



Educator: access + equity + quality



2007

Global Week of Action

GLOBAL CAMPAING FOR EDUCATION (GCE)

2007 Global Week of Action (GWA) Report for Tanzania

Introduction

Preparations for the Global Week of Action (GWA) started late in January 2007 with a task force of eleven TEN/MET members based in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania Teachers' Union (TTU) collaborated with Teachers' Resource Centre Coalition (TRCC) to prepare the national event that was organised in Kibaha town; Coast Region, almost forty kilometres away from Dar es Salaam. Honourable Ludovick Mwananzila, Member of Parliament (MP) and Depute Minister for Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) graced the event. Almost more than 2000 people gathered in Kibaha to earmark the **Big Chain Re-Action**. TEN/MET members in different parts of the country had similar events that meant joining up hands for education rights.



Participants at the Global Week of Action

Planning the event

Eleven member organisations based in Dar es Salaam met to plan and fundraise for the event. Several planning meetings were held and produced a comprehensive programme for the week that comprised of, among other things; a media campaign that involved both print and electronic media; radio and television programmes, both live and recorded involving parents, children, teachers, government officials and academicians. Print media focused on special features, articles and an editorial at least three in Kiswahili and three in English local newspapers during the week.

As it was co-organised, the event was also co-financed. Action Aid International in Tanzania funded the *Big Chain Re-action* and Oxfam GB funded for 1,000 posters, 1,000 flags and 100 T-Shirts. Indeed, it would not have been possible for such a successful event without the financial contributions from members. TEN/MET Secretariat had the prime responsibility of coordinating the event.

Initially we aimed to invite **His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kiwete**, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to the event. As we had limited resources in terms of time, funds and personnel we could not. Instead, the **Hon. Margaret Sitta (MP)**, Minister for Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) attended the event.

Several campaign messages were developed and shared in planning meetings.

2007 GWA Climax in Kibaha

It was on Sunday, 29th April 2007 when more than 2000 campaigners gathered in Maili Moja - Kibaha for the *'Join up for Education Rights Now'* campaigns. Parents, children, teachers, politicians and government officials gathered at the famous TEMCO grounds from 08.00am to start a three kilometre demonstration to Mkoani grounds where **Hon. Ludovick Mwananzila (MP)**, Depute Minister for Education and Vocational Training received the rally for Education Rights campaigners.

Demonstration

Pupils from thirteen primary schools, nine secondary schools and one Folk



Development College, two hundred teachers, eighteen Ward Councillors (Madiwani), ten Ward Executive Officers (WEO), two Divisional Secretaries (DS) parents and other community members gathered for the demonstration. Hon. Dr. Christine Ishengoma, the Coast Regional Commissioner was represented by Hon. Gilbert M. Dololo,

Kibaha District Commissioner. Others were the Coast Region Education Officer, Mr. Mtyama, R.G.C, Kibaha District Administrative Secretary, Ms Siphorosa A. Mmari, Ward Education Officers and members from trade unions. It was a very colourful event led by a famous Temeke brass band from Dar es Salaam.

Campaign Messages

Every school formed a group of campaigners with their own message to the Guest of Honour who not only represented the central government, but also the government spokesperson. Campaigners marched in-front of the Honourable Depute Minister with their billboards, flags and posters carrying campaign messages.

Some Messages Delivered

1. Make quality education for every child a priority agenda
2. All forms of discrimination is a violation of an individual's right to education
3. Give every child an opportunity to quality education.
4. Educators at all levels impart quality education inheritance wilfully and freely
5. Empower the next generation by imparting quality education
6. Child protection is possible when made known through quality education
7. Strength and stability of the nation's future depends on the quality education provided now.
8. Give me education, it is my right
9. No education, no future
10. Fulfil your responsibility by providing education to your child.

Other Activities

Apart from the posters, billboards, flags and T-Shirts displaying campaign messages, there were cultural performances, poems, school and community choir depicting strong messages of education as a basic human right.

Two songs from Maili Moja primary school and Mshikamano Cultural Group from Kibaha town were especially memorable during the event. Mkoani primary school pupils presented a wonderful poem while Mshikamano Cultural Group presented a remarkably captivating song.

Mr. Ali Kimpumu, a person with disability drew the attention of the audience with his unique show that proved that any person regardless of

his/her personal limitations can perform wonders when given an opportunity. Kimpumu with only one leg was able to sing and dance to a song popularly known as *'Wanaume Tumebwa Mateso,'* Men have been created to face life problems. Inclusive education was explicitly reflected by the brilliant presentation of Kimpumu. The name

'Kimpumu' symbolises a local brew made out of maize.

During the show of Kimpumu, Ms Hazilongwa from Tumbi Secondary School showed tears

while congratulating Kimpumu. Hazilongwa, who is also physically impaired empathized with Kimpumu who was lost one of his legs in an accident.



Participants Join Hands as a symbol of Solidarity for Education as a Basic Human Right

Campaigners' Speech

Ms Elizabeth T. Miriali, Kibaha District TTU Secretary read a campaigners speech before the Guest of Honour. She thanked the Deputy Minister for Education for accepting the invitation and joining campaigners at the climax of 2007 Global Week of Education campaigns. She too on behalf of campaigners applauded the government for the construction of new secondary schools that have increased secondary school enrolment to 75%. However, she went on reminding the government that Education is a Human Right that must be accessible everyone.

Among other things she reminded the government that:

- ◆ Policy makers and decision makers should coordinate and speed up initiatives towards the EFA goals.
- ◆ Promises made in education at any given time should be implemented.
- ◆ There is a need of collaborating with the media to create awareness in education related issues
- ◆ Quick and deliberate initiatives should be made such that children meet qualified teachers at school.
- ◆ Education as a human right to be equally accessible to all children including marginalised groups such as hunter-gatherers, pastoralists and children with Disabilities.
- ◆ A conducive teaching and learning environment is

important in achieving quality Education For All.

In responding to campaigners' speech and demands, the Guest of Honour, Hon. Ludovick Mwananzila, Depute Minister for Education and Vocational Training thanked organisers for inviting him. "Your invitation has successfully managed to



gather education stakeholders; indeed, basic implementers in the process of achieving Education For All (EFA). For us who have gathered here today, everyone has a very special responsibility towards achieving EFA.," said the Minister.

The Honourable Minister acknowledged the need for a '**Big Voice**' in advocating for EFA. He accepted and received the demands presented before him by the campaigners. "The Government will be working on them from time to time depending on the economic improvement," said the Minister. While acknowledging the reality that '**Education is a Basic Human Need,**' he pointed out some challenges to accessibility as:

- ◆ Improving both the teaching and learning environment.
- ◆ Recruitment, employment and deployment of teachers
- ◆ Community participation in formulation of education related policies
- ◆ Reducing the teacher – pupil ratio.
- ◆ Improving the working and living condition of teachers.
- ◆ Special needs of children with disabilities

In his speech, Hon. Mwananzila pointed out that provision of quality education needs a sufficient number of conducive structures, furniture and fixtures, reference and textbooks. Thus more funding is necessary to finance these necessities along with teachers' monthly salaries and other running costs. The government has been responding to this from year to year depending on the availability of funds. "On the issue of teachers' benefit not sufficing the needs of teachers can be directly responded by the national economic growth. However, the government is now planning to provide hardship allowance for teachers working in remote areas," he added.

The question of community participation in policy formulation is debatable and invited suggestions on how it should be handled.

Finally, Hon. Mwananzila invited collective and sustainable measures in improving the quality of education.

Conclusion

Preparations of 2007 Global Week of Action (GWA) were planned and held in Kibaha

operating in an effort to have a larger impact.

We are really grateful to the Minister for Education who was well represented by the Depute Minister. The

leadership at Coast Region and Kibaha District played a major role in providing whatever kind of support we requested from them.



where all stakeholders in education were invited. We really appreciate the way TEN/MET members have collaborated in preparing the event. We acknowledge and recognise the contribution of Action Aid International in Tanzania and Oxfam GB for financing the climax of the event at the national level. Meanwhile, the readiness of TTU and TRC Coalition to lead the event has been magnificent.

While we held a national event in Kibaha, other TEN/MET members organise different activities in the areas where they are

With the successes narrated above, with must acknowledge that there were challenges and as such we would make the following recommendations in order to ensure future successes:

1. Level of community awareness on the importance of the GWA needs to be capitalized.
2. Resource constrains for the event led to downsizing some of the activities such as the media campaign which would have increased public awareness and participation in the event.
3. Therefore, planning and organising meetings should start in early December 2007 in order to ensure that the funding for the activity is comprehensive to cover the entire event.
4. Lead and support organisations that volunteer should devote more of their time in making an event a success.
5. Basket funding should be encouraged so as to avoid piece-meal funding for the event.



Maili Moja Primary School Chior Join Hands During their Performance of The **Big Chain Re-Action**

In an ongoing effort to improve our communications, we have been making some changes to our membership database and website. First, we have updated our membership database and have redesigned the NGO profile form in an effort to obtain more collective information from our members. We have included this form in Swahili and English on our website for members to download and return to us.

Second, we have redesigned the website and updated our content. If you would like to include any information or documents on our site, please contact us and let us know. We've also included a section for links where we have listed our members websites, if you would like to add your website or change existing information we would also like to hear from you!

www.tenmet.org