

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

April 2019

AATZ & Partners Launch Decent Work Campaign



Guest of honour Hon. Judge Joaquine De-Mello showing a campaign strategy after the official launch

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) and the campaign taskforce team recently joined other federation countries to officially launch the Global Campaign on Women's Labour, Decent Work & Gender Responsive Public services.

The event held on the 4th of May at Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) grounds, brought together women & activists from local and national level and representatives from Women rights organizations. The event was colored by traditional dances and various songs carrying

campaign messages. The theme of the campaign is 'Ajira sawa, Ujira sawa Tuko sawa' (Equal employment opportunities, Equal pay, We are all equal).

Explaining the campaign and its objectives, AATZ Head of Policy and Programmes, Ms Jovina Nawenzake, said the campaign aims at building collective power and voices of women to challenge gender norms and stereotypes that hinder the recognition and fair distribution of unpaid care work, between men and women. The campaign also focuses on building the momentum on ensuring the government's commitment to invest

in gender responsive public services and public infrastructures.

She added that the campaign also aims to advocate for implementation of existing progressive laws/policies, labour rights, social security rights and other legal benefits/entitlements for women casual labourers.

Officiating the campaign, a High Court Judge, Hon Joaquine De-Mello insisted that social protection and decent work for both men and women are key elements as per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines.

Launch of Decent Campaign.....

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She insisted that the campaign is vital as many women are working in the informal sector such as agriculture, hence missing some of their key rights including social protection.

Representative from TGNP, Gemma Akilimali said, *"We are advocating for gender division of labour because most women are assigned many roles such as production, reproduction and community engagement which hinders them from fully engaging in labour force participation."*

Janeth Biseko, an activist from Dar es Salaam contributed that many women are left behind due to lack of technological knowledge hence there is a need to support and empower them technologically.

The participants also appreciated the importance of the campaign and advised that it must be moved out of online channels and reach where targeted women are. *"To achieve the intended objectives, you need to take this campaign to the grassroots and all other locations where many women are found."* advised Bishagazi.

On men involvement, participants insisted that it is important to fully involve them in the campaign so that they can be part of society transformation. They also emphasized the need for more awareness to women on labor rights, policy and legal provisions to help them understand their rights at work place and join in this campaign effectively.

Decent work campaign is a multi-year advocacy campaign bringing together diverse stakeholders to drive key agenda on the theme 'women's labour, decent work and delivery of gender-responsive public services.' The campaign is very relevant to Tanzania context because women who engage in decent work are much fewer than men, not only because of culture and social norms but also policy and non-policy issues on access to resources, services and opportunities

The campaign process is led by an established taskforce committee comprising seven partnering organizations namely TAWLA, WLAC, TGNP, Oxfam, WILDAF, AATZ and a representative from TUCTA.

It is a three-year campaign of which some of the major activities will focus on creating awareness, addressing gender stereotypes, and mobilizing women employees in both formal and informal sectors about their social security rights and other legal labor benefits/entitlements.

It will also engage governments to address sexual and gender-based violence and harassment at work place in both formal and informal sectors and invest in gender responsive public services and public infrastructures to reduce unpaid care work burden to women and girls.



Guest of honour Hon. Judge Joaquina De Mello addressing participants



Participants who attended the event with the Guest of Honour



Representatives of women platforms from different districts also took part in the launch.

Government Urged To Include Agro Ecology Farming Into Policy



Pili Shabani, mentor farmer from Ntondo village explaining how they have benefited from agro-ecology farming

ecological farming after discovering that it is the future for farmers, besides its benefits on the environment.

Meanwhile, the Singida District Executive Director, Rashid Mandoa, thanked the McKnight Foundation for their financial support that helped more than 1,200 households in 20 villages to benefit from SNAP project.

By Elias Mtinda, Agriculture & Land rights Manager

The government should put agro-ecological farming into policy to improve food security, well-being of smallholder farmers, reduce chemical-based farming and curb malnutrition in the country.

The call was made recently in Singida by Rachel Bezner Kerr, Associate Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University, during a workshop to close the Singida Nutrition and Agro ecology Project (SNAP).

The workshop which was organised by AATZ, involved farmers, mentor farmers, SNAP team from Cornell University, Nelson Mandela, Ilonga Research Center, government officials from Singida DC, media and other organizations working on agroecology

She insisted that agro-ecology works well for small-scale farmers to improve soil fertility, conserve environment in terms of land, water and encourage them to use indigenous seeds for their farming activities.

Highlighting the SNAP, Prof Kerr said, the main goal of the project was to promote agro-ecology and gender equality involving women farmers, promote food security and enhance women's role at household and community level.

She added that mentor farmers were empowered on agro ecological methods, nutrition and gender issues through trainings and exposure visit to Malawi and right now they are very competent enough to teach their fellow farmers in Singida and other regions.

The training was offered to them free of charge by ActionAid Tanzania, Cornell University, Nelson Mandela University and Ilonga Agricultural Research Institute with the support from US-based McKnight Foundation.

She insisted that having seen the success of the project in Singida, the Tanzanian government and district councils should support this kind of farming to reach more farmers.

Sharing examples on agro-ecological farming, she said France and Senegal have made efforts to embark on agro-

"We vow to disseminate this knowledge to other villages and we will work in partnership with mentor farmers to teach their fellow farmers about agroecological methods, nutrition and gender issues," he noted, adding that Cornell University has already handed over to the district the curriculum to be used.

Speaking on behalf of mentor farmers, Pili Shaban from Ntondo village, called upon district authorities to allocate enough budget and provide funds to facilitate all activities that were implemented through the SNAP project.

She also urged extension officers to work closely with mentor farmers to ensure they continue to provide best agricultural practices especially on agro-ecological farming.

Currently, climate change, pests and poor equipment used to make botanicals are the main challenges facing farmers in Singida. Although the botanicals have managed to control pests from destroying their crops, for pigeon peas, the pesticides did not work, they still need more support on this crop so that they can control pests that destroy it.

Reflection on Strengthening Social Accountability in Health and Agriculture Project



Kilosa District Executive Director Mr. Asajile Mwambambale contributing during the learning event

allocate funding for soil testing facilities and the target is to reach at least 3,000 farmers,” said Mr. Aziz Mtambo, Mbozi Agriculture Officer.

Smallholder farmers from the two districts revealed that the project empowered them to fully participate during the planning process in their villages and are now confident to make follow ups on resource management in their district councils.

A smallholder farmer from Kilosa, Venance Njenja, said,

“I thank both AATZ and MVIWATA for this project. Initially I could not even ask questions during village meetings on development programmes. But, after project implementation, I now have confidence to follow-up village development programmes.”

Partners, stakeholders and smallholder farmers thanked AATZ for implementing the Project, for a period of three years (2016-2019) and promised to continue with the same efforts even when the project phases out.

The Project, funded by Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, is being implemented in other SADC countries such as Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. In Tanzania, AATZ leads a consortium comprising TACOSODE, MVIWATA and MIICO at national level.

The project seeks to improve public service delivery in agriculture (food security), and health (HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health rights) by strengthening the oversight and social accountability roles of five target groups in the SADC region, specifically selected Parliamentary Committees, relevant government departments, issue-based civil society organizations, smallholder farmer organizations and the media.

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Technical Officer

As part of closing phase one of the ‘Strengthening Social Accountability & Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa’ project in the country, ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) organised the National Learning Event on the 29th of April at Dar-es-Salaam.

The meeting, enabled partners to reflect on working models, best practices, success stories and experiences in SAM and Public Resource Management within the health (HIV and Sexual and reproductive health Rights (SRHR) and agriculture (food security) sectors at national level and come up with a way forward as a sustainability measure when the project ends.

The event was attended by a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kilosa District Executive Director, Kilosa District Health Secretary, Kilosa District Agriculture Officer, Mbozi District Health Secretary, Mbozi District Agriculture Officer, Representatives from civil society organizations, implementing partners (i.e. TACOSODE, MIICO, MVIWATA), Smallholder farmers from Mbozi, Kilosa, Chamwino and Singida districts as well as media personnel.

The meeting was officially opened by AATZ Head of Programmes & Policy,

Ms Jovina Nawenzake, while discussion sessions were facilitated by SDC National Project Manager, Samwely Mkwatwa, and TACOSODE Project Manager, Ms Koga Mihama.

During discussions, Kilosa and Mbozi district officials presented their achievements for phase one of the project, while farmers from the same areas shared their testimonies regarding the benefits of the project in their respective areas.

The officials highlighted that the project managed to improve social services, especially the distribution of health facilities, decrease in maternity and infant mortality rates, increased number of youth testing for HIV/AIDS, increased integration between service providers and service users at district level.

When it comes to agriculture, a lot of achievements have been realized through the project. It was reported that there have been improvements in both Kilosa and Mbozi districts including; increased number of extension officials, improved awareness by farmers on their rights as they are now able to make follow ups on their challenges.

“Previously, at district level, there was one distributor of fertilizers, but the project influenced the district government to contract other service providers to meet the demands of smallholder farmers. Again, the project has influenced the district to

SNAP Project Bears Fruits In Singida



Men for farmer explaining how to use botanicals to control pests during a closing workshop

By Paulina Teveli, Communication Officer

More than 1,200 households in 20 villages of Singida district have benefited from the Singida Nutrition and Agro-ecology Project (SNAP) that was funded by McKnight Foundation from USA.

Speaking on behalf of mentor farmers and other farmers, during a workshop to officially close the project, Edward John from Maghojoa village said that in all areas of implementation, SNAP project has offered training on agro-ecological methods, nutrition and gender equality.

“We are grateful to ActionAid Tanzania, Cornell University, Nelson Mandela University and Ilonga Agricultural Research Institute for training us on agro-ecological methods, nutrition and gender equality issues,” he said.

He added that following the training on gender by Action Aid Tanzania, they trained other people and right now violence against women has declined in many villages. It has also helped women to understand their rights, have confidence in what they do as compared to the past as they can now demand their rights and get them. “We are glad that the project has improved family relations as married couples now make decisions together, for example on selling the crops

after harvesting and other issues for the benefit of their families,” he said.

Elaborating on agro-ecological farming, Edward said the project has brought positive changes to the community because people are now able to raise income at family level, understand how to make botanicals to control pests that destroy their crops in the field and in storage facilities.

He pointed out that farmers were able to improve food security and soil fertility through cultivating assorted varieties of legumes such as cow peas, soybeans, pigeon peas, groundnuts and others legume.

The Chairperson of the ‘Sauti ya Pamoja ya Wanawake’ (SAPAWA), Amina Said, called upon the District Council to allocate demonstration farms that will be used to produce seed for agro-ecological farming.

Currently, the district has 40 mentor farmers in 20 villages that have received training on agro-ecological methods, nutrition and gender issues.

“We need such training to reach more farmers in other villages; let’s have one strong voice in advocacy and lobbying as it will help us get what we need from the government,” she said.

Meanwhile, the District Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperative Officer (DAICO), Abel Stanelly revealed that the district has 700 acres of land allocated for production of indigenous and hybrid seed.

“Farmers’ groups and individual farmers keen to produce seeds for agro-ecological farming are invited to visit the district and demonstration farms will be hired for 40,000/- per acre,” he noted.

He also thanked ActionAid Tanzania and other stakeholders for training mentor farmers who in turn have helped to train their fellow farmers.

He called upon mentor farmers to use the knowledge they obtained during the training to train others even if by using vernacular language (lugha ya asili) to teach them.

SNAP is a three-year project (2016-2019) implemented in Singida district whose main goal was to promote agro-ecology and gender equality among women farmers, promote food security and enhance women’s role at household and community level.



Singida District Executive Director addressing participants during the SNAP closing workshop

Monitoring Partners Implementation

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Technical Officer

In the month of April, AATZ conducted a monitoring visit to MIICO and MVIWATA who are implementing Partnership for Social Accountability Monitoring (PSA) project in Kilosa and Mbozi Districts. The Staff involved in the visit were Head of Policy and Programme (Jovina Nawenzake) and project technical officer (Emmanuel Mabodo)

The aim of the visit was to monitor the implementation of the project against their plans and assess their impacts, review the project management modality of partners, review the file management system and provide management support for effective implementation of the project.

During the support meetings, partners presented the project updates followed by a deep discussion on project management modality. The aim was to see how the partner managed the project in terms of structure as well as project document management.

After the office meetings, a visit was also organised to villages which were implementing project activities and conducted discussions with community members on the impacts of Project to the community members.

It was noted that both partners managed to implement all activities as it was planned, and community members who were visited are aware of the project and were full involved during the project implementation.

It was also noted that the project enhanced in a great extent community member to have knowledge and awareness towards their rights and be able to demand social services from their District level.

Some of the achievements noted from the discussions were on how SAM Training enhanced village health committee at both Districts to know their roles and be able to supervise the health services within their villages.

Also Community members were able to supervise and influence their leader/service providers to be accountable for the District



Discussion with community members as part of the visit, in Kilosa

resources management. At the end of the field visit both implementing partners (MIICO & MVIWATA) were advised to strengthen community members to understand their duties and be able to demand their rights from the government with the support of provision of government guideline, laws and policies.

Partners also were recommended to have clear reflection on the project theory of change for project monitoring process, as well as to initiate women forums at both Districts, and women to have a place to demand their rights.

PSA Project have been implemented since May 2016. This is a three years project implemented at the national and District level (Kilosa Morogoro and Mbozi, Mbeya).

The project seeks to improve public service delivery in agriculture (food security), and health (HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health rights) by strengthening the oversight and social accountability roles of five target groups in the SADC region, specifically selected Parliamentary Committees, relevant government departments, issue-based civil society organizations, smallholder farmer organizations and the media.

The project comes to an end on 30th April 2019. Preparation of the second phase are still in the process at all levels (SDC, AAI and in all implementing Countries).



Health committee members and SAM members in group photo with AATZ staff after the discussion at Mvumi village, Kilosa

Learning Corner

Enhancing Indigenous Knowledge Through Community-Based Participatory Research

By Redimna Ginwas, IASL Manager

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) is one of the key players in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) that focuses in addressing societal challenges. And, a face to face mentorship training programme was held by UNESCO Co Chairs: Dr Bud Hall from Victoria University-Canada and Dr Rajesh Tandon from Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) India at MS-TCDC in Arusha last month.

The training was attended by academicians from different universities of Malaysia, Netherlands, Uganda (Gulu University) and Surabhaiya Islamic University, Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Mzumbe University from Tanzania. On the other hand, ActionAid in partnership with MS-TCDC were representing Non-Governmental Organizations and communities in Tanzania while one community member from Kampong Bharu- Malaysia also attended.

The objective of the programme was to equip participants on the use of arts-based research methods, Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) facilitator competence, Teaching CBPR, Update field study and Network development. Participants were introduced to dif-



ferent arts-based research methods including Mapping, transect walk, Storytelling, Drawing and painting and poems

This was a continuation of online studies that have been taking place since January 2019 and will be ending in July 2019.

Upon completing the study, participants will be required to ensure establishment of the Knowledge for Change(K4C) Hub in their universities or organizations with the aim of enhancing CBPR in collaboration with the academic institutions, Civil society organizations and the communities.

At the end of the 21st module of the programme, it is expected that ActionAid, MS-TCDC and Nelson Mandela University will establish Knowledge for change Hub in Arusha, which will be hosted at MS-TCDC. A curriculum will be developed, and the structure will be put in place to ensure

smooth operation of the HUB and the type of courses to be offered will be agreed upon by these three organisations. The aim is to ensure that the hub produces more Knowledge for change mentors of CBPR, within the communities and the universities to further enhance indigenous knowledge.

Knowledge for change is an International partnered training initiative between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) & Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for co-creation of knowledge through collective action by academics & community groups working together in various training hubs around the world, for addressing UN SDGs. It is an initiative, which reinforces UNESCO Chair's global leadership in the field of participatory approaches to research and community-university engagement (CUE).

Knowledge for change is a specific structure growing out of the University of Victoria (UVic)- and PRIA, the agreement that supports the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education.



Mentorship programme participants in a group photo

Learning Corner

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SAFE USE OF ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR PROMOTION & PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Compiled by Paulina Teveli, Communication Officer

Internet Access in Tanzania

In Tanzania today, many people in urban and rural areas, both old and young people use various online communications platforms. This improvement on the access and use of Internet in Tanzania has therefore fuelled the number of people to go online. That is to say about 50% of the Tanzania population are online.

This means that, if social media will be used effectively by Human rights defenders, information about Human Rights will easily reach not less than 20 million people daily.

Unlike other mainstream media such as radios, papers and TVs, the online platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp Group and Twitter are more collaborative as they allow interaction and discussions.

Therefore, it is important for Human rights activists to consider it as an effective means of sharing information, promotion of human rights, doing advocacy and generally contributing to national development.

Challenges affecting online freedom

Despite that online and digital media are important, there are many challenges affecting this freedom not only in Tanzania, but in many African countries. These include;

Censorship and control of the use of social media through several legislations to squeeze online freedom. eg

Cyber crimes Act 2015 (section 16, Publication of false information.

Online content regulation- Requires online content creators to pay application fee of TZS 100,000 (USD 43.7) and initial three year licence 1,000,000 (USD 437).



Participants in a training organised by THRDC on the use of online platforms.

Penalty for non compliance fine is TZS 5,000,000 (USD 2186)

Electronic and Postal Communications Act, No. 3 of 2010 - among other things regulates electronic communication including internet communication and social media.

Research and Publications

Recent enactment and enforcement of laws with some provisions which restrict research, publication and access to information. For instance

The media services Act 2016 with the requirement for accreditation of journalists, newspaper licencing fees powers of the Director of Information Services department.

Statistics Act of 2015 (plus amendments of Sept 2018. That, research and findings for official statistics be approved by NBS (Section 24A added). This is detrimental to academic freedom as well.

What should CSO's do:

Enactment and implementation of these legislations to some extent is lowering down the CSOs energy .

What should CSOs do?

- Relying on unity and strategic interventions-Working in coalitions

- Collaborating with government departments in launching and issuing research and reports. eg academic institutions eg UDSM,
- Publishing reports both online and offline
- Supporting people to issue citizens reports-
- More awareness to online users /human right defenders about safe use of the platforms

"Online Freedom is a Human Right"

According to United Nation (UN), Internet is not a privilege but an indispensable tool for realizing a range of human rights, combating inequality, and accelerating development and human progress.

Therefore Internet should be treated as human right by ensuring that all citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania access and use it freely.