

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

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## Tandahimba Uses Youth Bonanza to Curb Early Pregnancies



*students leading a march during the bonanza to launch a campaign against early pregnancies*

**By Dinno Celestine, Tandahimba LRP**

Early pregnancies continue to pose a great challenge in Tandahimba District, Southern Part of Tanzania, as many girls drop out of school due to the social anomaly. According to data from the District Council, 90 secondary school students fell pregnant between 2016 and 2017, while 15 primary school pupils suffered the same fate during the similar period.

The main contributing factors fueling the problem include poverty at household level, long distances walked by pupils to and from school, inadequate knowledge on reproductive health for pupils and lack of accountability measures to those responsible for handling early pregnancy cases.

With no end in sight for the problem, community members and youth groups have cited schoolgirl pregnancies as a critical issue which needs continuous efforts to eliminate it.

In trying to address the challenge, Tandahimba LRP in collaboration with youth organized a bonanza to influence community members and government to participate in the fight against early pregnancies in the district. The leaders in the district were also very positive and cooperative in its implementation.

The bonanza day was preceded by sports and games among secondary school students and street youths. The approach was used to attract and reach out to a large number of people, especially youths.

The bonanza also involved a six-kilometer procession within Tandahimba township, where parents, primary and secondary schools pupils, teachers, youth groups, government

officials, councilors, religious and traditional leaders, Police Force, Judiciary, and private institutions and CBOs participated before being concluded by speeches, sports, entertainment and handing over of prizes to winners.

During the event, various leaders, students and youths presented various messages through written posters, songs, drama and speeches to condemn early pregnancies and mobilize joint efforts to eradicate the problem.

Through speeches and messages presented by pupils, youth and other community members, it was noted that some of the institutions which were expected to be in the fore front in fighting early pregnancies are irresponsible. Many blames were directed to the Police Force for failure to prosecute pregnancy cases even where there is clear evidence.

Teachers also claimed that some police officers collude with suspects to destroy evidence and sometimes they influenced parents of both sides to solve the matter at home.

*“Last year, when we did a pregnancy test at our school, seven girls were found to be pregnant... We reported the matter to the police, and the students identified men responsible for the pregnancies. I was re*



*Tandahimba District leaders following the bonanza*

## Tandahimba Bonanza.....

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quired to write a statement at the police station and I did it. But till today, I have not been called to court, I don't know where the pregnant students are, and none of those men have been taken to court," Said Ms Farida a teacher at Tandahimba Secondary School which is one of the top affected schools.

In his speech, the Tandahimba District Commissioner, Hon Sebastian Waryuba, who officiated the event on behalf of the Regional Commissioner, appreciated AATZ for organizing the bonanza and called upon all stakeholders to extend the campaign to the entire district, from village to village and promised full support from the government.

He also urged councilors and village leaders to tackle this problem and make it a top agenda in their regular meetings from village, ward to district council. He further requested the law enforcing agents especially the police force and the court to hate and avoid corruption, so that they can be able to handle the cases and provide justice to everyone.

"I am tired of this problem as well...when I

attend meetings at regional level they call me Pregnancies DC... I want to tell you that this is enough; I must make sure that this problem is over in Tandahimba hence I am asking for your support." Says Hon Waryuba.

On the same note, the District Executive Director Mr Saidi Msomoka challenged the village and ward leaders to take the matter as an important agenda in their plans and meetings as councilors and Ward Executive Officers have powers to arrest the suspects.

Community members commended the approach insisting that using public events such as bonanza, demonstrations, etc could easily attract many people and send the required message.

The bonanza marked the official inaugu-

ration of a mass campaign to end early pregnancies in Tandahimba District and it is expected to be a continuous effort in the whole district.

Informed by the AATZ CSP 4, the LRP is implementing its programme activities focusing among other things to address structural causes of violence against women, promote gender equality and secure economic justice to women and girls;and advancing the rights of young people.



Tandahimba District Commissioner (3rd from left standing) in a group photo with football winners during the bonanza

## "We are Making Progress." ...

By Redimna Ginwas, IASL Manager  
Smallholder farmers are celebrating their milestones achieved through their solidarity in demanding accountability. This was witnessed vividly during the monitoring visit conducted in Chamwino and Singida Local Rights Program (LRP) in May 2018. Through reflection circles that were facilitated, communities were able to air out their voices. It was all visible from the face of the participants the excitement of their achievement and the progress they are making as a movement.

Simon from Mloda had the following to say;

"I am so excited and proud as a member of the platform, as we are currently witnessing the fruits of ActionAid's intervention. Previously farmers were disregarded and clustered as very poor, uneducated and very low profile people, however this has

really changed now, the experience of sitting together with elite people and high level politicians in the parliament representing our fellow farmers in the budget session was quite an experience and a tremendous change in deed.

Violeth Japhet Says.....

"As SAPAWA members we are proud that we have managed to participate in advocating for an increase of the agriculture budget. This is important because from the 10 recommendation we made, 8 of them were approved during the current budget session. We also managed to advocate for an increase of extension officers. Other achievements are; increased confidence among women hence confidently participate in different meetings and contribute in discussions, represent others in different strategic meetings both at national, regional and international

level. And we managed to increase platform members to 8 wards in Singida with an aim of scaling up to all the 24 villages as part of our sustainability.

Rose Mashaka a member of the smallholder platform says....

"I am very proud for the improvement of my confidence level as a result of capacity building provided by ActionAid as well as the experience we share amongst ourselves. As I am speaking, I have been selected to be a member/champion to oversee the construction of the dispensary in our locality. Before people were very hesitant that I might not be able to perform this role, but to their surprise, I have well managed this and we are at the final stage of roofing the dispensary. Further to this, I am now also capable of conducting Social Audit something that I have never done before.



## Mafia Hosts Volunteers For Immersion



Action Aid Tanzania (AATZ) hosted a group of 24 volunteers from Greece during an immersion trip to Mafia Local Rights Programme (LRP) from the 28th of May up to the 2nd of June, this year.

The objective of the immersion trip was to provide the volunteers with an opportunity to live in the selected community and participate in their daily activities, for them to learn and show solidarity and have first-hand experience of problems faced by the people in the community.

Upon arrival, the volunteers visited Action-Aid Tanzania head office where they met with the Senior Leadership Management for introductions and were also inducted about AATZ and its work.

When they arrived in Mafia, the volunteers had a welcome word with Mr Michael Mbise who represented the District Executive Director. While there, they were briefed about Mafia Island in general.

During their stay on the Island, the volunteers were housed in eleven selected host families in Kiegeani Village and they spent four days (day and night) living with families and participating in their activities.

They also had an opportunity to visit and meet with groups which AATZ is working

with including Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia (a local women organisation supported by AATZ). In their discussions with women, they were able to gain a better understanding of SAWAMA's activities, especially their work on addressing violence against women and children. They were also introduced to some of the income generating activities done by women to support their lives. During the discussions, the volunteers also shared experiences of violence from their countries and how they are being addressed. The guests took time off to admire and buy the beautiful crafts made by the women.

In addition, the volunteers visited fishermen group at Kitoni known as Twendekazi group, a cooperative which was supported by AATZ. The volunteers had a close interaction with members of the cooperative to understand how they operate and how the cooperative is supporting fishing activities.

In terms of their life in the host families, the volunteers were amazed at the love that the families showed them. Ms Zoi Mavraki acknowledged

that she admired how the families hosted and lived with them. *I learnt so many things in this family...we woke up at six in the morning, we fetch water, do cleaning, go to cassava farm and prepare food with the family...It's amazing experience!* Says Zoi with a smiling face.

On the other hand, the host families appreciated AATZ for organising such a visit to their households because it changed their perceptions. *"This is a different experience for us. In our village we normally see the tourists... but they come for vacations and stay in hotels. We never thought these people are able to stay in our houses; live the kind of our life and cope smoothly..."* said Theresia one of the host families.

They also added that the hosting experience has left a challenge to them on the importance of educating their children. *"Hosting volunteers in my house brought me a new challenge. This is because I wished my children could be able to communicate with the guests in English,"* said Samson, one of the hosts.

At the end of their week-long visit, a farewell event was organised at Utende Primary School where pupils prepared songs and traditional dances to say bye to the volunteers, who were visibly very happy with the event. Vicky Stavra who led the volunteers used the opportunity to thank AATZ particularly, Mafia LRP team, for organising the immersion and the work they are doing on the ground to bring changes to the communities. She also humbly thanked the host families for their readiness to host the volunteers and living with them for the whole week. Lastly she thanked the pupils and community members for preparing and their participation in the event.





## Publicizing ACDGE Through Community Radios

*By Mwanaidi Said, LRP Coordinator*

Pemba LRP is implementing a governance project titled mobilizing civil society support for implementation of African Governance Architecture (AGA). The project involves lobbying and advocating for the ratification and implementation of African Charter on Democracy Election and Governance (ACDEG).

Among of the project objectives is creating awareness and enhancing the understanding of citizens, especially young women and men on the importance of the Africa Governance Architecture (AGA) and the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)

One of key issue noted during implementation of other project activities is lack of awareness on the charter. Many people in the public including academicians, government officials to higher learning students, youth, and general population does not understand about the existence of the charter itself and its contents and the link with contry's governance and democracy systems.

As the role of media in advancing the charter



*Mohammed Hassan Ally & Rashid Mshamata (Lawyers) explaining about ACDGE at Micheweni Radio*

is well recognised, Pemba LRP took initiatives of popularizing the charter using community radios. The radios involved were Radio Mkoani found in the South Region and Radio Micheweni which is found in the North Region.

The LRP engaged legal professionals/ lawyers who participated in the programme to explain the articles of ACDEG and how they are linked with our country's initiatives or challenges towards good governance and democracy.

The programs were live broadcasted, and listeners got chance to ask questions

to presenters of the program. A total of seven radio programmes were organized (Two programmes at Radio Mkoani, Four programs at community Radio Micheweni and one in Swahiba Fm radio, Unguja).

Having a live radio programme was a good opportunity for community member as many appreciated the efforts and asked valuable questions regarding the issues related to ACDGE and good governance in the country.

Community radios also appreciated AATZ for using that opportunity to educate the citizens because the programmes will help to get feedback and views from the people.

The LRP is planning to do more programmes in the future for wider coverage and increase of awareness on ACDGE.



*Fatma (lawyer) explaining about ACDGE at Mkoani Radio*



## Learning Community Score Card For Evidence Based Advocacy



Collection session during the training

In its continuation of implementing EC PANAF project activities, Pemba LRP organized 3 days training to CSOs members and youth on community score card and development of citizen report.

The objectives of the training which took place at Chakechake Pemba was to develop the capacity of CSOs on how to conduct community score card steps by step, to identify areas/geographical coverage for community score card processes and key government officials to interview and reflecting on the indicators..

Thirteen participants for CSOS participated in the training and it was facilitated by AATZ.

The training was necessary due to the fact that EC-PANAF Project uses Community Score Card methodology to assess the status and extent of uphold of democratic principles and the implementation of the ACDEG at a local level. The process is meant also to increase participation, accountability and transparency between the “governors” and the “governed” at the local level.

During the three days of training, participants were sensitized on their understanding on African Governance Architecture (AGA) and African Charter on Democracy Election and Governance (ACDEG) and key terms of governance of which they will use on community awareness raising prior scoring.

The key focus of EC-PANAF community score

card will be on elections, governance and democracy and not on social issues. The community score card will collect public opinion based on selected articles of ACDEG which are article 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 31, 32, 33 and 35. Pemba will represent Tanzania on community perception on government performance on democracy, election, respect of human rights, transparency, accountability and rule of law.

Apart from learning steps of conducting community score card, participants also took part in translating the indicators from English to Swahili language and identifying areas to undertake community score card.

In the process twenty one(21) shehias (6 Wete district, 5 Micheweni district, 5

Mkoani district, 5 ChakeChake district) were selected for the exercise of collecting community opinions.

The actual community score card data collection started in 23rd May and will ended on 31st May 2018. It was expected that about 420 people (disaggregated by gender equally) will participate in community score card. Community members appreciate the exercise and they acknowledge for being involved to air their views though they fear of being quoted or identified because they think they are discussing sensitive issues.

Community score card data collection tools were also distributed into 20 government officials to capture their perceptions/view like we capture from community.

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Training on progress



# Engaging Men in the Fight Against Violence



Participants in a group work during the training

## From Pemba LRP

Violation of women rights and abuse is a global challenge, and it occurs mostly at family level. For a long time Pemba LRP has been promoting women rights and fighting for violence against women in North region Pemba by educating women to know their rights and be able to demand. Good results among women were seen as more women are now knowledgeable of their rights

However, for a long time many interventions were directed to women and forgetting men who are the main perpetrators of violence, abuse and deny of women rights.

Due to this understanding of the role of men in preventing violence as well as creating positive response mechanisms to incidences of violence against women, the LRP organized a training to men in addressing violence against women and promoting women rights. The training was conducted from 10th – 13th May 2018 at North Mtambwe and Kiungoni villages for 2 days at each village and involved males aged 25 – 55. A total of 57 males benefited with this very participatory male engagement training.

During the discussion in both villages, it was

observed that norms, socio-cultural and traditions as well as social structure of child upbringing contributed much on violation of women rights. Males accepted that women as human beings have rights as men, but because they are women they suffer oppression and exploitation from men.

The training was facilitated by AATZ staff and conducted in participatory approach, where through sharing experience, discussion and group work participants themselves explained the current situation, the gaps, reasons and propose the way forward.

*“because men are not performing domestic chores that women do that is why they fail to be kind to women, we have to teach our boys since childhood to do home care activities”* says Azan Juma.

It was interesting to see the two villages coming up with similar views and contributions on gaps in observing women rights. Among the rights that women are not getting from

their partners are; inadequate involvement in decision making at household and community, home care support including taking care of the sick persons, lack of education, lack of inheritance rights, economic empowerment and ownership. When men asked why they did not involve women in decision making, the responses were;

“Just because they are female, They are weak and can’t tolerate negative outcomes, They are not ready even if they are given the chance they don’t use it, i.e. not aware of their right to participate in decision making processes, Wrong interpretation of religious phrases and Fear to lose power among men. It’s only 15% of male who involve their wives in decision making” Salim Mjaka, Mtambwe

During the training, both villages conducted resource access and control analysis between women and men and the results shows women have low access and control to many of the resources than men.

As a way forward, they promised to transfer the knowledge to other males; to deliver speeches during Friday prayers; to integrate topics of women and children rights in Quran madrasa, to encourage each other to be ready to provide evidence when violence incidence occur. The training was very useful to men, they really appreciated and requested knowledge like this to be extended to other villages so that violence against women practices are eliminated. The LRP will go back to monitor the changes within the families of participants after a period of one month.



Presentation during the training



# Pictorial...Greece Volunteers Immersion



Volunteers in a group photo with AATZ Management at Head Office in Dar-es-Salaam



Moments at host families



Volunteers in a meeting with Twnde Kazi fishermen cooperative at Kitoni



Time with children at host family



Enjoying songs during Farewell event at Utende primary school

