

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

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Training Equips Journalists on African Governance Architecture



Participants following during the training

participants who committed to start including the AU in their news diaries. This was because through the trainings, they have realized that there are a lot of issues they could write about AGA.

The facilitators went further and reminded journalists that they had an obligation to the people as watchdogs, gate keepers and agenda setters hence the need to be creative in their pursuit of stories and to look at social issues and injustices rather than following what the 'big names' were saying or doing.

The journalists acknowledged that the training had come at the right time, *"What I learnt here has really opened me up on the African Union and how our country has principles to uphold in relation to being part of that body. It has been a great learning curve; I just have to find ways to take back what I have learnt to my audiences,"* Said Ali Masoud Kombo from Pemba.

As a way forward, the journalists agreed to form a network known as Tanzania Journalists Governance Network (TJGN) which will facilitate Networking and Exchanging information on Governance, Democracy, Elections, Peace and Human Rights.

To increase awareness, participants also advised the same training to be conducted to community radios and other junior journalists as they have greater reach of the general public in rural areas.

EC PAN- African is a multi-country project and Tanzania is implementing it together with Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is a three-year project covering the period from 2017 - 2019. The project has series of activities designed to be implemented at national and local level. At local level, it is being implemented in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (Unguja & Pemba).

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) brought together editors and journalists from all major media houses in the country, for a two-day training on African Governance Architecture (AGA) in Dar es Salaam, last month.

The training, which involved journalists from Dsm, Pemba and Unguja, is among activities under the PAN-AFRICAN Project entitled, *'Mobilizing Civil Society Support for Implementation of the African Governance Architecture'* (AGA) which is funded by the European Commission.

The training was aimed at creating an in-depth understanding of AGA/African Charter on Democracy and Elections Governance (ACDEG) among senior journalists and fostering functional links between them and key actors in promoting the project.

In his opening speech, the AATZ Country Director, Mr Yaekob Metena, informed participants about the project objectives as well as insisting on the crucial role of the media in the success of the project.

The training was moderated by external facilitators: Moses Kulaba who has wide experience on (AGA) and general issues of governance and democracy in Tanzania and Valerie Msoka, a veteran journalist and a media professional.

The sessions were participatory with both the facilitators engaging participants and getting their contributions on the subject matter, including everyday exercises of analyzing newspapers and deducing whether their headline stories were of governance, or not. And, participants had the opportunity to explain their views and observations. This was a way of getting them to start understanding governance.

The sessions also focused on exposing participants to the understanding of African Union (AU) organs and protocols, AGA structure, standards and clusters, benchmark of AGA implementation in Tanzania, promoting AU institutions and work in Tanzania and Media coverage to improve public information on AU and AGA.

All sessions drew lively discussions from

Farmers Engage Parliamentary Committees

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer

Farmers from Kilosa and Mbozi Districts have recently met with the parliamentary committee members on HIV and Agriculture in a one day meeting organized by ActionAid and Tanzania Council for Social Development (TACOSODE).

The objective of the meeting which took place at Dodoma was to inform decision makers on key challenges facing small holder farmers and Health related challenges and seek their commitments on how are they going to ensure long term solutions are reached.

Participants in the discussion included Members of Parliamentary Committee (HIV/AIDS and Agriculture Committee), Small holder farmers from both Mbozi and Kilosa Districts, Media representatives, Mtandao wa vikundi vya wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA) and MIICO Mbeya.

During the meeting, MP's got an opportunity to understand the status of Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Project which was presented by AATZ and TACOSODE representatives.

On his part, Hon Albert Obama (MP) who chaired the meeting appreciated both AATZ and TACOSODE for organizing the meeting and particularly for bringing small holder farmers to discuss their issues on health and agriculture with MPs.



A farmer from Kilosa contributing during the meeting

On their part, farmers presented their issue resulted from the community score card exercise which was done in November, 2017. Some of them were; effects of long time land conflict in Kilosa, effects of limited access to Health facility centres, inadequate infrastructure on VCTs, and Health workers, inadequate agriculture inputs (seeds and fertilizers) and inadequate extension workers.

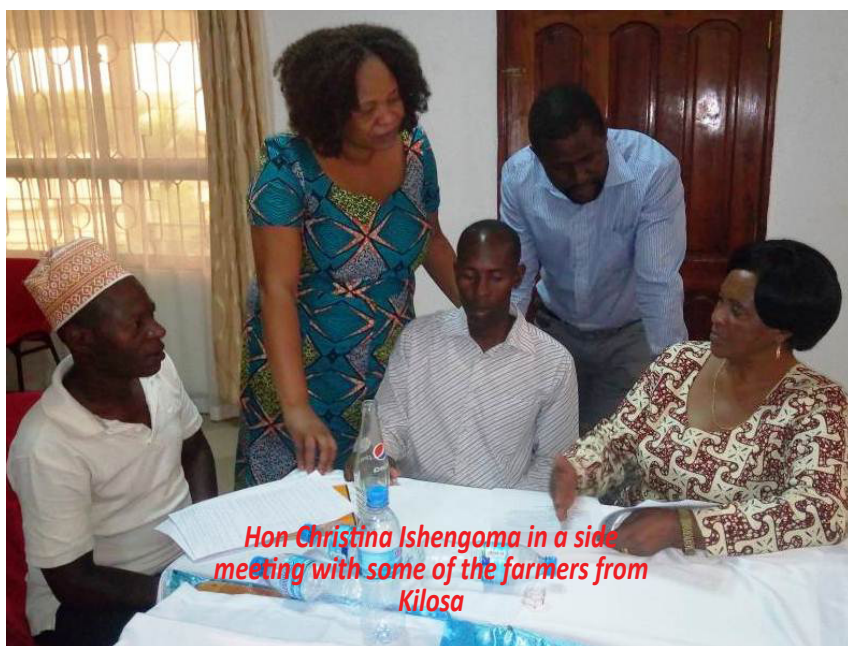
During the discussion, MPs agreed that some of the issues raised are

still challenges in both Districts and they have been advising government on how to address them but still the challenges exists. *"We had already advised the Government to build Agriculture inputs industries at each zone to help in resolving the issue of inadequate agriculture inputs"*. Commented Hon Pascal Y. Haonga (MP - Mbozi)

Hon Dr. Christina Ishengoma (MP Kilosa) added that land conflicts in Kilosa is a long term problem and some of the conflict are already resolved but others still exists. *"I think its time now to advice the Ministry of Land to initiate a strict law which will be used for those who misuse public resources (land and agriculture inputs) for their own benefits"*.

At the end of the meeting, MPs agreed to take all issues presented by the farmers and they will be presented during Budget Parliamentary session in April.

The meeting is among core activities under Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) project which is being implemented by AATZ and TACOSODE. It is a Regional Public Resource Management (PRM) project, aiming at improving Public Service Delivery in Agriculture (food security), Health (HIV/AIDS), Sexual and Reproductive Health and right by strengthening the oversight and Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) roles. It is funded by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)



Hon Christina Ishengoma in a side meeting with some of the farmers from Kilosa

Senior Management Team Conducts Community Visit

ActionAid Tanzania(AATZ) Senior Management Team members consisting of the Country Director, Head of HROD & Support Service and Women Rights & LRP Oversight Manager conducted a community visit to Tandahimba and Newala from March 8 – 10, 2018.

The aim of the visit was to assess 2017 performance and review implementation of 2018 plans through advice and capturing support needed to enhance efficiency in 2018.

During the visit, the team was able to interact with frontline staff, representatives of local partners; community based organizations and community development facilitators(CDF) and visited program operation sites.

Tafa (Tandahimba Farmers Association) is one of Community Based Organizations that has been working with ActionAid in the locality. Among others, it has been advocating for increased benefit of cashew nut farmers in collaboration with the Tandahimba and Newala LRPs. Tafa was also one of ActionAid Tanzania's partners under the Program Objective Plan (POP) program which was funded by DANIDA from 2014 – 2016.

During the meeting, Mr Adinan Bakari Mbwana, 72 and the former chair of Tafa had the following to say: *"Tafa members have long been exploited because others had the power to determine what farmers ought to get out of the produce. This has long been the cry of members. As a result of the capacity building trainings and sensitizations facilitated by ActionAid, we have identified root causes of the problem and jointly developed strategy to address it. We then advocated for a role*

in decision making and opening up the market of cashew nut in a way farmers benefit more. As a result of successive engagements, we are able to influence the local government and the bigger market and farmers are now benefiting more than even before. ActionAid's support has helped us in multiple ways. Our knowledge and confidence has enhanced on one hand and our role in determining our fate has increased. We are now taking our matters ourselves".

The Senior Management Team members also visited Mnaida Primary School 22 kms away from Tandahimba town where it had a meeting with School Management Committee members, village government representatives and community development facilitators. The history of the school indicates that it was initiated by the LRP as ACCESS (Access to Cost Effective Centres of Education within School System) centre which is ActionAid's innovation years back.

As this is a sponsorship village, the LRP supported communities to improve the school infrastructure and now children of the area have access to better learning environment. As a result of demands by the community, the local government has committed funds for the completion of the school block.

In the meeting organized at the school, the team had in-depth conversation with CDFs on how they perform sponsorship tasks, challenges faced and the way forward. SMT members shared thought on ActionAid's program approach, purpose and process of sponsorship program and the role of the community.

Other Local Rights Program partners that has been working with ActionAid in the locality is Tandahimba Women's Rights Organization (TAWORO), Newala Women's Rights Organization (NEWORA), Asasi ya Wanaoishi na Virusi vya Ukimwi Tandahimba (AWAVIUTA), Tandahimba Education Organization (TANEO), Newala Farmers Association (NEFA), Tandahimba NGO Network (TANGONET), Newala Education Development Association (NEDA), Tandahimba Youth Education and Development Organization (TAYEDO), Mtandao wa waishio na virusi vya Ukimwi Newala (MWAVINE) and Newala NGO Network (NEW-NGONET).



The team at Mnaida Primary school



Group photo at the LRP office