

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

April 2020

## Kilwa Women Take Lead in Emergence Response



**Pili Kuliwa, resident of Kivinje, Kilwa District, leading awareness session on COVID 19 before food distribution to flood victims.**

By Steven Bernard, Kilwa LRP Coordinator

**A**s part of sharpening women's leadership skills in emergencies, ActionAid Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) conducted training to Women's Reflection Action Circle leaders in Njinjo and Maranda wards where floods wreaked havoc.

The objective of the training was to help women understand their role from family to community level during emergencies.

With the current COVID 19 crisis, the women leaders are using the knowledge to provide awareness in their communities. This is to ensure that community members are aware of measures to help curb the spread of the corona virus that has affected the whole world.

Also, as a result of the capacity building the trained women leaders were the ones taking a lead in the food distribution process to victims of the floods in the affected villages of Njinjo and Matandu ward.

Rukia Maguruka, a member of TUJIWAKI explains that the leadership skills acquired from Actionaid enabled them to take a leading role in food distribution to their fellow community members affected by floods in Njinjo and Kipindimbi.

*"We led the whole process of distributing food at the same time educating the community about the preventive measures of Covid 19. I believe the experience has created a lot of confidence in us and we will be taking charge when need be,"* she said.

Maguruka added that due to the strong understanding of their communities, it was easy for

them to manage the process and were able to address disproportionate impact of emergencies on women and girls.

*"Community members have been very pleased to see us, their fellow women from their community leading and conducting the food distribution process. We made sure people stayed at the required distance to prevent COVID 19 infections; we prioritized people with special needs such as the disabled, the elderly and pregnant women,"* explained Maguruka

*"We are happy and we appreciate ActionAid for their support, especially the decision of empowering women from the community to lead this exercise. There has been a great deal of transparency in this food distribution exercise than ever before,"* said Selemani Rajab (70), a Kipindimbi villager.

Items distributed during the process included 23,390kg of maize flour, 2,366 litres of cooking oil, 3,800kg of beans, 23 boxes of ball pens, 10 boxes of pencils, 21 cartons of exercise books. All items worth 44.6 million

Women are often the worst affected in emergencies, as well as the first responders. ActionAid ensures power is shifted to women leaders to address existing power imbalance.



**Preparations for food distribution**



# ActionAid Empowers Mafia Community to Fight COVID-19



Mafia District Medical Officer, Dr Zuberi Mzige showing participants how to wear a mask during the training

By Mafia LRP Team

**W**ith the Coronavirus continuing to ravage the world, concerted effort is needed to curb the spread of the deadly pandemic.

It is against this background that ActionAid Tanzania recently organised a one-day training to 10 Community Development Facilitators and 13 representatives of women's groups in Mafia District on response and adaptive measures to take a leadership role in tackling COVID 19.

The training that was held on the 10th of May 2019, at Caritas Hall in the district, was aimed at building capacity to participants in identifying COVID related symptoms, preventive measures and also dispel myths and rumours around the pandemic.

The training was conducted by the Mafia District Medical Officer, Dr Zuberi Mzige, and was also meant to equip participants with knowledge on the novel virus so that they in turn educate the community to help curb the spread of the disease.

Addressing participants, Dr Mzige said that people should do away with fear when it comes to COVID 19, but this does not mean that they have to relax and ignore preventive measures.

He insisted on strict adherence to all preventive measures as given by health experts such as washing of hands using soap and running

water, wearing of masks, use of sanitisers, maintaining social distance and staying at home if one does not have anything meaningful to do.

The DMO said that Mafia is one of the districts in which its residents are not aware and do not adhere to a larger

extent to measures meant to curb the spread of Coronavirus.

Through the training, he said, participants will be able to teach the community on the symptoms of the disease, preventive measures, reporting mechanisms and fighting discrimination against COVID patients.

He encouraged participants to use the knowledge they gained to enlighten other members of the community on how best they can protect themselves from the Coronavirus.

***"This disease is real and deadly. Those we were relying on and depending on their help, surrendered and left everything to God. This is a war and the world is taking measures to curb this virus by enlightening people on the best ways to protect themselves,"*** he said.

He went on to tell them that the expenses used to protect oneself from the diseases are less as com-

pared to those that will be used when treating a COVID patient.

A participant, Husna Salmini from Kilindoni Ward said, *"Before the training on Coronavirus, we were getting different information from social media of which some of the information was correct while the other was wrong. Some people were saying this disease has not been detected here in Mafia, the doctors are just scaring us, and everyone is just saying what he or she knows."*

We thank ActionAid for organizing this training and bringing the DMO who enlightened us and cleared the air that COVID 19 cases have been recorded here in Mafia. And, in various areas of the district many people do not put on face masks because they do not have enough education.

*"I will visit all Bodaboda ranks to make sure all riders put on face masks and I will also talk to women and men (especially those in polygamous marriages) to educate them on how to protect themselves and their families from the deadly virus."*

Another participant, Omari Ibrahimu from Gongo Village said that the seminar has helped them much because they got first hand information on COVID 19, and not what they were getting from different sources.

*"I will go and enlighten the community that we have to take this disease seriously and fight against it. We are not supposed to fear but build capacity for us to be able to fight against the pandemic. I have learnt a lot and I believe members of the community I will educate will benefit a lot and change for the better towards curbing the spread of the virus,"* he said.



Participants in a session during the training.



# Tandahimba LRP Supports Awareness Creation on COVID-19



**Dinno Celestine, AATZ Tandahimba Coordinator((3rd from left)&Red Cross volunteer distributing information materials to community members**

**By Dinno Celestine, LRP Coordinator**

**A**s the world steps up the fight against the deadly COVID 19, popularly known as coronavirus, ActionAid Tanzania has joined the struggle to help put an end to the pandemic.

Through its Tandahimba and Newala Local Rights Programme(LRP), AATZ joined forces with women's rights groups, Red Cross Tanzania and local government authorities to spearhead awareness campaigns and activities in the community.

The LRP supported the distribution of posters and brochures with relevant messages, which were received by the LRP from the Regional Medical Officer. The posters were distributed to public places such as local government offices, health facilities, restaurants, bars, buses, market places, local brew clubs, mosques, and churches, while the brochures were distributed to 5,600 households.

Audio recordings with relevant approved messages were saved in flash disks and/or

memory cards and distributed to 'bodaboda' ranks in Tandahimba township, Mahuta, Nan-yanga, Kitama, Kitangali, Mkunya, Chikongoli, Ruvuma, Mihambwe, Newala town, Maundo, Mchichila and Namikupa. These are areas with large population. The recorded audio was also provided to local radio stations which are Newala FM and Masasi FM.

Women groups were sensitized, oriented and involved in awareness creation whereby they participated in the distribution of brochures to households and placing posters in public places.

Over 5,600 households were reached in both Newala and Tandahimba districts while 1,000 post-

ers were placed in various public places.

The LRP team and LGAs officials were also invited for a radio programme focusing on awareness creation on the virus, what Action-Aid is doing before and during the pandemic, what efforts the local governments have done and finally their call to the government.

Although the local governments in Newala and Tandahimba had done a lot to ensure the community is protected from COVID 19, the response from people in some places especially in rural areas is not positive due to lack of adequate information about the pandemic.

Some challenges include; Social distancing remains a problem in many parts of the district, Some of the health centers are not adequately equipped with necessary facilities to handle patients and prevent transmissions, Inadequate access to public supply of water in most of villages limits people from regularly washing their hands.

The other challenge is that some campaign informations are not inclusive because illiterate people and visually impaired persons can not access written materials. Also, there are a lot of myths about COVID 19 as people associate it with sinners and that it is God's punishment to sinners.

As a way forward, the LRP will use Public Address (PA) system to reach five wards in Newala where a PA vehicle provided by the local government did not reach. These wards include Maputi, Lengo, Chiungwe, Mkunya, and Nambungu.



**Tandahimba Coordinator, Dinno Celestine conducting awareness on COVID-19 in Newala FM Radio station**



# ActionAid Unguja Trains LGAs on Child Rights, COVID -19 Prevention



North "B" District health officer, Mossi Kali Makame (standing) contributing during the training session

**By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP officer**

**T**he outbreak of the deadly covid 19 occurred at a time when ActionAid Unguja LRP was implementing the "Prevention of Violence Against School Aged Children project in North Unguja," which aimed at promoting children's rights and protecting them from all forms of violence.

The project works with school clubs, school management committees, parents and teachers by building their capacity on violence prevention both at school and home.

But as a result of the pandemic, the government was forced to close all schools to prevent the spread of the novel virus, a move that brought with it challenges to the government, school children and education stakeholders.

Some of the major challenges facing children include preventing them from enjoying their right to education and exposing them to various forms of violence. On the other hand, the girl child is traditionally double disadvantaged as she spends most of her time helping the family with household chores.

On the other hand, with the deadly virus continuing to ravage the world, Unguja LRP, as of 28 April 2020, reported 105 COVID-19 cases, 36 recoveries and 1 death.

It is against this background that Unguja LRP organised training for Local Government leaders on children's rights and Covid 19

prevention on the 21st of April 2020 at North Regional Offices.

The training, which was organised in collaboration with Regional Administration Office, brought together regional and district education officers, planning officers, social welfare officers, health practitioners (Medical doctors), statistical officers, officer responsible for people living with disabilities, regional education director etc.

The aim of the training was to capacitate participants on child rights and COVID19 prevention so that as leaders, they take necessary measures in their areas to ensure that children continue to get their rights to education, are protected from all forms of violence while at home, as well as raising awareness to the community on preventing the spread of corona virus.

Officiating the training, the Regional Education Officer, Mr Mshamara Kombo, said his office recognises the need to protect children especially during the period when they are supposed to stay at home due to the coronavirus pandemic.

*"I appreciate ActionAid for organizing this kind of training. My office will collaborate with all other stakeholders in ensuring that children get their rights to education,"* he said.

During the training, participants were oriented on children's rights and Promoting Rights in School Frame work and reflected how these rights can be maintained during the lockdown

period and how children can be supported and protected from various forms of violence. Presentation on Covid-19 was made by North B District Medical Officer.

Participants advised that LGAs should organise and supervise the development of learning packages by subject teachers which would be collected and dispatched to parents.

Also, it was agreed that in order to down-stream the knowledge to wider community members, local leaders, parents and shehia coordinators be involved and enlightened on child rights and COVID 19 preventive measures so that they become ambassadors in their respective areas.

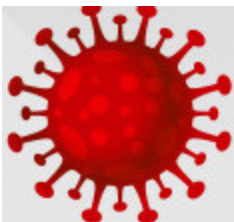
In the discussion, it was noted that the government has insisted citizens to take necessary precautions including wearing face masks, practicing hand washing with soap all the time, and avoiding unnecessary gatherings, to prevent the spread of the virus, but still majority of people are reluctant and are not adhering to such directives, something which calls for more awareness in the community.

Participants also called upon the government to distribute preventive gears immediately after they are donated to prevent the spread of the virus.

As part of resolutions, it was agreed that ActionAid in collaboration with Regional Government extend the knowledge on child's rights and Covid 19-prevention to community members immediately by organising six zonal meetings targeting Shehias, co-ordinators, school teachers parents and members of school management committees, and at the same time plan on how they can support children to learn during the lock down period.

The Unguja LRP Coordinator, Bakari Khamis, said that ActionAid will continue to work closely with local government authorities in North Region to ensure that children enjoy their rights and are dully protected from all sorts of violence including protection against the lethal virus.

ActionAid intends to reach out to local leaders, teachers and parents in a bid to strengthen their knowledge of child rights and ensure that they spread the knowledge in their localities to protect children from abuse and COVID 19.



# Empowering Community Groups to Lead COVID-19 Awareness

By Kilwa LRP Team

**A**ctionAid Tanzania through its Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) recently conducted training to members of the women rights association (TUIWAKI) and youth organisation (KIYODI), in the district, to enable them raise awareness to community members on COVID 19 pandemic.

The main objective of the training was to equip participants with knowledge and skills on COVID 19 response mechanisms, do's and don'ts, how to curb the spread of the diseases and use of protective gears and other preventive measures.

Participants were expected to use the knowledge to train community members in 10 wards of Kivinje/Singino, Lihimalyao, Mandawa, Mitole, Njinjo, Miguruwe, Mingumbi, Somanga, Kinjumbi and Namayuni.

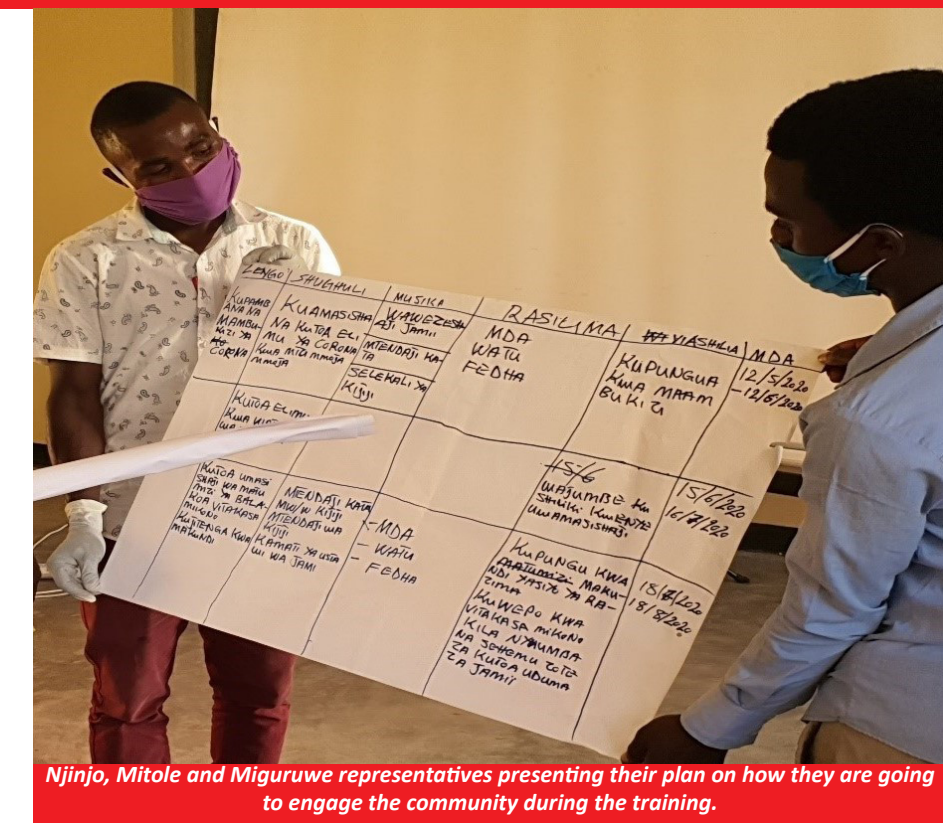
The training which was facilitated by Dr Daudi Seleman, an Epidemiologist Surveillance Officer - Kilwa District, was also aimed at enabling women to learn and exercise their leadership roles to enable them lead from family to community level.

It also empowered them to participate in the distribution of Protective and Preventive Equipment to 30 villages while churning out education specifically to the households that cannot afford access to masks and sanitisers.

The training that involved 25 participants from both women and youth platforms, focused on increasing participant's understanding of COVID 19, history, causes, ways of spreading, symptoms, preventive measures and the curing process. The discussions helped to clear all doubts, myths and misinformation and empowered them to relay the same information to members of the community in their respective villages.

Also, during the training, participants met representatives of the District COVID 19 Committee and explored together challenges faced by the community in as far as the pandemic is concerned and ways to tackle them.

According to participants, some of the challenges include; Lack of clear understanding on COVID 19 pandemic especially in remote villages (lots of perceptions and myths); Lack of clean and safe water to the community as they fetch it from nearby rainwater dams; in-



Njinjo, Mitole and Miguruwe representatives presenting their plan on how they are going to engage the community during the training.

adequate health workers who can frequently educate people on the virus, and lack of protective gears to health workers.

Participants identified the most risk groups and places to be given priority including district health care workers, bodaboda riders, bus stand, churches and mosques, ocean shores where fishing is done, Vicoba and micro finance groups, and guest houses. The most high-risk group in terms of infection are children, elderly people, women, and people living with disabilities.

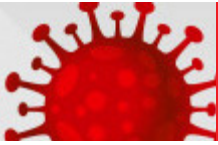
At the end of the training, participants formed a small taskforce of ten members (Seven females and

three males) which will be directly linked to the District COVID 19 Committee team and share information on the progress of interventions made from village, ward up to district level. Sharing of the information will be done through periodic reports.



Dr Daudi Seleman an Epidemiologist Surveillance officer- Kilwa District, facilitating the training session





# AATZ Response Plan To COVID-19

**T**anzania being part of the global village has not been spared from the outbreak of COVID-19. As of 28th April 2020, Tanzania reported 480 cases of COVID-19, 167 recovery cases and 16 deaths. (not recent data)

The government has made remarkable efforts to control and contain transmission and spread of the pandemic including; Mandatory quarantine for incoming travellers (visitors and Tanzanian Citizens) to undergo self-isolation for 14 days on arrival, advise to members of public to avoid non-essential travel to COVID-19 affected countries, suspension of social gatherings eg seminars, forums/sports activities, Closure of schools and colleges, Public education activities for sustainable public awareness and community sensitization to take preventive and control measure e.g wearing mask, ensuring frequent hand washing.

Despite government efforts in responding to the pandemic, challenges still exist including only few community members affords to buy preventive hygiene items such as sanitizers and masks due to poverty at household levels, Inadequate access to public supply of water in most of villages which limits people to regularly wash their hands, some of the health centers not adequately equipped with necessary facilities to prevent transmissions eg prevention gears for staff.

Also, most of information is not inclusive for example posters cannot be accessed by illiterate people and the visually impaired persons

In responding to the situation, ActionAid Tanzania is planning to work with people living in poverty especially women and young people to support them to respond to COVID-19 pandemic as well as hold the government and other actors accountable.

Planned interventions include capacity building of local organizations particularly women's organizations, youth movements and other allies to do vulnerability analysis and develop preparedness and response plans, and advocate for government accountability in responding to needs and services of citizens during the pandemic.

## Key activities:

### Aware building:

- Awareness raising, to communities/ school management committees and



*Prevention of COVID-19 is a priority in every intervention*

frontline service providers, using available information from the Government of Tanzania and WHO to create awareness in the community, use of social media and community radio to educate communities and support in translating and distributing the available publications from WHO in local language.

- Hold discussions with district authorities to influence the LGAs to use the available resources to organize orientation and educate frontline public servants on prevention and control measure.
- Conducting meetings with very few influential members of COVID 19 response committee and school's management committees to discuss on the support of children schooling at home and their safety while they're at home.

### Direct support:

- Provide hygiene kits to women led COVID-19 response committees and partners.
- Work closely with COVID 19 emergency committees at districts and support them

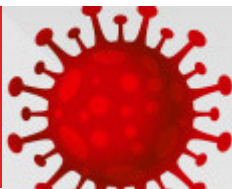
in planning and implementation.

- Support in provision of water supply in communities where they don't have access to public water services.
- Train selected women's rights organization members to produce locally made face masks and distribute to increase access and availability of the same to needy especially frontline service providers, COVID-19 response women led committees and partners

### Advocacy:

- Advocate for involvement of women and young people and supplies of hygiene equipment at health centres and other public services
- Advocate for increased supply of water and sanitation facilities in rural areas
- Advocate for sustainable public health and pandemic preparedness awareness and inclusion in the legal, policy and administrative frameworks in Tanzania.





# From The Media

## Elimu ya corona kut nyumba kwa nyumb

Na FLORENCE SANAWA  
-MTWARA

SHIRIKA lisilo la kiserikali la ActionAid limepanga kutoa elimu ya kujikinga na virusi vya corona nyumba kwa nyumba katika wilaya ya Tandahimba na Newala kwa kushirikiana na Shirika la Msalaba Mwekundu (Red Cross) ili kuyazeshia jamii kujilinga na maambukizi ya ugonjwa huo.

Elimu hii itatokea sambamba na kuelekwa namba sahihi ya kumawa mikono kwa dakika ishirini ili kukabiliana na maambukizi ya ugonjwa huo ambao hivi karibuni ulilinga nchini na kusababisha wananchi wengi hasa vijijini kutokwa na elimu ya kutisha kuhusu kujikinga na ugonjwa huo.

Akizungumza wakati wa kutambuliwa mpango huo kwa Mkuu wa Wilaya ya Tandahimba, Sebastian

kwakweli tutawatamia wahudumu wa afya ngazi wa jamii ili kuendeleza utolewaji wa elimu hii ili wananchi waweze kujua namna ya kujikinga ikiwemo hatua muhimu za kunawa mikono kwa kutumia sabuni ambazo pia watafundishwa.

"Pia tunanagalia upatikanaji kwa urahisi wa barakoa pamoja na vitalaka mikononi ili waweze kuwatika wananchi kwa urahisi zaidi na kuwatoa hofu walionyayo kuwakata hata uzalishaji mali nao unaweza kushuka endapo hatutata taarifa kwa kucimisha wananchi.

"Hili ni janga, hatuwezi kulitacha litatitave na Serikali pekee, ndio maana waduu wa maendeleo tunajitokea na kuongeza nguvu, lazima tushirikiane na Serikali kwa kutoa elimu kwa jamii na kushirikiana na Red Cross ili wananchi wasiokutiriwa na ugonjwa huu bila kujua namna

## ActionAid Tanzania local rights programmes changing lives in Tandahimba District

By Beatrice Philemon

EDUCATION on women's rights, gender based violence against women and girls, governance and accountability that was offered by ActionAid Tanzania in Tandahimba district of Morogoro region has begun to bring positive results for women and girls as seen in decline of early pregnancies, increased women's role in decision making at household level contrary to the situation on the past.

This has been possible through Local Rights Programmes (LRP) that are being executed by ActionAid Tanzania in Tandahimba district.

Right now more women and men in Tandahimba are aware of gender based violence and its effects on their children.

Speaking in an interview with the paper, the Community Development Officer Gender Desk (Coordinator) in Tandahimba district, Nema Shunga said the number of girls who dropped out of school has declined because parents are now educated on the importance of education to girls.

Right now parents send their daughters to school and the district has witnessed the largest decline in early marriage and teenage pregnancies, something which was not there before.

We are seeing drastic changes in the number of impregnated schoolgirls that has declined from 84 students in 2018 to 51 students

education and later on submit it to gender desk officer to take action on it. That is all thanks to ActionAid Tanzania for their support to women and girls in Tandahimba district.

ActionAid Tanzania introduced this programme in Tandahimba that in turn has helped women and girls enjoy their rights to education, fulfill their dreams, and prevent early marriages. That was one of the main barriers to girls' education in Tandahimba district.

Also women can sit together to discuss development issues relating to women's development, how to fight early marriage and teenage pregnancies, create awareness on gender based violence against girls and women through different village meetings and forums.

Apart from that the community is now aware that 'Safaha Chizi' (Clean watershed) is a stupid thing, before the training, it was very bad for women and girls, as women were not aware on their rights, women were abandoned and left with no resources or anything especially after the cabinet meeting session while girls were forced to stay at home for domestic work or being married without their consent.

ActionAid Tanzania has started engaging with women and girls as well as undertaking activities on the root causes of inequality, especially on children's education rights, gender based violence against women and girls, Gender



Note: This photo was taken last year before CORONA!

awariness on GBV and other issues relating to gender equality or sometimes they use the District Commissioner's villages meetings when he visits them to listen the challenges they have and what they need.

As a district we are very glad because family separation services has declined because both women and men are aware of the effect of Gender Based Violence (GBV) on a woman's health and women can demand their rights," she says.

The awareness was conducted free of charge to the communities by the Social Development Department of Tandahimba District Council in collaboration with ActionAid Tanzania.

The training has opened women's eyes, change mindset for men as well as prevent traditions and cultural barriers that contribute to violence against girls to access education, increase school enrollment for girls and reduce dropout of school for girls.

For her part, ActionAid Tanzania, Local Rights Programme (LRP) Coordinator, Dino Kamonalolo says the training on women's rights, leadership skills, governance and accountability has been a great success for people in Tandahimba district because right now more women are active, they have confidence in what they need and are participating effectively in development issues.

Apart from that they can challenge and capacity building of staff," he says.

These community based initiatives look a leading role in fostering development in the fight against violence against women and complement efforts of ActionAid Tanzania.

These early efforts saw the formation of Tandahimba Women Rights Organisation (TAWRO) which propelled sensitization and conscientization.

The empowerment of Societal Tracking Aids through Rights (STAR) and Child Rights Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation (CREST) has facilitated in-depth analysis and reflection on the root causes of inequality, exploitation and exclusion that underlines rights violations.

Due to the emergence of coronavirus

"Governance work is cutting across all thematic areas which Tandahimba LRP is implementing. Transparency and accountability as well as citizens' participation in their affairs are related in ensuring holistic development of the society," the activist noted.

"Our work of good governance in the last 10 years focused on developing the capacity of local government actors so that they are able to respond to communities needs.

Strengthening citizens' awareness to demand accountability and transparency on expenditure management, while grasping the decentralization process in Tanzania necessitated citizens' participation and involvement in decision making at all levels of government structure.

## Mtwara authorities, NGO partner on new campaign to arrest spread of coronavirus

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ACTIONAID Tanzania and Mtwara Region authorities have embarked on a new campaign to intensively educate the public on how to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

The project which is implemented through Local Rights Programmes (LRP) which is being executed in Tandahimba and Newala districts also involved stakeholders such as Red Cross and health practitioners in the region and mostly targets residents living in rural areas.

ActionAid, Tandahimba, LRP Coordinator, Dino Kamonalolo told The Guardian in a telephone interview that the communities will be trained deeply on coronavirus pandemic, symptoms and how it spreads and its prevention mechanisms.

He said that the campaign which commenced on April 21 is conducted through distribution of posters, brochures, local radio and advertising using Public Address System through loudspeakers and music. "We have distributed posters describing the disease, symptoms, how it spreads and prevention mechanism were placed on walls in such 1000 public places including markets, bus stand, mosques, churches, shops, stores, bars, guest houses, health facilities and saloons in both Tandahimba and Newala district," he said.

Apart from that the campaign also involved women from eleven wards of Kitangali, Lengua and Mkwana, Majengo ward in Newala district and Mihambwe, Ruvuma, Kitama, Miuta, Mahuta, Nanyanga and Chikongola wards in Tandahimba district.

According to him, in a bid to reach more people in both districts of Newala and Tandahimba, ActionAid Tanzania in collaboration with Red Cross and Regional Medical Officer (RMO) in Mtwara region will continue to have special programmes in different local radio stations (community radio) to create awareness about the pandemic.

Kamonalolo said that through local radio stations they believe education will reach more people especially those living in remote areas.

"Our target is to reach more than 120 villages in both Tandahimba and Newala districts but so far they have already reached 11 wards.

He said during the campaign, necessary measures were taken to ensure communities take all required steps to prevent contamination.

Elaborating on LRP, he said, currently ActionAid Tanzania is implementing the Local Rights Programmes operation in Tandahimba and Newala districts which officially commenced its operation in 2002.

Three strategic plans have been implemented to address poverty in the LRP that have contributed to the holistic development of the area. "The initial interventions of the LRP mainly focused on service delivery that entails provision of services to communities especially through supporting the communities' immediate needs such as infrastructure development including construction of schools, health facilities and water points," he said.

This was followed by a shift to the Rights Based Approach to guide the practice that placed the poor at the center of the design, control, oversight and evaluation of the development programmes.

The approach slowly moved to the Human Rights Based Approach focusing on empowerment, solidarity and evaluation of the development programmes.

He said that the LRP programmes were funded mainly through the sponsorship funding mechanism where children are linked to supporters from Italy. Development works of the LRP covered various villages/wards of the district.

As a principle, ActionAid initiates a development programme in certain area and reviews the extent to which it has met the intended objectives and determines a phase out process.

Accordingly, ActionAid Tanzania recognised the need to review the Tandahimba LRP to assess the progress made in meeting the intended objectives so as to determine the phase out process as it has been working in the area for the last 16 years.

"The review report indicated major achievements and contributions made by ActionAid in transforming the lives of communities we have been working with since the inception of the programme in the area.

It has indicated core performances under thematic priorities and benefits communities have gained as well as how interventions are sustainable.

## ActionAid donates a variety of items worth 44.5m/- to Kilwa flood victims

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ACTIONAID Tanzania has donated food relief items worth 44.5m/- to support flood victims in Njinjo and Matandu wards in Kilwa district, Lindi region.

Project coordinator at ActionAid Steven Benard said yesterday that the organisation had donated 23,390 kg of maize flour, 2,366 litres of cooking oil, 3800 kg of beans, 23 boxes of ball pens, 10 boxes of pencils, 21 carton of exercise books.

The donation was for 838 households in Njinjo ward and 330 households in Matandu ward who had been badly affected by the recent floods in January and February, this year.

"We have decided to support people in needy in the Matandu and Njinjo wards because we are accountable for the community that we are working with," he said.

He said currently ActionAid Tanzania is implementing the Local Rights Programme (LRP) in Njinjo and Matandu wards.

He said that before donating the support to the victims in those areas we contacted Kilwa District Commissioner, Christopher Nguibagai, and District Executive Director, Renatus Mchau.

He said during the distribution of relief food to flood victims, ActionAid Tanzania team was accompanied by the district's disaster relief committee team.

Following outbreak of COVID 19, necessary measures were taken to ensure effective distribution of relief support while minimising possible contamination. The measures include those steps were taken by the Local Rights Programme (LRP) team and emergency team at the district level.

Through the LRP, ActionAid Tanzania in Kilwa has

procured sanitizers and hand washing soap and other necessary hygiene materials to ensure communities take all required steps to prevent contamination during relief aid support and communities were asked to wash their hands before and after accessing relief aids," he noted.

Also in a bid to protect people from COVID-19, 3-meter distance between person and person was adhered during the distribution of relief aids.

In rural communities where ActionAid Tanzania operates, members of women and youth platforms and networks are taking initiatives to raise awareness in their communities about the pandemic and importance of following government and experts' instructions to protect themselves and reducing spread of the virus.

Benard added that although ActionAid Tanzania has donated such support, more food is still needed for flood

victims at Nkenda and Njenga suburbs.

"So far a total of 165 households and 225 households at Njenga suburbs still need food support such as maize, paddy, cowpeas and chickpeas including cassava because the floods had destroyed more farms in those areas," he says.

He said so far a total of 9860 flood victims are still staying in relief camps in various areas within the district and they still need food, legume seeds, safe drinking water and medicines for preventing and controlling disease outbreaks as well as treat people who have been infected with disease outbreaks.

According to him, although Kilwa district has been working hard to rescue flood victims, the district emergency team is still facing a lot of challenges in terms of poor infrastructure specifically in Nakiu, Njinjo and Mbemkuru areas.

Protect yourself and others against CORONA!