

BI ANNUAL

Newsletter

ACTIONAID TANZANIA

JANUARY - JUNE 2016



INSIDE

↪ Events News

Country strategy paper review validation workshop

↪ Land Rights & Agriculture Stories

EAC Agriculture Summit

↪ Women Rights Corner

Women groups trigger Change in Mbozi District

Country Director's Message



Dear Readers

I am happy to see the organization's 2016 Bi-Annual Newsletter is hereby issued to the public. I would like to thank ActionAid Tanzania staff and partners who made contribution to the Newsletter that has helped to enrich its content. Special thanks go to Paulina Teveli, our Communication Officer without whom the production of this newsletter could not have been possible.

Documentation, sharing and learning are among key approaches ActionAid Tanzania employs to promote its programming works. Sharing processes, achievements and impacts of development endeavours helps the staff, partners and the wider public to understand what the organization is doing. Sharing offers opportunity for others to adapt the ones relevant to their respective contexts. Newsletters are considered as a tool for sharing and learning as two way communications is possible through newsletters.

This issue contains updates on organizational processes and developments and narrates achievements and impacts of our work in the last six months of the year. ActionAid Tanzania works with people living in poverty, their agencies (institutions), partners and stakeholders at district and national level in promoting its three strategic objectives: promoting sustainable agriculture and control over land and other natural resources, governance, corporate and public accountability and women's rights. The Newsletter touches processes and achievements across all these priorities.

There are very interesting articles in this issue. I encourage all to read and provide constructive feedback on how we can improve subsequent issues.

I wish you to have good reading.

Regards

actionaid

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COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER REVIEW VALIDATION WORKSHOP



Consultant presenting during the validation workshop

The year 2016 marks the mid line of the AATZ Country Strategy III(2014-2018). In this regard ActionAid Tanzania contracted a consultant in early May to undertake the Midterm Review of the strategy. The main purpose of the review was to gauge the progress that the organization is making towards meeting the intended objectives in the areas of program and organizational development priorities and generate recommendations on the way forward on how the strategy should be shaped for effective attainment of the broader organizational mission.

After finalisation of the review the country office organised a one day validation workshop which brought together AATZ National partners, staff and board members. The main objectives of the workshop were to validate the review draft report, to input information in the report in

The main purpose of the review was to gauge the progress that the organization is making towards meeting the intended objectives in the areas of program and organizational development priorities

an effort to make the report evidence based and to agree on a way forward in finalizing the evaluation report.

The consultant presented the draft report findings where key performance areas specifically key achievements, areas that needs improvements, challenges and the recommendation for future improvements were shared.

Participants also had an opportunity to reflect the report findings and share their ideas which the consultant will use to improve the report. The review findings will help ActionAid Tanzania to fine tune its direction and make sure that in the remaining two years of the strategy the organisation will achieve its planned goals.



Students at Mtambile Primary School in Unguja being interviewed during PRS study

UNGUJA CONDUCTS BASELINE STUDY ON PROMOTING RIGHTS IN SCHOOLS

By Mwanaidi Said, Unguja LRP

Unguja LRP is in the process of implementing Promoting Rights in School (PRS) approach as part of its efforts to promote right to education. PRS approach which aims at actively engaging parents, children, teachers' unions, communities and local civil society organizations in collectively monitoring and improving the quality of free public inclusive education, in Unguja. The approach will be piloted in 6 communities within 6 primary schools in which three schools are from North "A" district (Bandamaji; Kikobweni and Kibuyuni) and other three are from North "B" district (Mtambile; Mangapwani and Matetema).

As part of the process, the LRP in collaboration with other stakeholders and facilitation from ministry of education has undertaken baseline survey to examine the status of schools in provision of education rights as per PRS model. The study which was conducted from 28th – 30th June, 2016 it involved children, head teachers, SMCs, parents, teachers, shehas, councilors, district education officers and representative of CSO to collect facts about rights gaps.

It is expected that at the end of PRS interventions, the community engagement as well as community participation into school

management and development will be improved and thus improve the quality of teaching and learning environment in schools.

Prior to the study, identification of schools which qualifies to implement PRS was done followed by training to data collectors and pre-test the data collection tool to see its practicability and understanding.

" We hope that through this PRS approach our understanding will increase and our schools environment will be better and performance improved. Kombo Hussein (sheha of Mtambile).

Among the 10 core rights that are stipulated and promoted within PRS framework, Unguja LRP will work on three rights i.e. right to adequate infrastructure; right to safe and non-violent environment and right to participate.

WE HOPE THAT THROUGH THIS PRS APPROACH OUR UNDERSTANDING WILL INCREASE AND OUR SCHOOLS' ENVIRONMENT WILL BE BETTER AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVED. KOMBO HUSSEIN (SHEHA OF MTAMBILE).

EAC TAX INCENTIVE REPORT LAUNCHED IN DODOMA

East African countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda) are losing around \$1.5 billion and possibly up to \$2 billion a year of revenue each year by granting tax incentives to foreign companies. This was revealed by a new report entitled "Racing Towards the Bottom" which was launched by Tax Justice Network - Africa and ActionAid in Dodoma on June 18th. The launching session was attended by more than 80 members of Africa Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC) Tanzania Chapter and media people.

The report follows the East African Community (ECA) report series produced by the two organizations in April 2012, examining the impact of tax incentives on the region and giving recommendations to the EAC on how to end a race to the bottom. This was a follow up report prepared to assess what has changed since 2012.

According to the report, East African Governments have taken some positive steps to reduce tax incentives, especially those related

to VAT, which are increasing tax collection and providing vital extra revenue that could be spent on providing critical services. However, they are still failing to eliminate all unnecessary tax incentives. Countries are still providing generous tax breaks in the form of tax holidays, capital-gains tax allowances and royalty exemptions and these East African countries continue to lose colossal amounts of revenue through unnecessary tax exemptions and incentives given to corporations.

The report calls for East African Governments to review the tax incentives they are granting with a view to abolishing all unproductive incentives. Any incentives that are determined should be targeted at achieving specific social and economic objectives that benefit East African citizens.

Contributing during the launch, some MPs insisted that tax incentives are major contributing factor in the loss of countries potential revenues and it is mainly done under confidentiality of the agreements. "One person with

authority can just decide to grant tax incentive to a company... This is not good. We request all agreements with public interest to be brought to parliaments for discussion instead of being decided by few people only", said Hon. Rehani. (Uzini MP)

Tanzania Tax Justice Coalition is coalition of NGOs interested in promoting tax justice. The group was formed in 2013 under Policy Forum comprises of Policy Forum, ActionAid Tanzania, Kepa, Youth Partnership Countrywide (YPC), Tanzania Coalition on Debt and Development (TCDD), Tanzania Trade and Economic Justice Forum (TTEJF), Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA), Governance and Economic Policy Centre, Tanzania Education Network (TEN/MET) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

ActionAid Tanzania has been undertaking Tax Justice Campaign since 2013 in collaboration with relevant partners. In the last three years, credible progress has been made towards achieving the purpose of the Campaign.

**official
launch of the
report during
the event**



YOUTH IN MAFIA DELIBERATE ON ACCOUNTABILITY



Youth in Mafia during the session

More than 40 youth drawn from 5 wards of Mafia District (Kironawe, Ndagoni, Kiegeani, Banja, and Kilindoni) recently came together at the District center for mobilisation meeting organized by ActionAid Tanzania.

Objectives of the meeting were to impart knowledge to the youths on how they can participate in monitoring and tracking revenues to improve public service delivery, broaden the scope of Activista and its tax power campaign and engage the youth so that they are

able to hold government authorities to account on issues most affecting them such as education, health and agriculture.

During the meeting, youth discussed on the importance of Mafia youth to come and join hands with other youth in the country to be able to speak in one voice on key development issues. Participants also got an opportunity to share their experiences on the status of service delivery in the district and how the challenges facing citizens are responded by the local government.

The concept of Tax Justice Campaign was presented to the youth to help them understand various issues related to tax and its linkage to accountability of the government to the people.

As a way forward, the youth agreed that the Mafia Youth Forum leaders will be representing Activista Mafia in any national event or meeting. They also agreed to develop a campaign strategy for the Mafia Research report, after its official launch.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS TO WOMEN GROUPS

By Omar Salim, Unguja LRP

In supporting women and young women in fighting poverty and realizing their right to participate in economic activities, ActionAid have been collaborating with women organizations such as JUMUIA YA WANAWAKE KASKAZINI PEMBA (JUWAKAP) in mobilizing women groups to engage in economic activities.

Working with women institutions is also used as strategy in fighting violence against women which is caused by extreme poverty among women.

Poverty is among major causes of violence against women in the world. Likewise, violence against women is a common problem

among married and unmarried women in Pemba North Region. Usually, fishery societies leave their families while going out of their home and camp for fishing for more than three months in some instances without remitting to their family. Women in these sorts of families have to undertake all

paternal responsibilities at home while their husbands are away.

In such cases, women suffer specifically when they have no means to support their families. On the other hand, children from such families rarely go to school because they also are expected to shoulder responsibility at early stage in supporting their families.

To address the problem, ActionAid conducted a short survey in collaboration with JUWAKAP and the government through cooperative department that was intended to identify challenges faced by women entrepreneurship groups. The intention of the survey is to assess the situation and develop a plan to support women through building their capacity to improve economic status and realize potentials.

LIKEWISE,
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The survey was conducted in eleven shehias where 52 women were interviewed from SACCOS, and non-financial groups. In the survey, the groups were interviewed on how they run the business, challenges and threats as well as opportunities around the business environment so that these could be identified, discussed and solutions are sought for betterment.

At the end women were invited for the discussion for the purpose of guiding participants to find an action point to develop their business. The survey generated many challenges facing women including poor planning and poor leadership. From then, 25 women were trained on the entrepreneurship skills, record keeping and developing business plan.

Semeni Ali (50), the Chairperson of JUWAKAP advised women to change their attitude towards liberating themselves and their families by engaging in different economic activities as that is one of the means of fighting violence. She finally commented that women should thank ActionAid for supporting them not only to become activists but also entrepreneurs.



Women in Pemba during the entrepreneurship discussion

EAC AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

On the 3rd June, 2016 more than 90 participants drawn from 4 countries of East Africa convened at AICC Arusha for the second series of EAC annual Budget Summit under the theme “*Increasing Public Investment in agriculture towards Ending Hunger and Poverty by 2025 in the East African Community (EAC)*”.

The summit was co-organised by AATZ, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum Trust Africa, Coalition of Non-State Actors on CAADP and the Rural Women Farmers Forum.

Participants were comprised of EALA MPS, (Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) committee, Chairpersons of Parliamentary Agriculture Committees in East Africa, CAADP focal persons, EALA secretariat staff, Non State Actors (NSAs), Farmers, Development partners and the media.

Objectives of the summit were; building evidence based case and galvanizing smallholders’ voices for increased financing for Agriculture in East African region; increasing public education and awareness on the CAADP Result framework and importance of Public financing of agriculture that supports smallholders as catalyst for improved private sector investment; enhancing CSO, small

There is a need to domesticate Malabo Declaration. Even with the nice fertile land in EAC, people are still dying of hunger and malnutrition which is difficult to explain”..
Hon Mary Nagu

scale farmers’ involvement in agriculture financing policy processes for improved public financing for agriculture at national and the East Africa Community level; and building synergies for partnership and collaboration with relevant parliamentary committees for enhanced CAADP implementation within the region.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Chris Okumu who represented Rt. Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega, EALA speaker brought to the attention of the audience the salient issues that have been forwarded to EALA including increasing financing to agriculture sector to 10 percent and above. He also said that only Rwanda and Burundi have managed to reach the 10 percent commitment while countries are below 6 percent.

Hon. Mary Nagu, MP from Tanzania said that ‘*there is need to domesticate the Malabo Declaration. She said even with the nice fertile land in EAC, people are still dying of hunger and malnutrition which is difficult to explain*’. She added that ‘*there are a lot of untapped opportunities in agriculture for governments and other stakeholders*’. She insisted further that ‘*MPs need to know the concerns of small holder farmers during planning processes*’.

Amina Dafi farmer from Singida contributed in the summit that there is a need for the government to work with other stakeholders like farmer’s organizations and CSOs in educating the public about CAADP and Malabo Declaration. She noted that the private sector, CSOs and farmers’ organizations are a very important pillars in the domestication of the Malabo Declaration and proposed that there is need for awareness of local and national leaders to get support from the government authorities.

After the end of the summit, participants developed communique on the outcome of the summit and recommendations calling for actions by various decision making bodies in EAC and urged that all the countries can use the communique for the advocacy.



Participants during EAC budget summit in Arusha

Agriculture sector engages more than 90.4 per cent of active women, producing about 70 per cent of the country's food requirements. But the sector is underperforming in many aspects, one of the causes being lack of recognition to the role of women, who are often a crucial force in agriculture and the rural economy. Women face constraints that reduce their productivity.

On the other hand, budget allocation to the sector in the national budget has been declining annually from 7.4% in 2012/2013 to 4.5% in 2015/2016, a trend which clearly indicates that we are still far from reaching the targeted budget set by Maputo Protocol and Malabo Declaration, which African heads of states agreed to allocate 10% of the national budget to agricultural sector.

Furthermore, budgets allocated to agriculture recurrent expenditure have remained higher than development expenditure. This implies that little direct impact on agriculture is expected to occur since the large amount of the budget is spent on recurrent.

With this trend smallholder women farmers in Singida and Chamwino Districts are taking various initiatives under the support of Public Financing for Agriculture (PFA) project to advocate to ensure agriculture sector receive sufficient resources and are spent appropriately to benefit smallholder farmers specifically women who are largely engaged in the sector and not wealthy elites as is the case currently.

Early this year, the project supported 20 farmers to participate in Agriculture Budget Analysis and Advocacy training. After the training, participants

SMALLHOLDER WOMEN FARMERS STRATEGIZE ACTIONS TO INFLUENCE AGRICULTURE FINANCING

By Joram Wimmo, PFA project Coordinator



Small holder farmers from Singida and Chamwino in group discussion during one of the sessions

enthusiastically started to mobilize others groups and sharing the knowledge they acquired to their fellow group members, government officials and Ward Councillors in their respective locations.

Apart from sharing knowledge, small holder women farmers (SHWF) mobilized other groups and associations and formed Women Forums at different levels to collectively undertake advocacy initiatives to demand increased allocation of resources and its effective utilization to accelerate the growth of the sector.

To add value to their initiatives, the 15 ward and 2 district Coordinating Committees have been established to amplifying the voices of smallholder women farmers through their respective platforms at every crucial stage of budgetary formulation and execution. This was another golden opportunity for the Coordinating Committee to identify other potential groups and associations to join and exert more efforts for campaigning and advocacy. Currently, a total of 364 existing and new groups and associations are recognised in the

data base system from Singida and Dodoma.

The intention of all this initiatives is to make sure that smallholder woman farmers are confident enough and are united to strongly be able to influence changes in the agriculture sector. This is due to the fact that Budget Cycle processes greatly need effective engagement of the citizen at all stages to promote bottom - up approach which would largely help to give greater opportunity for the marginalized majority to identify their priorities and needs to be reflected into local and national government plans and budget.

"It is our time, we will exert efforts to make sure that the 40% of the budget in 2016/2017 allocated for the development project reaches and touches our life. This is not an overnight dream, so we need more women on board to strategize and build confidence of other SHFs to demand their rights, track the government expenditure and budgetary process so that it reflects the reality of smallholder farmers". Said Maria Ruben from Kijota ward.

NORAD EDUCATION PROJECT EMPOWERS SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

By Karoli Kadeghe- NORAD Project Manager



SMC members in group discussion at Kilwa during the training

As part of the project entitled 'Promoting Quality Education Through Progressive Domestic Resource Mobilisation' AATZ and its partners: Mtinko Education Development Organization (MEDO) and Kilwa NGO Network (KINGONET) organised training for School Management Committees (SMCs) in Singida and Kilwa District respectively. The need for the training emanated from the visits made to selected schools and baseline data collection exercise that indicated most of the SMCs are not adequately performing their responsibilities as required due to inadequate knowledge.

The training brought together 120 participants from all the 60 schools that are implementing the project. It was aimed at raising the awareness of participants on their roles and responsibilities in promoting quality education on behalf of the community, enable participants understand Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) framework and its processes and own it as they handle their duties and responsibilities; equip participants have knowledge on tax justice and its linkage to the provision of public services including education and familiarize participants on ways of developing School Improvement Plans.

During the training, it was realised that SMCs lack adequate knowledge on their core duties and responsibilities. 'We normally wait to be called by the head teachers to endorse funds utilization plans since most of us are not literate enough and hence we can't challenge anything' explained one of participants of the training who is member of SMCs.

On the other hand, participants demanded the District Authorities to make sure that all new SMCs in the district are given the same trainings to help them effectively play their roles effectively

At the end of the training session, trainees were provided with a copies of SMC guidelines manual and PRS posters so as to enable them further understand their roles and effectively handle their duties and employ the PRS principles. The manual distributed was compiled by HAKI ELIMU.

As the wayward, SMCs members in Singida who attended the training decided to form a network which will be used as a platform to share information and experience among various SMCs work on addressing emerging issues collectively.

School Management Committees are recognised groups of elected members from respective communities responsible for managing and overseeing activities of primary schools.

SHIVIWAKA ADVOCATES FOR REDUCTION OF TAX BURDEN ON COFFEE SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Ephraim Pasa Lima and his wife together with their five children are living in Simike village Rungwe District, Mbeya Region in Southern Highlands of Tanzania. Apart from growing other crops, their family depends very much on coffee growing. They started to grow coffee since 15 yrs in small scale where they own 2 hectares around their house.

His motivation to grow coffee is based on the fact that, coffee is among leading cash crops in the area. If one follows all

required standards in its production, it is possible to secure good harvest to increase income to help in addressing family needs.

Ephraim explained that few years' back; he and his fellow farmers were growing and selling coffee individually which was very challenging. But after attending sensitization sessions organized by SHIVIWAKA to form groups so that they can be easily reached and trained; they started at least to see the value in coffee. "SHIVIWAKA mobilised us and

now we have joined smallholder coffee farmers in our village which is helping us to get information about coffee market, trainings on coffee production and also our rights as small holder farmers" said Ephraim.

He added that even though they have joined groups as small holder farmer, they are facing many challenges which are hindering them from earning fair income from coffee production. "We commit lots of cost in production but we are getting very little at the end due to

so many taxes imposed on us' Ephraim emphasized.

Lusajo Mwakajoka who is also a coffee farmer at Simike had to say "So many taxes have been imposed on us and they are holding us back because the cost of production is very high compared to what is earned at the end. We don't know how do they calculate those taxes and how they are used. Bad enough, we are not receiving any support from government e.g. subsidized inputs".

For Ephraim, Lusajo and other coffee farmers in Rungwe and other coffee producing districts, coffee production and marketing has been one of the most frustrating experiences. They are incurring so many costs in production and end up earning very little, and one of the factors being increase in direct taxes imposed to them.

Trying to address the problem, SHIVIWAKA conducted an analysis to identify barriers in coffee industry where it was realised that coffee production and sales decrease is caused by farmers being compelled to pay twenty six (26) different taxes; (4 of them directly affecting small holder coffee farmers), lack of subsidy to coffee

farmers, market fluctuation and higher cost of production.

Through the support from AATZ under governance programme, the organisation went further and organised advocacy activities for the direct taxes for small holder coffee farmers where 2 meetings were organised with stakeholders to analyse the cost and benefit of those taxes. This was followed by formations of a committee to present the identified issues to the District Council level. "Some of the taxes which we decided to start advocating are those which are being deducted directly from the farmer including 3-5% for District CESS, 0.75 TACRI, 0.2Cofee board, 0.2 coffee fund". Said Mr. Masawe, Chairperson for SHIVIWAKA.

To collect more evidence for their advocacy, they also conducted an analysis on how 5% district CESS tax imposed on smallholder farmers is being used and all the reports and recommendations were shared during advocacy meetings with councillors, MPs and DED's, seeking for possible consideration and commitment by the full council and Tanzania Coffee Board to waive them in favour of smallholder farmers.

To make sure their agenda is achieved, the organisation is continuing to monitor and follow up commitments made by District council and Tanzania Coffee Board on the improvement of taxes on coffee small holders farmers and at the same time conducting feedback meetings with communities to share progress on improvements on the issue. In particular; the advocacy work targets the following ;

5% CESS to be reduced to 3% or removed,

- 0.75% research expenses should be removed from being deducted to farmers, and instead the government should continue supporting full the researches.
- 0.2% development fund does not support farmers. Therefore, it should be removed from the deductions.
- 0.2% for auction should be removed from deductions because Tanzania Coffee Board is the government institution and the government is the one to fund its institution and not farmers.



Small holder farmer, member of Shiviwaka processing her coffee at home

WOMEN GROUPS TRIGGER CHANGE IN MBOZI DISTRICT



In previous years, recognition of women as an important person who can contribute to the community was a nightmare in Isansa and Iwalanje villages of Mbozi District. A woman was just considered as a caterpillar whose responsibilities were farming, harvesting, fetching water taking care of children etc.

As narrated by some of the women in Tupendane group, it was evident that women were not considered as able to play any leadership roles in the family and community level. *“All leadership positions in our villages were held by men. It wasn't possible for a woman to be elected to lead men.”* Said Anacreta Alfred secretary for women groups in Isansa.

“In our community, our responsibility as women was just to produce... But women do not participate in deciding on what was produced. You produce and the men make decision over what you have produced be it in the farm, business etc. even if the man doesn't know how you have produced it. In fact, you really don't enjoy fruits of your labour”, added Amina; member of Tupendane group.

Since 2014 however, stories started to change; as women have mobilized

themselves into groups and are now engaged in agriculture and other income generating activities. They not only produce food for their families but are able to sell the produce to generate extra income.

The journey towards this change was facilitated by SHIVIWAKA through support from ActionAid where women groups were mobilised into groups, received training on their rights and leadership skills and how to manage their groups including writing their constitutions and supported to register their groups so that they are legally recognised

Women were also trained on leadership and accountability, importance of participating in village and ward meetings and holding local leaders accountable.

During the interview, women confirmed that after several sessions and capacity building interventions from SHIVIWAKA, women started to realise and understand their rights and how to demand them. *“First of all, we formed and registered our group known as Tupendane on 2013 and it's now legally recognised at the district level and it's helping us to get opportunities for sensitization and empowerment from different stakeholders”,* Says Elina Secretary of

Tupendane Group.

She also added that since establishment of their group which has 32 members, they were engaging in farming, poultry and pig farming activities which boosted their income at individual and group level. *“We used to work on our individual farms but we realized that we could achieve more if we formed a strong, registered group and do our activities together”,* added Elina

On the other side, the awareness they gained from interventions made by SHIVIWAKA was very useful. *“It opened our mind about our rights and responsibilities as citizens. Previously, we didn't know the importance of participating in village or school meetings. We thought it's wastage of time. We didn't know adequately about what's going on in our village. Nowadays, we don't miss these meeting and we raise questions. We even mobilise our fellow women to participate in these meetings”* added one of the members.

As a result of the capacity development supports, they confirmed that they were able to change the thinking that women cannot lead. *“We identified our concern and demanded action from village leadership that Women are now able to take part in community leadership positions. During one of the village and ward meetings, women's issues were taken as one of the agendas for discussion”* narrated Tupo, member of Tupendane

Women interviewed added that their appeals were taken positively and slowly changes started to be realised as women are elected in different positions at the village and ward leaderships. Men started understanding and recognizing our agenda and this situation has helped

to influence changing the existing patriarchal system. Currently there are many women in leadership positions including occupying special seats, leading various committees etc.”

Both women groups now have bank accounts where they save money generated from the farming and members can borrow and repay with little interest. Elina says “the major challenges facing the groups are inadequate knowledge on mobilisation and markets for their produce”.

For the future plan, the women groups are determined to make sure no women will be left behind. “We are continuing to raise awareness to our fellow women in our village and in other villages to make sure that all women in our district are empowered and tapping opportunities which will help them to move forward. We request ActionAid and SHIVIWAKA to continue supporting us in capacity building so that we can build a strong movement of women in Mbozi District” concluded Magreth from Tumsifu group.

SHIVIWAKA is among members supported by ActionAid Tanzania through Program Objective Plan (POP) programme. This is the public accountability and Tax Justice five years program aimed at improving the functioning of governance structures through downward accountability mechanisms by empowering citizens to engage in decision making processes and hold government bodies and other actors accountable for delivery of quality social service.

AMINA DAFFI

My Dream was to Serve the Community!

By Esther Kalonga; Singida LRP



Amina in her farm harvesting sunflower

Amina Said, 40 is a mother of 7 boys living in Mtinko village. She completed primary education in 1988 at Malolo primary school. Before she was approached by ActionAid Tanzania programmes, she had a dream of becoming a leader so that she can be able to serve her community but she was drained back with the assumption that she is not well educated.

She started to participate in AATZ advocacy programmes since 2006. The engagements provided her with substantial knowledge which helped to revive her dream of becoming women leader and bringing changes to the marginalized groups in the community.

After attending series of trainings, Amina and her fellow women

managed to establish small groups. She was playing leadership roles and guiding her fellows in various issues which helped her to start gaining practical experience in leadership.

The first position for Amina to contest was board membership for her village Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS) in 2007. She was finally elected by Village General Assembly to be a board member to represent her village. “The competition was very tough but I finally made it. I was elected to represent my village in the board. This was only possible because of the initiatives that I have shown from groups that we have formed from the scratch in the community”, said Amina.

In 2015, she was re-elected to be a Board Vice Chairperson that increased her morale and commitment towards her ambition of bringing changes in her community. She explained that the process was not easy. “My husband was not supporting me because of the pressure from his friends that I might overpower him. This did not hold me back. I kept on explaining to him about my ambitions of becoming a leader which at the end he understood and allowed me to continue”.

>>Cont'd pg 14

Among responsibilities of board members of the AMCOS, there were actions such as training other members on how to establish and strengthen groups' cooperation's/ associations, and supervise day to day operations of Mtinko AMCOS. Other tasks include mobilizing members and advocating for community participation specifically ensuring effective women engagements". In 2011, active members of the AMCOS were 55 and currently we have 155 members".

Amina has also participated in the platform which is called Young Women Freedom for Change Movement, WAVUMA abbreviated in Swahili as Wanawake Vijana Uhuru na Mabadiliko, that operates in five districts namely; Singida, Bagamoyo, Unguja, Kibaha, and Handeni under the support of

ActionAid, GTI, ILO and Policy Forum. The movement organized a national forum that was drawn from more than 4,000 (80%F) members to discuss issues facing young women and seek solutions.

After the formation of the Forum, Amina was among 4 women elected to attend the training on women and children rights and entrepreneurship where she was supposed to go back and train her fellow women. As a result, 400 women were trained and this helped towards increased awareness and more participation of women in the community on women rights and economic empowerment.

Due to increase in her confidence and assertiveness, she continued getting opportunities including attending the Rural Women Farmer forum in Ethiopia in October 2015, participated in the 2016/2017

national budget analysis that produced the public statement published on the media and was used for lobbying policy makers. "I really appreciate AATZ for bringing me to this level. One can imagine the development from being a mere housewife to this level", concluded Amina.

With the opportunities and knowledge she gained, Amina is now a chairperson of WAVUMA and now serving as a board member in five different institutions' and organisations; Mtinko AMCOS, Mtinko secondary school, regional double refinery cluster for sunflower farmers, and Mtinko Education Development Organisation. All these forums have influence in improving the conditions and positions of women and men in the communities.

PARTNERS FORUM

An Extra Mile for SHIVIWAKA



Association of Coffee Farmers in Tanzania (SHIVIWAKA) is an umbrella organization

representing the interests of 8,500 coffee farmers in Mbeya, Mbozi, Ileje, Busokello and Rungwe District

Councils in Mbeya Region. The organisation is among five partners ActionAid is supporting through

People for Change programme under the Program Objective Plan.

The organization was initially established as an Apex for smallholder farmers in Mbeya region in 2007. In 2009, it was registered as Non-Governmental-Organization under the 2002 NGO Act. In 2014, it was also given a status of a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.

The organization's core objectives aims at building local capacity and bringing about agricultural development in coffee and other crops production and good animal husbandry to the community by the mobilization of their economic, social and professional powers thereby reducing poverty through broad based participation of coffee farmers.

In previous years, the organisation was struggling in its operations and performance due to different constraints such as inadequate human resources (quality and quantity), lack of reliable long-term funding and lack of membership commitment which in one way or another hampered the effective and efficient program delivery. The situation resulted in weakness on the side of both the secretariat and the board and as a result lack of effective coordination.

The story started changing slowly and there is no doubt that the future of SHIVIWAKA looks brighter.

THE JOURNEY!

Shiviwaka started partnership with ActionAid after signing agreement in May 2012 after ActionAid Tanzania's merger with MS - Tanzania. Hezekia Mwakasungura who is Director for SHIVIWAKA explained that the organisation enjoyed a lot of support from ActionAid Tanzania which helped them to move an extra mile to reach



to where they are today.

He said that, 'through People for Change (P4C) programme between the periods of 2012-2016, SHIVIWAKA received four inspirators from different countries including Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe who played great role in transforming the organisation'.

In 2014, AATZ supported the organisation to undertake Organisational Development Assessment (ODA) a process which involved staff and board and was facilitated by the inspirator who was on duty at the time. The process helped the organisation to identify existing gaps and agree on how to address them.

He further explained that 'since the placement of Inspirators, internal systems and capacity has been improving day after day. A constitution was developed and is currently under implementation. Implementation of recommendations from ODA created opportunity for the organisation to develop various policies and guidelines which are helping the organisation to perform its enshrined roles including advocacy strategy, business plan, volunteer policy and strategic plan", added Mwakasungura.

Recently, the organization developed new strategic plan (2015-2020) and started its

implementation. ActionAid provided strategic support in the development of the strategy as well as in its implementation process.

Other factors contributed to SHIVIWAKA to reach to this stage are the capacity building trainings to staff and board members provided by ActionAid through MS-TCDC. SHIVIWAKA staff and board members attended trainings on Board Governance, tax justice, HRBA, social accountability monitoring, M&E, gender, budget tracking etc. "All these trainings improved our performance", said Mwakasungura.

He further explained that through Inspirators and establishment of internal policies and fundraising strategy, the organisation was able to secure a new two years project from USAIDF which worth TZS 205 million. "We were able to get the new project because the organisation has transformed, now the organisation is settled, our systems and structures in place and our work is getting visible"

Mr Massawe, Chairperson of SHIVIWAKA also confirmed that through the trainings received under the support of AATZ, they can now manage SHIVIWAKA professionally and support the organisation to achieve its goal of uniting small holder farmers to advocate for their rights.

THROUGH THE TRAININGS RECEIVED UNDER THE SUPPORT OF AATZ WE CAN NOW MANAGE SHIVIWAKA PROFESSIONALLY...MR MASSAWE

End of Project Evaluation ACRE PROJECT

Addressing Children's Rights in Education (ACRE) project was implemented in five African countries namely; Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya and Tanzania. In Tanzania, the project was implemented at national level and in three Local Right Programmes: Bagamoyo, Chamwino and Mafia.

The project employed Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) framework to address education rights particularly for girls and children with disability and influencing changes in national level policy to address rights violations.

The project had the target of reaching 2,700 children, 990 School Management Committees (SMC), 180 community facilitators and 1980 parents through various interventions. At national level, the project partnered with Tanzania Education Network (TEN//MET) while at the Local Rights Programs (LRPs), the project was implemented by LRP staff in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Core outcomes anticipated at the end of the project include the following;

- Increased engagement of stakeholders to claim children's rights to education at

community and decentralised level

- Incorporation of a rights-based analysis in national policy formulation
- Increased transparency, accountability and child participation in school management processes.
- Increased capacity of children (especially girls and children with disability) to claim their rights.

The project was successfully implemented and tangible changes were registered. According to project end evaluation report, the following key learning's are drawn from the project;

- Involving stakeholders has increased the awareness on children's rights to education and therefore facilitated smooth project implementation.
- Empowering children to claim their rights has resulted into reduced discrimination on children with disabilities, and gender based violence.
- PRS framework is found very powerful tool for empowerment, solidarity building and campaigning when used effectively.

- Communities involved have changed their attitude towards children with disabilities

CHALLENGES

- In poverty stricken environment, balancing between human rights based approach and service delivery approach is challenging as target communities focus more on tangible outputs.
- Schools not targeted in the project wanted to be involved while the resources allocated to the project was very limited.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Prioritization of schools has to be taken into consideration when planning for other kinds of interventions in the future.
- It is better to do need assessment before designing a project.
- Trainings on education rights have to include more village leaders.
- Education programs have to focus on national level advocacy in order to abolish corporal punishment and the ministry's directive preventing children to participate in the school management process.

RESEARCH ON REVENUE COLLECTION, ALLOCATION AND SPENDING IN HOTEL AND FISHING INDUSTRY

In November 2015, AATZ commissioned a study on Revenue Collection, Allocation and Spending in Hotel and Fish Industry in Mafia District. The main objective of the research was to make an assessment and examine revenue collection, allocation and spending and generate recommendations. Special focus was on business operations of companies (hotels and fisheries) to ascertain what taxes they pay, to whom and how this revenue is reallocated and spent to fund public service delivery in the district.

KEY FINDINGS

- Companies in Mafia were not transparent to the government in their financial dealings and tax payments
- Mafia district capacity to collect revenue from companies investing in the area is very low.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH WAS TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINE REVENUE COLLECTION, ALLOCATION AND SPENDING AND GENERATE RECOMMENDATIONS.

- It was also found that TANPESCA Company in Mafia pays only lump sum money of TZS 8.6 million per month, instead of paying according to the service levy of up to 5% from their turn over.
- Marine Park Authority (MPA) collects money from its hotels and tourism, but, 70% of the money goes to MPA at national level where it serve other marine parks. On the other hand, 20% of the money goes to support project in those villages under MPA, and only 10% of the money goes to the district.