the Movement.

In his opening remarks, Mr Yaekob Metena, ActionAid Tanzania Country Director explained the genesis of the Africa Rising Movement and the civil society role it. He urged the government to ensure the country's potentials

are effectively used to reduce the level of poverty in the country. He said that despite the fact that Tanzania is endowed with lots of natural resources, these resources have not been fully utilized. In this regard, the government is expected to ensure fair taxation and collects more revenues to invest in public service delivery especially education, health and water sectors.

During the event, presentation was made by Mr Semkae Kilonzo,

Coordinator of Policy Forum on the impact of illicit financial flows to Africa and Tanzania, particularly in the extractive industry which was followed by discussions. Reflections focussed on the understanding of Illicit Financial Flows, how the process takes place, its consequences/ impacts on socio economic development and recommendations on how to tackle the problem.

Media briefings were held by ActionAid Country Director, Policy Forum

Coordinator and other participants on Africans Rising Movement and the theme of the day..

The Africans Rising started as the Africa Civil Society Centre (October 2015) and widened to Africa Civil Society Initiative (May 2016). Since the 24th of August 2016, it is known as Africans Rising for Justice, Peace & Dignity. The Movement is the result of bottom-up series of on and offline consultations and dialogues between and amongst social movements,

NGOs, peoples and popular social justice movements, intellectuals, artists, sports people, cultural activists and others across African continent and the African Diaspora.

At the end of the event, participants called for moral integrity and citizenship, Africa freedom and unity, accountability and transparency, youth mobilisation and engagement and patriotism.

ACTIONAID LAUNCHED NEW PROJECT



Guest of Honour Engineer. Ngossi Mwhava, the Permanent Deputy Secretary from Vice President office making official inauguration of the project

By Wilson Chacha, Fundraising Manager

ActionAid Tanzania launched a new project in Rukwa-Katavi landscape in collaboration with implementing partners namely; KAESO, LEAT and HakiArdhi. The project is known as 'Shared Resources Joint Solution (SRJS)'.

SRJS is a partnership initiative between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Union for the

Conservation of Nature, Netherlands (IUCN -NL), and World Wildlife Fund, Netherland (WWF-NL) under the Dialogue and Dissent Programme of the Dutch Government that runs from 2016 to 2020.

The launch took place in Sumbawanga –Rukwa Region on the 18th of May 2017 and brought together 85 stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism,

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Regional Secretariats representatives from Rukwa and Katavi regions, District Executive Directors from four districts of Rukwa and Katavi Region and Heads of Environmental Departments. Other organizations in attendance were WWF-Tanzania, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

(TFCG), Wildlife Conservation Society and other local implementing CSOs in the Landscape, media and the private sector.

The launch was officiated by Engineer Ngosi Mwiha, the Deputy Permanent Secretary from Vice President Office, Ministry of Environment.

The SRJS Tanzania Programme's aim is that, "The Rukwa-Katavi Landscape is sustainably managed and climate resilient with its water sources, biodiversity, local communities' livelihoods secured and the communities actively take part in its management.

Participants had the opportunity to visit the project areas including main sites for small-scale miners where mining activities are carried out inside the National Forest Reserve, 40 kms from Katavi National Park and Lake Rukwa at Mkamba village where there is an influx of pastoralists and illegal

fishermen.

The challenges witnessed by participants in the area calls for the need to strategize effectively on how best the landscape can be utilised for the betterment of all generations that depend entirely on it for survival. Rukwa- Katavi landscape has been targeted for the project due to its biodiversity as it is home to over 1.5 million people (2012 census) and is an area rich in wildlife, Miombo woodlands, Katavi National Park, lake Rukwa and Tanganyika.

The project's main focus areas include enhancing local civil society's institutional capacity to lobby and advocate for public and private sector policies improvement. Local communities will also be empowered on their rights and awareness on provisions of these Acts, for them to enjoy their rights to land and other productive resources targeting issues such as land tenure.

At the landscape area, the project will also work with other local partners including Rukwa Sustainable Development Society (RUSUDES), Rukwa Environmental Management Society (REMSO), Usevya Development Society (UDES) and Katavi Women Development Organization (KAWODEO)

ActionAid Tanzania has been invited to the implementation of the project due to its long time experience in land rights campaigns and it will manage gender inclusiveness component. In its Country Strategic Plan, it has made commitment to promote sustainable agriculture and control over land and other natural resources. The organisation also understands and believes that sustainable change will come from critical engagement and actions of citizens /people living in poverty to influence decision making processes at all levels in an organised way.

FAREWELL TO CHARLES BUSINGE, ACTIONAID REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Charles Businge showing the gifts from AATZ family, with him is AATZ Board chair, Mary Nsemwa

ActionAid Tanzania staff and board members organized memorable farewell to Mr Charles Businge, the outgoing Regional Director for East & Southern Africa, ActionAid International on May 22, 2017.

Businge was in Tanzania for a consultative meeting with ActionAid Tanzania board and the Senior Management Team focusing on sharing experiences on affiliation process and AATZ prospects, the new strategy development process, managing risks and other broader organisational matters. The discussion with Businge was found very important because he has been providing strategic and operational support for long time and hence his feedback and advice on the way

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FAREWELL TO CHARLES BUSINGE, ACTIONAID REGIONAL DIRECTOR

forward was paramount.

Speaking at the event, the Board Chair, Mary Nsemwa, hailed Businge pointing out that he has played a pivotal role in support of the country program especially during times when the organisation was in crisis. The Chair further expressed ActionAid Tanzania's indebtedness for his support, confirmed him that his efforts yielded fruits and

THE DISCUSSION WITH BUSINGE WAS FOUND VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN PROVIDING STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LONG TIME

assured him the continuity of his aspirations to the country program.

AATZ Country Director, Mr Yaekob Metena, on behalf of the management and the staff thanked Mr Businge for unwavering support to the organisation.

Mr Charles Businge who has served ActionAid International for 27 years, in various capacities, has left the organisation at the end of May, 2017.



Stakeholders in a group photo with parliamentary committee members in Dodoma

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OVER EDUCATION STATUS

As part of the advocacy initiatives towards delivering objectives contained in the Promoting Quality Education through domestic resource mobilisation project, AATZ joined other education stakeholders in engaging Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Services and Community Development. The event was organized in collaboration with TYVA and held on 13 May, 2017. It involved stakeholders such as Tanzania Education Networks, TSNP, Youth Partnership Countrywide, HAKIELIMU, Better life, Regional Psychosocial Services Support, Community Aid and Small Enterprises Consultancy, CAMFED, FAWE and Community Active Development Association.

The main objectives of the meeting was to share research findings on the status and challenges facing provision of education in public schools and higher education in Tanzania, to broaden MPs' understanding on the

link between tax loss and poor quality education services, seek their support on the campaign and to lobby for more financing in the education sector from domestic revenue sources.

Some of the proposed recommendations from stakeholders during the meeting were: increase in education budget to 20% of the total national budget or 6% of the GDP, Government to mobilize its own resources to finance its budget and do away with donor dependency, Capitation grant to be statutory for its sustainability, strengthening School Management Committees and inclusion of tax justice component in basic education and establishing Teachers Professional Board

Hon. Azan Zungu who chaired the meeting appreciated the stakeholders for their initiatives towards education and said their recommendations came at the right time because in the very evening, they were to meet with the government and discuss many issues

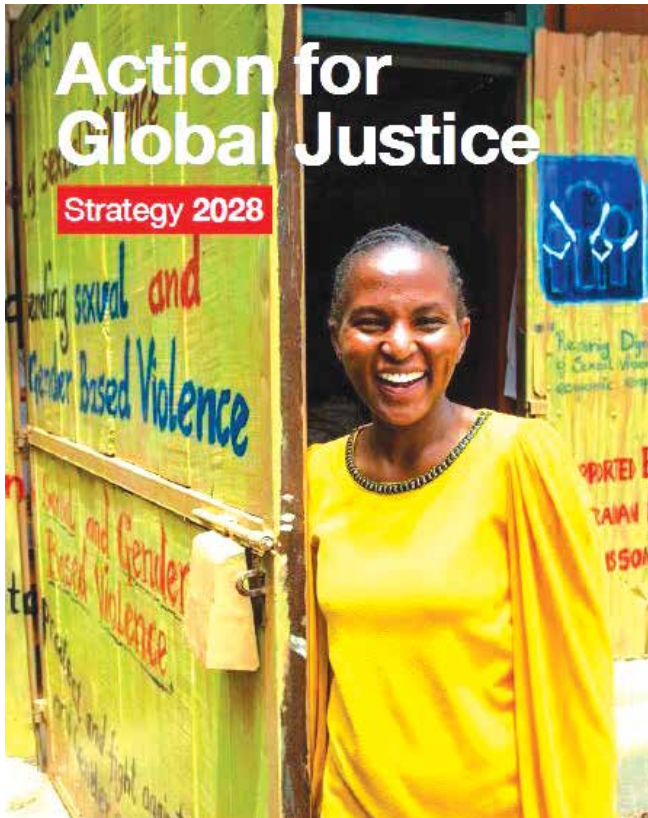
raised during the presentation of the government's education budget and shadow budget from the opposition.

In her contribution, the shadow minister for education, Hon Suzan Lyimo, said that the education budget exceeds the EFA (Education for All) requirement by 22%, adding however, that a huge chunk (47-50%) goes to higher education students' loans, leaving very little for primary and secondary school education development. "Education budget seems to be very big but what really goes for basic education is very small," emphasized Hon Lyimo.

In his concluding remarks, Hon. Zungu hailed the audio visual documentary on the status of education in Kilwa and Singida and acknowledging that all the issues presented will be worked on because over 90% of them made part of the committee's recommendations to the government and the opposition had also spoken about them.

TRANSITIONING TO NEW ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

ACTION FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE



Action for Global justice: Strategy 2028
<http://www.actionaid.org/publications/action-global-justice>

In envisioning the future, ActionAid International Assembly approved a new strategy that will guide the federation-wide engagements for the coming 10 years (2018 – 2028).

The International Assembly meeting was held in Arusha, Tanzania, on December 7, 2016. Assembly members of all members of the federation, including AATZ, took active part in the strategy development processes. The strategy development process was informed by various internal and external developments and the International Assembly decided that the process starts before the existing strategy period formally ends by the end of 2017.

The strategy sets broader programmatic and organizational development directions, to promote more connected and networked federation. The year 2017 is taken as a year of transition

to lay foundation for effective realization of commitments made in the strategy.

Since AATZ is part of the federation, the new global strategy has implications on its activities. ActionAid Tanzania is currently implementing its Country Strategic Paper III (2014-2018) which was developed through a participatory process in 2012/2013. Hence, AATZ did thorough analysis to the implications of the new global strategy and share to the national board. Changes in programming framework and organizational shifts generally necessitate AATZ to develop new strategy.

Accordingly, direction was set to facilitate new country strategy development process in the period between July – October 2017 with the anticipation that the new CSP will be ready for General Assembly review and approval in November 2017.

ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION

By Andrew Chikowore, Tax Justice advisor

ActionAid formed part of the civil society group that participated in follow-up meeting for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Financing for Development that was held in Manhattan, New York, United States of America on 20th-28th May 2017. The aim was to push a progressive agenda on financing for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through domestic resource mobilization.

The meeting was important to ActionAid because it gave the opportunity to share the great work that had been done on the harmful tax incentives been granted by countries from the South (mostly less developed)



Participants in one of the session during the meeting in New York

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ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION

to multinational corporations and how unfair double taxation treaties are depriving developing countries from domestic resource mobilization to fund development and key public services.

To this effect, ActionAid Tanzania had the privileged to represent ActionAid federation at the panel on “International Cooperation on Tax Matters: Pathways for an Intergovernmental Tax Body in Tackling Illicit Financial Flows and Advancing Progressive and Progressive Tax Systems”.

The studies conducted by ActionAid, together with Tax Justice Network Africa on tax incentives – “Tax Competition in

East Africa – Still Racing to the Bottom” and the “Mistreated”, which focuses on tax treaties, provided a useful background in terms of the challenges that developing countries are facing through tax avoidance and the subsequent need of the development of a global tax body.

It is imperative to highlight that the United Nations intergovernmental body if considered should have the following important functions to play towards enhancing global tax rules; Ending the race to the bottom, because currently the fear of losing investments is driving governments in the South to

offer excessive tax incentives, ensuring that poor countries are included in decision making processes on global tax rules to improve domestic resource mobilisation for development financing and enhancing stronger cooperation between tax administration to advance progressive taxation leading to sustainable development.

We are hoping that these important discussions will continue and lead to a decisive action from our governments, including the creation and funding of an intergovernmental tax body in the United Nations.

AATZ STAFF & PARTNERS ON CAMPAIGN STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT SKILLS TRAINING



Training participants following one of the presentation during the training

ActionAid staff members and partners from Tanzania and Mozambique that are involved in the implementation of the NORAD funded project dubbed, Promoting Quality Education Through Domestic Resource Mobilisation converged in Dar es Salaam for a five-day training on Campaign Strategy Development from 6th-10th of February 2017.

The main objective of the training

was to equip participants with skills on strategic campaigning to enable them develop an effective campaign strategy for 2017 education financing and corporate tax justice, focusing particularly on how to connect local and national levels of campaigning. The training was also intended to bring up identified challenges from grassroots level and in the course of advocating for policy changes while delivering

project commitments on national and international level.

Since the inception in February, 2016, project interventions have been empowering children (through school clubs and children Baraza), local communities especially parents and school management committees, on the right to education and how an ideal school should look like. Communities have also been empowered on public

expenditure tracking and budget cycle for engaging local and central government authorities, for progressive financial allocation to the education sector through domestic revenue collection, as well as monitoring utilization of the approved funds.

This is a multi-country education and tax justice project that brings together six different ActionAid countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal and Tanzania), working towards a commonly shared goal which is to ensure that children (especially girls) have improved access to public education of a high standard, financed through greater government support

SINCE THE INCEPTION IN FEBRUARY, 2016, PROJECT INTERVENTIONS HAVE BEEN EMPOWERING CHILDREN (THROUGH SCHOOL CLUBS AND CHILDREN BARAZA), LOCAL COMMUNITIES ESPECIALLY PARENTS AND SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND HOW AN IDEAL SCHOOL SHOULD LOOK LIKE.

and increases in fair tax revenue.

In Tanzania, the project is under implementation by AATZ in collaboration with Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET), Kilwa Non-Governmental Organization Network (KINGONET) and Mtinko Education Development Organization (MEDO) who also participated in the training.

By the end of the training, participants' understanding on campaigning concepts, and connecting local and national levels, communication and media strategy development, public engagement and supporter retention and how to develop key messages for key campaign audiences has been broadened.

Land Rights and Agriculture



Mariam
one of SNAP
beneficiaries
showing her
harvest

SNAP PROJECT CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS CHANGING LIVELIHOODS IN SINGIDA

Mariam Selemani (35) lives with her husband and four children in Iddi Simba, a small farming village in Singida District Council, central part of Tanzania. The family testifies how Singida Nutrition and Agro-ecology

Project (SNAP) has changed their life in terms of food security and nutrition.

Mariam narrates that, this year is never the same for her family and other villagers who are part of farmer groups organized through the SNAP project.

She recalls previous years where farming was based on local practices and traditional methods. *"We used to grow a single crop on small scale hence we didn't have enough food or money,"* Mariam said.

She further explained that they used to get meagre yields because they were planting low yield varieties and used traditional farming methods. Many grew low-value cereal crops that take long time to harvest, a practice that traps them in a constant cycle of poverty and hunger.

When ActionAid introduced the SNAP project in her village, Mariam was among

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those that pioneered the farmer groups. Groups were formed with the objective of enabling farmers to attend trainings, learn together and improve their farming. There are two mentor farmers in a group who facilitate farmer groups to learn.

In their groups, farmers received various trainings including agro-ecological farming, how to improve soil fertility and increase productivity, etc. *“We were also trained on how to prepare nutritious meals for our children from our own farm produce and gender relations, including division of roles in the family and decision making,”* Mariam narrates.

Apart from the trainings, group members were also provided with varieties of seeds for leguminous crops. *“We got beans, cowpeas, pigeon pea, common beans, groundnuts and lablab. Some of us intercropped with maize while others with sunflower. The leguminous crops do not only improve soil health but also improve harvests while at the same time provide protein for children and family in general,”* she added.

During farming seasons, mentor farmers and experts from the project visit group members to check the progress of their crops, identify challenges e.g. pesticides and advice how to manage them.

“I applied farming methods which

THE GROUPS WERE ADVISED TO FORM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES TO HELP THEM ACCESS OTHER OPPORTUNITIES LIKE GOVERNMENT FUNDS

I learnt in our group and harvested several sacks of beans, cow peas, and I am still harvesting. My family now enjoys varieties of meals, which we couldn't afford before while other community members are struggling and bothering me to share with them,” explained Mariam.

She went further and says.. “When I joined the group, my husband was hesitant believing that it was for women only. But, after convincing him to participate in the sessions, he started to realise the benefits and now he is helping me in everything and we make family decisions together, something which was not there before”.

Mwanahamis Ally (kibaoni village) also commented that the peer learning approach used by the project motivated them to learn and practice.

The village chairperson, Nathanael

Hungo, confirmed that SNAP project has been beneficial to his area and he is providing full support to the project. “We are aware of the project and we have witnessed how it has helped families to get food because the situation had become unbearable. The trainings have also contributed in addressing issues of violence at family level,” he said.

For sustainability, the groups were advised to form governance structures to help them access other opportunities like government funds, in the future.

Singida Nutrition and Agro-ecology Project (SNAP) is a participatory education project in agriculture, testing whether household participation in agro-ecological farming and nutrition behaviors will influence food security, crop diversity, dietary diversity, infant feeding practices, and gender relations. The project is using a participatory approach by training participants using ‘mentor farmers’.

It's a collaborative project between ActionAid Tanzania, Cornell University USA, Ilonga research Center, Nelson Mandela University and its being implemented in 20 villages of Singida District.

“TRACKING AGRICULTURE RESOURCES IS OUR RIGHT”

“What gives me confidence in monitoring public financed agriculture projects is the realisation that it is my right to demand and get information related to any projects in our area,” These are the words of Maria Sylvester while testifying how being a member of the Social Audit Team changed her knowledge.

Maria, is a farmer from Merya Village, in Singida District Council and she was among 19 participants of the social audit process for public financed projects in Singida and Chamwino districts. The team was formed and the

social audit was conducted through the PFA project. Maria explained that they decided to conduct social audit for two public financed projects (Kongano Sunflower refinery factory and Ilongero poultry project) that are carried out in their area. Explaining about the social audit process, Maria said.

“Before the process, we attended series of trainings organized by ActionAid on social audit that has helped us to understand the process including Constitutional and Policy Framework for conducting Social Audit

in Tanzania, Collection and use of government information for Social Audit works, Practical data and document analysis and Conducting field visits and feedback meetings to stakeholders”.

She further added that before embarking on the actual process of accessing relevant information on the projects, they organised a meeting with community members and village leaders for the purpose of explaining the process and obtaining consent for the process.

“When our fellow community members understood the purpose of the



Maria (2nd right) with other members of Social Audit Team in one of the meeting with District officials

exercise, we continued with other processes including reviewing and analysing information from relevant project documents, meetings with district officials, undertaking field visits at project sites, validation of findings and disseminating the findings to stakeholders,” Maria added.

On the findings of audited projects, Maria said that one of the striking issue discovered was that despite the completion of the construction of Kongano oil processing factory, it is still not running as per plan. *“We asked District officials on why the factory is not operating, they responded that they are finalising issues of quality verification with Tanzania Bureau of Standards(TBS)before opening the factory.”*

Maria also explained that the social audit process has brought them closer to their leaders at all levels, *“Initially, the process was very challenging because government leaders had negative thinking on the process. But, after we explained to them the objective and*

several meetings we had, they started to collaborate and took the process positively.”

Another farmer and social audit team member from Chamwino District, Nuru Mpanga, explained that the social audit process made her an influential person in her village. *“I used the knowledge to raise awareness to my fellow community members on the need to monitor public projects in our areas. This made our leaders to understand that community members are now awakened and are following up on everything they are doing,”* said Nuru.

She confirmed that their team in Chamwino selected two projects including a Grape farm project. The team unearthed that there was inadequate involvement of farmers who are beneficiaries of the project, lack of transparency and absence of a processing plant which was planned and budgeted for.

Commenting on the process, the Grape Farm Manager, Mr Bosco Shio, said that the process is good and an

eye opener for them. *“We have started to address the challenges identified by farmers and we hope it will improve implementation of the project,”* he said.

The District Agriculture and Irrigation Officer, Mr Godfrey Mnyamari, described that the process was very useful, adding *“We have seen things changing after the process. Farmers’ involvement is increasing and they are coming to the district office to demand more information about implementation of projects in their areas. I have even informed the farmers to come and do social audit to other projects in our districts,”* said Mr Mnyamari. AATZ is working with and supporting smallholder women farmers in Singida and Chamwino through farmers’ associations and forums to advocate for participatory planning process including budgetary process to guarantee sufficient resources in agriculture and its effective expenditure.

SMC's TRAININGS BEAR FRUITS IN SINGIDA & KILWA



Toilets at chumo last year



New toilet at chumo

School Management Committees (SMCs) are important community institutions that play crucial roles in overseeing development of education in their respective communities. Through 'Promoting Quality Education Through Domestic Resource Mobilisation' project AATZ has been working in Singida and Kilwa districts to empower SMC members besides its national level engagements.

A total of 653 SMC members drawn from 60 schools of project implementation area participated in various training sessions organized up to March 2017. Focus areas of the trainings were, SMC roles and responsibilities, promoting rights in schools, promoting quality education through domestic resource mobilisation, how to prepare school improvement plans, and relevant education guidelines and policies.

As a result of the initiatives, most SMCs confirmed that they have started to put into action what they learnt. This has been revealed during a recent visit by

AATZ to some of the schools in the project area.

At Mgori Primary School (Singida District), the Chairperson of the SMC, Omary Sefu said, "Before MEDO and AATZ conducted trainings, we were not much clear on our roles and responsibilities. But, successive trainings have helped us to know how to mobilise domestic resources, to finance development of education in our village and children's rights.

"After the training, we called for a meeting and shared the knowledge with other SMC members. We first identified challenges facing the school according to their priorities and put an action plan for each. We then had a meeting with village leaders to discuss the challenges. After the discussions, village leaders agreed to allocate funds for the construction of toilet because that was the main priority," said Omary. He also added that they have been raising awareness to parents and community members on child rights

using the 10 Education Rights so that parents play their part in education development.

Stephano Mangu who chairs Kinyamwambo Primary School SMC (Singida), confirmed that his committee is now functioning smoothly because of the knowledge they have gained from trainings.

"We now understand the best way to oversee our school and in so doing, gained respect and confidence from teachers and parents, because we involve them in everything we do, a practice that was not there before. We have prepared our school improvement plan and our priority in the plan is maintenance of classrooms," added Mr Mangu.

Ally Komba, chairperson of the School Management Committees at Kikanda Primary School, Kilwa District, explained that their school was facing a challenge of insufficient and outdated infrastructure mainly shortage of toilets, classrooms and desks and high truancy

rate. The school has 996 pupils with only six toilet, six classrooms and 160 desks. "Given the fact that high truancy was caused by these challenges, we made a decision to invite our fellow community members to discuss and try to find out the way forward. In the meeting, we agreed to start working on the challenges immediately depending on priorities while following also with district authorities as they were aware of our needs. After several follow up actions, we received Tshs 192,000,000/- from the government for the construction of eight classrooms, 20 toilet and maintenance of old infrastructures," explained Mr Komba.

Aidan Rwambo, SMC chairperson

of Mtondo Kimwaga Primary School (Kilwa) and Valentine Esther (member of the SMC) said that after the trainings, they were able to sit and agree to conduct an exercise of identifying challenges and the resources available at school and village level, which can be used to support development.

"After discussions with village leaders, we agreed to take action and now construction of the toilets is in its final stages. Moreover, the school has its own farm which was not productive. Hence, we decided to make it productive so that children will be able to get lunch from its produce," they said.

The head teacher and SMC members at Chumo primary school

confirmed that they have managed to solve the problem of toilets which was endangering the health of pupils, while they have shifted focus to the maintenance of old structures.

Despite positive achievements in some schools, there are still some remaining challenges such as inadequate understanding of parents on the importance of education which makes them fail to adequately cooperate when it comes to their children.

Along with the SMC trainings, AATZ also conducted a baseline survey in 2016 to establish the status of challenges facing public primary schools in the two districts and the issue of inadequate sanitary facilities came out very strongly.

Women Rights Corner

"ORGANISED AND UNITED WOMEN ...KEY IN DEMANDING THEIR RIGHTS"



Members of Sapawa womens group in one of the events in Singida

The popular Swahili adage, 'Kidole kimoja hakivunji chawa', (a single finger cannot crush lice) has been the motivation and driving force behind the Singida Pamoja Wanawake (SAPAWA), a newly formed Women Rights Association in Singida District Council.

The formation of the Association

is the result of a long term initiative by ActionAid Tanzania to mobilise and empower women through building their capacity in understanding and demanding their rights at different levels. The Association has 2,217 members who come from grassroots Women Platforms comprising of 303 groups from 34 villages. The motive behind its

formation is to unite women in Singida to speak in one voice to demand their rights.

The chairperson of the forum, Amina Dafi, had this to say, "Most of us have been empowered by AATZ through various sensitization sessions, workshops and forums. We now want to put the knowledge into practice. We have demanded recognition of our platform so that we can use it to mobilise and discuss on issues of our concern with fellow women."

Farida Muro, the Executive Secretary of the Association, added that the challenges faced by women in Singida Rural were also motivational factor for the establishment of the forum.

"In our communities, women are the main players in farming, but they don't own what they produce... Education for girls is still a challenge as many parents believe a female child doesn't deserve to be educated. Our space in leadership at all levels is still low...It is our hope that the Association will help to address these challenges through awareness creation and capacity building." said Muro.

According to Ms Muro, one of the Association's activities will include mobilisation of women in villages and raise awareness on issues of land

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rights, violence against women, early pregnancies, child marriages and monitoring the implementation of public projects and budget management.

She added that the Association's constitution that will guide all their operations, opening a bank account and finding office space had all been accomplished and are now ready. The Association will be financed through membership contributions and regular meetings are held quarterly at district level and every two months at ward level.

Amina Swedi, member of the executive leadership and Kibaoni ward

representative believes that SAPAWA will help improve lives of women in the district. *"We are expecting to conscientise more women so that they become aware of their land rights, own land, economic empowerment, participation in decision making for family resources, increase women representation in political space at all levels and curb violence against women and girls"* Amina insisted.

As regard to sustainability, Farida said, "We are already registered at district level and we are working closely with relevant sector offices for expertise support... We will invite community development officers to our meeting

when needed for guidance on different issues and updates on opportunities for the forum."

AATZ has been facilitating the establishment and strengthening of women groups and the Association with the view to sustaining grassroots movements of women and girls in advocating for their rights. Similar initiatives are underway in other districts such as Kilwa, Chamwino and Mafia. The aim of the initiative is to enable women and girls are organised to undertake joint advocacy for their rights.

PFA PROJECT EMPOWERS SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN AGRICULTURE BUDGET ANALYSIS



Group work session during the training in Dar es Salaam

Representatives of the National Smallholder Women Farmers Federation (SHWFF) conducted analysis of the national agriculture budget for the past three years.

Participants of the analysis were comprised of nine members of the executive leadership of the Forum from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Singida, Mbeya, Mtwara and Zanzibar, who were representing more than 80 members drawn from 26 districts of the country. The national structure was formed by smallholder women farmers with the support of AATZ and other partners in 2016 to advocate for agricultural financing.

The aim of the budget analysis, which was organised through Public Financing for Agriculture (PFA)

project was to enable the smallholder farmers to comparably assess budget allocation, spending and budget needs in their favour, understand the synergy between Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) framework and other agricultural development initiatives in Tanzania and assessing recurrent budget versus development budget in relation to links to climate change, rights entitlements e.g. input, extension services, research and development at all levels.

Before the actual analysis, capacity building sessions were organized for two days by a consultant on introduction to budget, budgeting process and budget analysis. The training was very participatory and various methodologies

including qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to make sure participants own the process. Comprehensive desk reviews were used to collect data and information regarding plans, budget and expenditure of the ministries and their departments. In their working groups, each team reviewed the actual three years (2016/2017, 2015/2014, 2014/2013) budget for analysis and presented their findings for discussion and comments from fellow participants and the consultant.

As a result of the analysis, some of the issues identified include; the agriculture budget has never reached the 10% mark of the total national budget as per the Maputo Declaration which the government has committed for, the development

budget is mainly dependent on foreign sources of funds, and there is relatively poor absorption capacity of released funds for development expenditure budgets etc.

Commenting on the exercise, farmers said that the process was very engaging and it has helped much to understand their role in the budgetary process and giving their insights in the budget report. *"Throughout this process, I have learnt that information is a very powerful tool and means towards realization of our rights and also I have great role to play in the budget process,"* said SHWFF President, Amina Senge.

Pili Kuliwa from Kilwa commented that during the process, they realised that there are still some obstacles preventing full implementation of budgets, including late disbursement of the funds for particular projects. *"With the informed mind and expertise gained in the process, we will help to roll out effective advocacy campaigns and making leaders more accountable,"* she said.

After the analysis, participants developed a wish list of needs and priorities that requires attention to improve the agriculture sector including storage facilities, improved infrastructures, markets for their produce, inputs, irrigation schemes, electricity, Gender Based Budgeting and climate resilient for sustainable agriculture.

PFA project has been supporting smallholder women farmers to advocate so that the agriculture sector receives sufficient resources that are also spent appropriately. The project has also been mobilising farmers to create platforms at village, ward and district level to enable them to collectively undertake advocacy initiatives for the government to increase allocation of resources.



student from Pale school club during sensitization on children rights

OAK PROJECT INCREASES AWARENESS ON VIOLENCE AMONG COMMUNITIES

By Khadija Juma, Unguja LRP Coordinator

For three years (2014-2017), Unguja LRP has been implementing a project known as, 'Prevention of violence against school age children in Unguja North Region' which funded by OAK FOUNDATION. The project targets groups and beneficiaries comprising of pupils, teachers, school management committees (SMCs), religious leaders and parents. It was also co-funded by Bloom Fund in its final year of implementation.

As the project aims at increasing awareness on violence prevention and response to children and community, through various interventions the project has brought major impacts in the lives of North community people in changing their attitude, knowledge and behavior.

Through the project, ActionAid Tanzania has established school clubs in 26 schools in collaboration with teachers and SMCs. The clubs have gone long way in conscientising the children and the society at large on children's rights and the need to realize and protect

them.

Capacity building trainings organized for children, club teachers and SMCs have helped them to understand various issues that have affected children rights, and how school management committees can respond and put mechanism of violence prevention in schools and beyond.

The Head teacher at Kidoti Secondary School said, "Apart from the contribution in the prevention of violence, the project has helped to increase the education performance among children. Before this project, they were very passive, quiet and shy in class. Students did not have the gut to report anything, even if they were not happy about the situation. This has changed tremendously; students have now become more vocal and very confident to express themselves and their feelings. It is for the first time at my school that a large numbers of girls passed Form Four exams and all of them are from the children clubs. Our school stood first in the region for the

best Form Four results."

Members of school clubs act as ambassadors of change and they always work together with their teachers to deliver violence prevention messages through drama or poem. Sometimes, they visit other schools for knowledge sharing and grooming others to do the same.

"Incidences of violence against women and children have been reducing to a greater extent. This has been possible because of many campaigns conducted by ActionAid involving government, community and religious leaders. We used to witness 6 to 10 incidences of violence per month, but this has reduced tremendously to 1 to 2, and sometimes, a month can pass without any incidence reported," said Juma Othman Mshenga, (25), from Youth Organisation to Fight Violence in North "B" (JUVIKUKA).

CITIZEN'S EDUCATION REPORT



In February 2017, AATZ launched Citizen's Education Report (CER) in collaboration with TENMET, KINGONET and MEDO as part of the Promoting Quality Education through Progressive Domestic Resource Mobilisation project, which is being implemented under the support of NORAD.

The CER identifies the extent to which Tanzanian children, especially girls, are accessing good quality primary education, and recommends improvements notably in government policies. It is based on extensive research involving communities and school stakeholders in 30 schools in two districts of Kilwa and Singida besides national level assessments.

Some Key findings of the research were:

- More girls than boys had been enrolled in 60 schools that were surveyed, (51% Kilwa & 52% Singida). Children with disabilities

who were enrolled are 5 out of 15 in Kilwa and this figure is 8 out of 15 in Singida.

- School dropouts were 3.7 % of children in 2015 with 3.5% (Kilwa) & 3.9% (Singida) the majority being boys. Reasons attributed to the dropout for boys include poverty, (lack of money to buy school items), parents engaging children in petty business as well as poor attitude towards education, while reasons for girls' dropout include domestic chores, long distance from home to schools and lack of sufficient hygiene and sanitation facilities at schools.
- Number of pupils per qualified teachers (PQTR) was found to be 59 pupils per qualified teacher on average, a ratio that varies from 1:96 to as low as 1:23 against a benchmark of 1:40. Schools with very high (severe) PQTR in Kilwa include Kikanda (1:69), Njinjo (1:78)

and Matandu (1:81), while in Singida rural schools with the severity include Mughamo (1:62), Nduamughanga (1:64), Kinyamwambo (1:68), Azimio (1:69), Gairu (1:69), Kinyeto (1:71), Nkwae (1:72) and Missuna (1:96).

- Male teachers dominate females in rural schools. In Singida for example, 61% are male in 15 schools while 39% are female. Likewise, in Kilwa, the ratio was 53% and 47% respectively for boys and girls. Poor housing facilities for teachers was said to be the main reason for teachers gender parity in most schools.
- On average, there is a toilet for every 53 boys and every 52 girls; against 25 and 20 recommended ratio. Very severe pupil toilet ratio for girls in Kilwa was found at Kikanda (1:135), Lihimalyao Kusini (1:91), Kibata (1:82) and Mingumbi (1:66); while Singida rural was in Kinyeto (1:88), Nduamughanga (1:77), Mughamo (1:73) and Mwalala (1:66)

The report calls for the following actions from the government:

- Commit to spending 20% of the national budget on education by 2018,
- Establish an effective tracking system for both children with disabilities and those out of school,
- Ensure that there are as many female as male teachers by 2020, by improving recruitment and increasing spending,
- Improve girls' and boys' completion rates by significantly improving school infrastructure, notably water and sanitation facilities, funded partly by spending at least 20% of the national budget on education and
- Train all teachers in child protection and alternatives to physical punishment to ensure that all schools have zero tolerance policies towards violence and abuse.