

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

April 2018

Smallholder Farmers Advise Use of Domestic Resources to Sustain Agriculture

By Joram Wimmo, PFA Project Coordinator

Smallholder farmers in the country, recently tasked the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water to advise the government to ensure proper use of domestic resources to sustain agriculture budget allocation.

The call was made by Smallholder Women Farmers Forum (SWFF) Spokesperson, Ms Flora Flowezi during parliamentary committee engagement meeting organised by ActionAid in collaboration with Agric-coalition members with the aim of providing space for the rural women farmers to interact with parliamentarians to voice out their concerns, needs and the importance of the financing agriculture for sustainable livelihood.

In her presentation, Flora said that more than 50% of councils' revenues come from agriculture, but very little is invested back to the sector.

She added that there are several international agreements and plans that the government has entered since independence aimed to ensure that agriculture sector yields fruitful results but there has not been political will to achieve them, even in terms of budget. She referred to the Malabo declaration that requires 10% of the national budget to be allocated to the agriculture sector.

Among other things, she mentioned unrealistic budget allocations, for instance, in the financial year 2017/18, the Government allocated TZS 623.6 billion for the sector, but up to March 2018, they had secured TZS 135.2 billion which is equivalent to 22%, yet the ministry is looking forward to collecting TZS 631 billion for the financial year 2018/19 from the same sources, something which is nearly impossible.

"The Government has failed to achieve last year's budget...what makes them think they will be able to achieve this time, given the fact that it's from the same sources?" asked Flora.

Pili Kuliwa, a small holder farmer, presented



Flora Mlowezi (standing) SHWFF spokesperson presenting during the meeting

also recommendations that were gathered by small holder women farmers forum in collaboration with Agri coalition members (ActionAid, Policy Forum, OXFAM, ANSAF, TGNP and Forum for Climate Change). Some of them include; increasing the number of extension officers as per the set standards especially in areas such as in Chamwino and Singida and setting aside 5% of the money obtained from the extractive sector each year to contribute towards the agriculture sector.

Furthermore, a member of the parliamentary standing committee commented that taxes imposed on seeds produced locally, causes farmers to prefer seeds from abroad which are cheaper; efforts should be made to ensure that there is a mechanism of constant availability of affordable quality seeds and agricultural inputs.

On compliance to the Malabo declaration, the parliamentarians accepted that there was a need to advise the Government on its adherence to the declaration and that one of the challenges is that the agriculture sector

budget is not aggregated, thus it is difficult to ensure that the 10% is met.

One of the Committee members, Hon Dr Christine Ishengoma commented that experience shows that extension officers are placed in areas that they have no competence in for instance, the officer may have capacity on farming, but he is expected to work in livestock sector that's why they fail to deliver. Increasing their number itself won't help if they keep going to places they are not meant to.

The Parliamentary committee promised to incorporate insights presented into their report that will be presented to parliament during the tabling of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery's budget.

ActionAid through PFA project will continue working hand in hand with partner organization in agriculture and smallholder women farmer platforms to share analysis reports to the parliamentary members highlighting gaps and recommendations in light of smallholder women farmer needs and priorities to improve agriculture sector.

TV Talk Show Provides Platform for Mafia Communities



By Mafia LRP Team

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ), in collaboration with SAWAMA (Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia), organised a TV talk show broadcast live by Clouds TV (360 programme) from Mafia District, last month, to discuss mechanisms of addressing violence against girls and the role of community and government in ensuring safe environment for them in and around schools.

The main purpose of the TV talk show was to raise awareness in the community and decision makers, on the magnitude of violence against girls in schools, discuss and recommend possible actions and alternatives on what can be done by different stakeholders and the community to stop violence against girls in schools to ensure their right to education is realized

The live broadcast was facilitated by the fact that Mafia District has no any media house or freelancers based in the area. So it was an opportunity for the dialogue to be heard and watched by viewers across the country and especially policy makers at national level.

The dialogue brought together representatives from key public service providers such as police, judiciary, health, social welfare and community development, religious leaders, teachers, pupils and women associations.

During the debate, community members

confirmed that different forms of violence exist in Mafia and is really affecting children and women. Some of them include sexual abuse, rape, child abuse and so on.

"Last year, we had a case where pupils were sexual abused. We made a follow up and reported the case to the police and the case is still in court," explained Sauda Ally, a member of SAWAMA.

Another SAWAMA member Mwanaimani Abdallah, added that there is another incident that happened last year, where a parent raped her child and then killed her. This event hurt us so much and the cause was *Muhali* (a practice within coastal community where you can not expose a shameful act done within a respective community)

A pupil Rachel Julius further added, *"I was in class six when we heard that there is a child who has been raped and killed. I felt so bad about it. The community still does not understand the effects of violence to the children."*

Sharing statistics of the reported cases, Mafia Police station chief Said Abdallah, said that since January 2017 to April 2018, they have received 27 cases where 21 of them relates to child rape. six cases are still under investigation, nine were dropped due to lack of evidence, three cases saw family

members reconciling at home while three are already in court. On the other hand the remaining four cases related to sexual abuse are in court.

Regarding the issue of medical tests as evidence in cases of sexual abuse or rape, Dr Zuberi Ally Mzighe, Ag District Medical Officer said, *"The issue of abuse depends on the support/cooperation from the victim..The main challenge is that victims don't come on time to the hospital for medical tests. They come after a week or more which is difficult to get medical evidence. This brings a lot of contradictions because as professionals, we do not deny the truth. We report what we find and not otherwise."*

He went on to advise community members to report immediately (after a rape incident or abuse) to the hospital for medical tests to allow further processes to proceed.

In connection to the factors that contribute to the existence of harassment, Husna Makungu, said traditional norms, values and customs such as *Muhali* (shyness) contribute a lot because they force people to shy away from reporting and giving evidence in court, simply because they fear how the family or community will perceive them.

"I hate this behaviour, it's ignorance; I urge people in Mafia not to entertain it," she added.

The Mafia District Social Worker, Mwajuma Hassan, explained that *Muhali* is affecting their efforts a lot, because family members are not ready to cooperate. She admitted that more awareness on effects of rape and sexual abuse of children and its reporting mechanism is still needed within the community. *"We thank AATZ for its work in our district...It has helped in raising awareness on issues of violence and reporting. Initially, actions were taken but there was no information. Now, we get information and work it out..."* said Mwajuma.

On the issue of child marriages, participants confirmed that it is still a problem and advised that a lot of efforts are needed to address it.

To view the TV talk show follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I49GY6qbs64>

Tandahimba LRP Pushes to Change Community Outreach Approach

By Dinno Celestine, LRP Coordinator

The Tandahimba and Newala Local Rights Programme (LRP) in December 2017, carried out intensive review of impacts of its programs since the LRP's inception in the areas in 2002 and 2004 respectively.

The main objectives of the move included critical review and reflection on the performances of the LRP strategies put in place at various times in bringing change in the lives of people living in poverty, (women, children, smallholder farmers, youth and marginalized sections of the community.

Other were: assessment of the capacity of community structures that exist in ensuring and sustaining people's action in line with the HRBA principles; Assessment of strategies approaches and methods employed in targeting; effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of approaches employed throughout the intervention in light of the HRBA and Recommending appropriate timeline, strategies and actions to be considered in the phase out plan.

During the review, one of the major program drawbacks was that partner CBOs have not been able to make impact in major areas of their interventions due to limited financial capacity. This means that the LRP partners have not been able to ensure that a majority of the marginalized are targeted, reached and empowered in most of the villages and wards.

It is important to note that while the LRP's presence in Tandahimba (2002) and Newala (2004) strived to address its themes on agriculture, HIV, women rights, education and governance, a considerable amount of time was spent in community mobilization to form partner CBOs. This was followed by intensive institutional strengthening and capacity building

However, owing to limited financial capacity, inability to fundraise, sheer vastness of the two districts amongst other challenges, a considerable number of villages and wards were not reached by the LRP program, hence fewer number of marginalized, poor women,



Section of women during one of the village meetings

men and youth targeted and empowered.

To address this perennial challenge, the LRP reviewed its outreach approach of engagement with partner CBOs, with focus on capacity building and institutional strengthening.

As a starting point, on the 12th through to the 18th of April 2018, the LRP held an intensive training (ToT) for Women Rights Associations (WRAs) in Newala on entrepreneurship, business and financial literacy skills, management of SACCOS, women's rights and violence against women. The training brought together 110 women in which (7) WRA members were nominated and facilitated by LRP WRA in conducting intensive village-level awareness creation on entrepreneurship, business and financial literacy skills, management of SACCOS, women's rights and violence against women

The village-level meetings were a complete success with huge turnout of women, men and youth and village-level government representatives. In the end, 10 village-level committees comprising 5 women rights associations' representatives were formed in each village. Each committee had two men.

The work of the village-level committee

includes liaising with key local government institutions and religious leaders to address WRs issues such as VAW. The identified institutions were: police gender desk, community development office, religious leaders, village elders and village executive office.

Ten villages with a total participation of more than 100 people per village in Newala were reached including far-flung areas or last mile areas bordering Mozambique-where the LRP had never reached before. The poor and marginalized who have never participated in any LRP program or activity finally had a chance.

"For a long time, NEWORA has had extreme challenges navigating the difficult terrain so as to establishing village branches and recruit new members in the district. With the new LRP approach, we have managed to reach 1,000 people in just four days with minimal cost," said Sofia Mnalombe, chairlady of NEWORA WRA in Newala.

Access to Gender and Responsive Public Services is Key to Communities

By Rejoyce Matanga; Inspirator-Chamwino LRP

The need to view the design, allocation and delivery of public services using gender lenses is based on the fact that women and children form the largest proportion of users of most basic services such as health, education, agriculture and water. They also tend to suffer the worst effects when services are lacking.

Jukwa la Wanawake Wilaya Chamwino (Juwwacha) took the district officials, ward and village executives as well as public service providers from the education, health and agriculture sectors to task on the lack of adequate services in Chamwino district.

This was held from the backdrop of the social accountability process done using the Community Score Card to assess the access to quality gender responsive public services. The scorecard was divided into sections. The first two sections were very critical to understand the participation and involvement of communities in the budget process, while also analysing how accountable are the community leaders to their communities.

The aim of the exercise was to verify the gaps that had been identified during the training on the three identified sectors in education, health and agriculture. Using the gender responsive public services criteria for assessment (GRPS's AAAAS (Availability,

Accessibility, Acceptability, Adaptability and Safety), community members evaluated the gender responsiveness of the quality and access to the public services grading them by percentages and giving reasons and examples of their ratings.

"Inadequate public services that respond to the needs of people especially women and children have a direct impact in their lives as they are the most vulnerable to bear the brunt of this challenge," said Jane Nyamayahasi, Chairperson of JUWWACHA during the recently held interface meeting with district officials.

Some of the issues raised from the community score card indicate lack of service providers in the three sectors, eg Mlooda has only 3 service providers for the whole community population of... (Census 2012), Inadequate medicines was raised in almost all the wards where the survey was conducted. It was also sad to note that in the case where the service was available, the accessibility was compromised, in Mahama there is no dispensary, and if there is rain it's difficult to cross to the nearest dispensary which is Chilonwa Dispensary in Nzali.

In education All the villages noted that free education in primary level increased enrolment rate hence noticing the shortage of teachers, toilets, classes, books and desks to cater for the high numbers of students enrolled at schools.

This led to two different classes sharing the same room during their sessions.

Also the schools' toilets for the students are not gender responsive, the recommended ratio of toilet allocation for girls and boys of 25:20 holes is not fulfilled, While the challenge of classes remains a big issue, the issue of toilet let alone private rooms for the girls remains a bigger challenge.

In as much as there is acceptability that everyone has a right to public services, there is noticeable discrimination based on the gender and disability that hinders access to public services. For example, there are some parents who do not take their disabled children to school due to discrimination and also that the schools do not have adequate support systems, like ramps, toilets and braille for the blind children. The issue of patriarchy is still a stumbling block for women especially to have control and ownership of land in their names.

Due to the urban and rural settings, there is bound to be increase in population one way or the other but the services like water, proper roads, and sewerage are not changing. The services have to be increased and adapt also to the needs of the people, as people are increasing.

Water sources are far from the residence of most community members and the long distances that women and youth have to walk in search for water is also a risk to them.

There was great support from the ward executives on the findings from the report as they noted that it clearly indicated the challenges in their communities which had a direct impact on the people. The commitment from the district officials after the presentation was that the report will be shared at the district council meeting and a way forward on addressing some of the issues raised will be discussed.



interface meeting with District officials

CSO's Capacity Building on African Governance Architecture(AGA)

**By Mawazo Mataje, Public
Accountability & Youth Manager**

As part of EC PAN-AFRICA project activities, AATZ organised a CSOs capacity building workshop on African Governance Architecture (AGA) at Dar-Es-Salaam from 4th-5th April.

The aim was to strengthen CSOs capacity and understanding on AGA/ACDEG for more effective engagement with AU institutions and national government, Enhance their capacity to plan and conduct joint advocacy on the AGA and enhance CSO capacity in the monitoring of AGA/ACDEG implementation by the government.

The workshop which brought together 16 CSO representatives was organised after a CSOs mapping exercise which was conducted to Assess and identify civil society organizations working on democracy, governance, elections and human rights at national and local level in Pemba which would later form a network of CSOs.

The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promotion of this project goal is very important as they are the gate way to the people who are the right bearers with responsibility to hold the government to account for but also an important wing in influencing the needed changes through a series of organized advocacy activities.

During the training it was noticeable that Most of the CSOs were not aware of this charter (AGA/ACDEG) despite some of the CSOs being working on the governance, democratic issues and public accountability.

Participants also realized that it is very likely that Tanzanians might be losing many opportunities within AUs organs due to lack of information.

Another challenge noted from training was the fact that the CSOs did not know the relevance between the charter and its connection with the current situation in Tanzania which necessitated the facilitator to explore how AGA/ACDEG is reflected in some of the



issues related to governance and public accountability in Tanzania.

After understanding African Governance architecture and its relation to Tanzania context participants were curious to know why the charter was neither ratified nor signed by the government.

The discussion led participants to advise the need to involve government officials in the upcoming implementation of CSOs capacity building. It was very evident that most of the CSOs would prefer to have government officials included in the training in order to get the other side of the coin from the government.

At the end of training participants agreed to formulate a CSO network/ Platform and strategic key areas to work on in the future.

Mobilizing Civil Society Support for Implementation of the African Governance Architecture commonly known as EC PANAFRICA, is a three years (2017 – 2019) project funded by European Commission. It is under implementation by 13 partners including ActionAid International and its country programs in Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Tanzania together with four regional and sub-regional organizations. The project has local, national, sub regional and regional

initiatives.

Major objective of the project is promoting the operationalization of the African Governance Architecture (AGA).

Actions planned aim to increase and strengthen the role that CSOs play in processes to ensure that all African Union (AU) member states are democratic and accountable to their citizens, and aligned with the African Governance Architecture of the African Union (AU).

The project consists of activities ranging from awareness raising and advocacy actions on AGA and ACDEG that are linked from local to national, subregional and Africa continental level.

Locally, AATz has grassroots programs in Pemba, Zanzibar involving local partners, youth and women. National programs require the participation of CSOs and various stakeholders.

Strategizing for SPA Project

Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) is a four years project funded by DANIDA through ActionAid Denmark and Tanzania. It is a 4 years project running from January 2018 -to December 2021. A total of 758,667 Euro per year has been committed to this project.

To kickstart implementation, AATZ organised a planning workshop for staff and partners who will be involved in the project. The objective of the workshop was to bring together all potential partners in the project and present their plans in order to come up with a con-



solidated annual plan of the project. It was also meant to share the best practices, experiences and learnings from each other as a way of facilitating smooth operationalization of the the project.

The project will be implemented in 4 Local Rights Programmes (LRPs) namely Kilwa, Pemba, Unguja and Mafia. At national level the project will be implemented by Tanzania Youth Vision Association (TYVA), Youth Partnership Countrywide

(YPC) and Policy Forum while at international level the project will be implemented by the Global Platfor in Nairobi Kenya.

The project will cover gender responsive public services

(GRPS), Participatory democracy and a newly introduced objective on youth empowerment and economic opportunities.

Prior to the presentations from the LRPs and partners, AATZ managed to give insights on some of the key strategic approaches to partners. Participants were also oriented/refreshed on Human Rights Based(HRBA) approach programming, financial procedures, monitoring, evaluation & learning and other programming issues.

The country Director, Mr Yaekob Metena shared some key issue based on the previous experience of which he stressed that this project should not repeat similar experiences. He pointed out that, AATZ nearly missed this project due to tight competitions from other competing organizations/countries. Some of the issues included strict and proper utilization of funds (zero tolerance), quality and timely submission of reports, collective responsibilities at each level as well as working to achieve the objectives of the project and the marginalized ones. At the end it was agreed for partners and LRPs to refine the plans and send back to AATZ for final review/comments.

Tax Justice Campaign at the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Summit

By Andrew Chikwore, Public Accountability and Tax Justice Advisor

The Financing for Development Forum, is a UN meeting where participants from around the world discuss how global community, will finance development in full swing.

There is much at stake. On the one hand, there are the Sustainable Development Goals, where we - for the vast majority of the goals - are not where we should be. And on the other hand, major debt issues are lurking round the corner.

Also Many developing countries are highly indebted and are struggling to find a way out – and simultaneous they do not have resources to ensure the human rights of their people such as education, water and health.

Two key issues that were under discussion included: how should a country secure financial

resources to fund its sustainable development goals? And how do we as a global community ensure that the funds go to what a country's citizens need.

The key to financing development widely agreed is domestic revenues, and in terms of redistribution; the key is political participation and political will to meet the needs of the poorest.

There are many challenges with regards to financing development including financial resources that do not reach the Treasury due to illegal financial flows. IFF are illicit cash flows, including money from corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking and tax dodging.

No country, rich or poor can tackle all these challenges alone.They are global challenges that require global action.

Therefore, the focus was to encourage all countries to support the establishment of a strong intergovernmental tax commission under the auspice of the UN, in order to achieve better coordination and cooperation on international tax matters and to tackle the problem of tax evasion, illegal financial flows, tax competition and tax havens. This, among other things, is what ActionAid and other CSOs were advocating for.

EC Pan Africa Project Actors Converge in Accra, Ghana

International workshop was organized in Accra, Ghana from April 17 – 20, 2018 to review the performance of the project entitled ‘Mobilizing Civil Society Support for the implementation of the Africa Governance Architecture (AGA)’ which is commonly known as EC PanAfrica Project funded by European Commission and coordinated by ActionAid Denmark.

The workshop has brought together representatives from 8 project implementing countries namely; Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and Global Platforms from Ghana and Zambia; Regional partners in attendance include EASOF (East African Civil Society Organizations), WEASOF (West Africa Society of Media Foundation) and SDAC Council of NGOs based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Representatives of the EAC (East Africa Community), SADC (Southern Africa Development Council) and ECOWAS (Economic Commission of West African States) have also taken part in the workshop. The European Commission delegate has also attended the workshop.

ActionAid Tanzania was represented by Yaekob Metena, the Country Director and Mwanaidi Said, the Pemba Local Rights Program Coordinator.

Objectives of the workshop include bringing partners and allies together and share insights, lessons and reflect on strategies for effective national and regional engagement for the implementation of the project, discuss and develop a joint action plan for engagement and campaigning for implementation of the ACDEG and reflect and review EC PANAF project implementation of Year 1 and plan for Year 2.

In Tanzania the project is under implementation

at national level and Zanzibar especially in Pemba Local Rights Program. Activities at local level focus

on raising the awareness of communities and youth in particular on AGA/ACDEG, bring together local CSOs for joint advocacy, organizing youth clubs and undertaking community score cards. National level engagements focus on enhancing awareness on AGA/ACDEG among CSOs and media people and advocating for ratification and domestication of the charter and its implementation.

Implementation of the project was started very late across all countries and regional partners due to various reasons. Among others, setting the international project management and governance structure and finalizing engagements with the donors have contributed for the delay. Nevertheless, conversations made during the workshop revealed that countries and partners are at different level of performance. Year 1 of the project has ended on March 31, 2018 and the review made indicated that the overall implementation of activities and fund utilization are at a very low level.

In Tanzania, the project was launched in November 2017 and activities implemented were; launching the project at national and local level



Participants from EAC block in group discussion during the meeting

involving relevant actors, undertaking stakeholders mapping, organizing training to journalists and editors, training CSO representatives, training youth and establishing youth clubs are worth mentioning as major activities performed so far.

During the workshop, the status of the project was shared by the international project team, regional partners and implementing countries where achievements, challenges and opportunities were discussed. Cross-cutting lessons were also exchanged among participants as an input on how to improve efficiency going forward and compensate missed opportunities in Year 1.

Generally, the workshop was a learning forum for all actors where experiences were shared, complementarities and areas of collaboration and advocacy areas as well as key forums and moments to promote the agenda were identified. Common understanding was reached among participants to enhance implementation efficiency in Year 2.

The EC Pan Africa Project is among 11 donor funded projects currently under implementation by ActionAid Tanzania. Year 2 of the project has started in April 2018.

Mentor Farmers Learn Pests Control

By Elias Mtinda, Chamwino & Singida LRP

Farmers who are implementing Singida Nutrition and AgroEcology (SNAP) project in Singida District during the last crop season acknowledged good harvest from legumes, but the challenges faced them was on pest infestation which lowered crop yields of cowpeas and pigeon peas.

With the knowledge and skills, they had, farmers tried to use traditional pesticides to control pests in crops but were unsuccessful due to inadequate knowledge and skills on the use of traditional pesticides or beneficial insects.

In order to address the challenge, A training was organized for 20 Mentor farmers from SNAP project in Singida, 1 AATZ staff and 1 extension officer at Lyamungo retreat center in Kilimanjaro.

The aim of the training was to equip mentor farmers with knowledge and skills on types of botanicals and insects that can be useful for control of pests in crops and enable mentor farmers to share their experience on agro-ecological practices.

During the training, participants were taught on how to prepare pesticides by using natural plants such as Melia azedarach- neem tree (mwarobaini), Tithonia diversifolia (Alizeti pori), Tephrosia vogelii (Utupa) and Lippia javanica (Mti homa).

Participants also learnt Advantages of using natural pesticide plants including ; its affordability thus even a small farmer can make it and use compared to the industrial pesticides., It is safety and healthy for the final consumers as it has no chemicals. Also It maintains great diversity of ecology

for the natural enemy of pest(good insects)

AATZ in collaboration with Cornell University from USA, Nelson Mandela University and Ilonga Research Station are implementing a project titled "Singida Nutrition and AgroEcology". The project aims at alleviating food insecurity, nutrition problem for child and adults, gender issues as well as enhancing soil fertility through application of legumes.

The project is implemented in 10 villages and in each intervention villages, there are 2 mentor farmers (male and female) who have been trained on various agro-ecological practices and gender issues. The mentor farmers have the responsibilities of conducting monthly support visit to project participating households in the interventions villages for the purpose of trainings and or coaching farmers on various project practices.



Piloting Online Volunteer Connect Portal

ActionAid Tanzania on behalf of ActionAid Denmark (AADK) organized the workshop on piloting a program on Online Volunteer Connect Portal.

The workshop which took place on 24th and 25th April was participated by AATZ staff and partners from Dar, Mbeya, Morogoro, Tanga and Dodoma. It was facilitated by Signe Borker Bjerre (Volunteer Programme Developer) from Denmark.

Specifically the workshop aimed at introducing an online volunteer support portal to staff and partners, orienting staff and partners practically on how to get support and provide support online.

The online tool is designed to ensure ActionAid Head office and partners work together in a more efficient way.

This is a pilot program (in Tanzania and Zimbabwe) where anyone within ActionAid or within our partners can be a

volunteer and post his/her details in the system and provide a technical support "online" to the other part. But also the system allows any organization to ask for support/volunteer from the system. <https://volunteerconnect.online/>

