

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

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Empowering community on Reflection Action processes



Participants in a practical session during the training at Kilwa

By Kilwa LRP Team

To enable community members, identify, reflect and find solutions to challenges in their localities, Kilwa Local Rights Programmes (LRP) provided training to community facilitators on Reflection Action Processes and tools.

The major objective of the training which took place at Kilwa Masoko, last month, was to develop capacity of the Women Rights Association (WRA) and community development facilitators (CDFs) in mobilization skills and creating link of their work for an enhanced and result oriented mobilization of the community.

The training was attended by 24 members comprising youth and women from eight wards of Masoko, Kivinje/Singino, Mandawa, Njinjo, Miguruwe, Mitole, Matandu and Lihimalyao. The trained participants are expected to be facilitators of the reflect circles in their areas.

The training, which was facilitated by ActionAid's Tanzania (AATZ) Head of Policy and Programmes Jovina Nawenzake, used a range of participatory tools that helped participants to create an open discussion, work together to analyze their situation and gaps which enabled them to identify rights violations and how to bring change to their community.

Also, during the session, participants were able to analyze their own context in connection with local, national and international levels policies, agreements and obligations including the rights to information policies, The Banjul agreement of 1981 on human rights and right to freedom of expression.

They also reflected upon concepts like development, poverty, participation and education in relation to the provision of social services in the district, targeting gender responsive public service delivery.

On the practical part, participants used differ-

ent tools to analyze differences in gender roles and resource ownership from household level between men and women in Kilwa District.

During the analysis, it was noted that on resource ownership and division of responsibilities at home, women and girls still have a burden of responsibilities compared to men and boys. This resulted in lack of formal education to many women, missing ownership of resources like land and other properties, increasing of violence against women and making many women to lose confidence in front of men when it comes to decision making processes at family and largely at community level.

Commenting on the training, Twaha Kindamba, a member of Kilwa Youth Development Initiative (KIYODI) said the knowledge will help to promote development in their areas.

"Reflection action is a great approach as it will help people in the same area to collectively discuss their challenges, share ideas and find solutions together," commented Twaha

As a way forward, participants developed a plan of action for initiating the reflection action groups in their wards. This will involve providing feedback of the training at village level, prepare meetings with different groups that are already existing or establish to the places that there is non-existence, sharing the enabling tools to the groups and plan at village level the extent to which the circles need to meet.

The reflection action process intends to facilitate comprehensive analysis by the people living in poverty, about their rights, power relations, and women's rights, vulnerabilities, different actions and institutions, their own communication skills and risks.

The process always starts from people's analysis of their own context and build a cumulative outlook and connections between local, national and international levels on issues.

ActionAid's Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) emphasizes the need of mobilizing and organizing people. Experiences show that building people's collective agency and powerful, rooted movements is key to addressing structural causes of poverty and shifting power.

SADC member states urged to increase education budget



The opening event of the SADC Civil Society Forum at Golden Tulip Hotel

Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States have been challenged to raise their budgetary allocation on education to at least 20% if they want to see improvement in the sector.

The call was made at the *Education Now Thematic café* which was organized as part of wider events, during the SADC Civil Society Forum, prior to the 39th SADC Heads of State summit which took place in Dar-es-Salaam, in August, this year. The forum brought together education stakeholders from different civil society organizations (CSOs) across the Southern African Region.

ActionAid and ANCEFA provided an overview of problems facing education systems while other stakeholders contributed their views on how to ensure that every child is able to enjoy his or her right to good quality education.

Speaking during the forum, Actionaid Mozambique Education Programme Manager, Dakcha Acha, said SADC Member States should increase their national budgets to finance the education sector as currently there are many children out there who are still not accessing education. She suggested that one way of raising extra resources is increasing tax revenue by reducing or

eliminating tax incentives especially to large companies.

Other stakeholders raised the issue of accessibility of education to other groups such as disabled children and how pupils in rural areas will be able to compete in the ICT world if teaching and learning environment in public schools will not improve to support the need.

ANCEFA insisted that countries might allocate the stated percentage but the major issue is how the allocated budget is being utilized? Is it going to the right places?

On the other hand, youth participants insisted

that the type of education provided by governments should not be generalized. It needs to be specific

"We need to put in place an education that young people need in the current world."

ActionAid estimates that countries in the region could be losing as much as 38.6 billion US dollars annually to harmful tax incentives and this is equivalent to half the overall spending on education. Globally, there are 264 million primary and secondary school age children and youth who are out of school and most children who are not currently in primary school are girls.

Also, in many developing countries provision of quality public education is still facing challenges due lack of trained teachers, electricity, adequate teaching materials and basic infrastructure and sanitary conditions to ensure good quality education for all

A study conducted by ActionAid in Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal and Tanzania shows that each year, tax expenditure causes governments to lose huge amounts of potential revenues that could be spent on improving education, especially for girls. The study shows that these countries are losing more than half a billion US dollars a year to tax incentive.



ActionAid International Education Manager, Julie Juma leading the discussion during Education Now thematic café

Stakeholders call for the implementation of the ACDEG charter:

Participants of the African charter on democracy, elections and governance (ACDEG) thematic café advised SADC Members States to implement the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

The advice was given during the ACDEG thematic café which was part of the SADC Civil Society Forum activities. Stakeholders from Mozambique, Zambia, South Africa, Tanzania, Angola were part of the discussion.

Speaking during the opening of the ACDEG Thematic Café, AATZ Country Director, Mr. Yaekob Metena said the SADC Forum is another moment where CSOs can come together, join struggles for ideals of ACDEG.

He insisted on the need for further analysis of the context and share lessons among and finally frame a solid ground on how to move forward.

"ACDEG is an excellent initiative which we really need to strive for. As SADC countries we share lots of commonalities, lessons and experiences. If we really pull together our experiences, we will add value," insisted Metena.

Presenting about ACDEG Charter, Mr. Rangarai Machemedze (SADC CNGO) said once the country signs, ratifies and domesticates the charter, it is obliged to apply the objectives of the charter through guarantee the conformity of its legislations with the Charter, translating the Charter's relevant clauses into domestic laws, ensuring dissemination of the Charter at national level, and integrating its objectives and principles into national policies and strategies.

He also wanted participants to reflect on whether African countries really believe in the charter, available mechanism to promote the charter, the role of CSOs, media and other stakeholders on awareness raising regarding the charter and what can be done after this forum.

Contributing to the discussion, participants insisted that awareness, effective implementation and monitoring of the charter is still a challenge in so many countries in the region, despite the fact that some countries have signed, ratified and domesticated it.

They advised the responsibility of promotion of the charter to be shifted from the hands of policy makers to the hands of citizens.

"Our leaders always rush to sign frameworks and different charters but when it comes to implementation it becomes a challenge,"



Activista from Zambia, sharing experience during the ACDEG thematic café.

emphasized one of the participants

Limited knowledge about the charter to both citizens and leaders, limited financial resources and capacity were also cited as some of the barriers to the implementation of the charter provisions.

They also recommended AU to come down to the Regional economic blocs (eg SADC, ECOWAS) and push for the implementation of ACDEG.

In terms of youth and the Africa We Want they advised them to be prepared and be fully involved in the agenda because they are the ones who will make it possible.

The major challenge currently is that youth and citizens in general do not know anything about The Africa We Want and the charter itself." Commented Gaudensia Mghumi, a journalist from Tanzania

The African charter on democracy, elections and governance (ACDEG) was adopted on 30 January 2007 during the 8th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) and came into force on 15 February 2012.

It is aimed at reinforcing the commitment of the AU Member States towards the promotion and consolidation of democratic governance and human rights on the continent. The implementation of ACDEG is envisaged to take place at national, regional and continental levels.



Representatives of Civil Society in a group photo with Hon Dr Damas Ndumbaro (1st line, 4th from left) Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs during the opening of 15th SADC Civil Society Forum



Project staff in a group discussion during the inception workshop

Inception workshop kicks Off PSA Alliance project phase two

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Technical Officer

The inception workshop for the Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa project phase two was recently held at Crowne Plaza Rosebank Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The workshop which was led and facilitated by ActionAid International from the 27th to the 30th of August 2019, was attended by all project implementing countries including Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe; and Consortium members xc (i.e. Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) of Rhodes University, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and SAfAIDS).

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss, agree and ensure common understanding among all project staff about the phase two, particularly on overall theory of change objectives, deliverables and approaches/strategies (in particular, the MEL Framework, advocacy strategy, Communications & Media Strategy, etc), specific governance structures, and individual shared roles and responsibilities as well as donor rules, regulations and reporting and developing the year one operational plan

and budget to be submitted to SDC.

The four-day inception workshop took all participants through the overview of phase one activities and enabled them to review the learnings and made some adjustments for phase two. Participants were also able to review the project approach to social accountability and agreed on how gender responsive public services (GRPS) can be better integrated into phase two of the project. The theory of change for phase two was also reviewed, to enable participants to clearly understand the overall goal of the project, intended outcomes and envisioned change happening during the phase two of the project.

Furthermore, each project implementing country was able to identify key policy issues on both food security and HIV/sexual reproductive and health rights (SRHR), which will be a major advocacy issues during phase two of the project.

Phase two project

MEL framework learning approach & methodology were also discussed and stressed particularly on shared learning and documentation throughout the project.

Official launch of the project was also done on 29th of August 2019 followed by speeches from Julie Middleton (Consortium Project Manager), Ruth Tripathi (AAGS London), Joe Mzinga (ESAFF Regional Coordinator) and Chrispin Chomba (SAfAIDS Country Representative). During their speeches, they thanked all participants for the good work during phase one of the project implementation and encouraged them to continue doing better work into Phase Two of the project.

As a way forward, it was agreed that all project implementing countries should sign MoUs with implementing partners and start preparing and conduct country inception workshops in September 2019. It was also agreed that the implementation of quarter one activities should start immediately from September to December 2019.

Over the past three years, the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance has successfully built capacity of individuals within institutions across the project's five stakeholder groups (specifically, parliamentary and district council committees, government departments, issue-based civil society organizations, smallholder farmers' organizations, and the media) at district, national and regional levels, improving their engagements with the processes involved in the socially accountable management of public resources.

During phase two of the project, the consortium partners will further seek to improve accountability and gender-responsiveness in public resource management, particularly in the areas of HIV/SRH services for adolescents and youth and agricultural services for smallholder farmers, contributing to the realization of selected SADC regional commitments across five countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe).



PSA Consortium leaders officiating phase two of the project

Village Women Rights Committee defends children's right to education



By Dinno Celestine, Tandahimba LRP

Violation of women and children's rights remains a common challenge in Tandahimba community resulting in some children lacking adequate care and support for them to enjoy services such as shelter, clothing, treatment, food and education.

To make the situation worse, school dropouts are still being reported from many schools in the area due to childhood pregnancies, little support from parents to children, long walking distance from home to schools, engaging children in domestic and income generating activities. Also, some of the children of school going age are denied their right to education by their own parents or relatives.

In addressing the situation, ActionAid is working with TAWORO and NEWORA (women rights associations) to strengthen women and children's rights protection efforts. Among initiatives taken include the establishment of Village Women & Children's Rights Committees.

The main roles of the committees involve educating the community especially women about their rights, supporting the needy women to demand their rights; protect the welfare of women and their children; provide information to relevant authorities about

violation of human rights for women and children and linking communities and members to district level women rights associations.

Ruvuma in Tandahimba District is among villages in which TAWORO has established Village Women Rights Committees. The committee members, as in other 14 villages, were elected during a village public meeting which was organized by TAWORO in collaboration with Village Government in April 2018.

Ashura Lyono(36), is the Chairperson of a committee comprising seven members. She explains how her committee helped Hussein Salum, an 8-year old boy to secure his educational right which was being deprived by his own father named Salum Nanyambe.

Hussein used to stay at home as he was not enrolled for any formal primary education because his father was against "elimu dunia" (formal education) and wanted the boy to be enrolled for religious education only. When his parents divorced years ago, the father moved to another district in Mtwara Region. Therefore, Hussein is living with his mother Mwanisha Bakari and grandmother.

Whenever Hussein's mother tried to enroll him to school since he was 6 years old, Hussein's father came and intimidated her, saying his son will never go for formal education instead he will only go for religious education. However, Mwanisha never reported this issue to rel-

evant authorities.

"In early May this year, a community member came and informed us that in her neighborhood there is a child of school going age who has not yet been enrolled due to obstacles from his father. She explained that the boy is playing along the street while his age mates have started schooling," said Ashura.

The committee then visited Hussein at his home and interrogated his mother. The mother explained the matter to the committee and told them that Hussein's father promised to come to the Village in three weeks' time to take Hussein with him to Mtwara. So, the committee members decided to wait for Hussein's father before taking further action.

When the father came in June, the committee met with him and had face to face talk with him and confirmed that he intended to take his son because he does not want him to be enrolled for formal education and his mother is not capable of taking care of the son.

The committee threatened to take legal action against him and on the next day, they took Hussein to Ruvuma Primary School where he is now schooling since June.

His father continued to make some attempts of taking him with the idea that he is going to take him to a good school, but the committee was very tough.

"We demanded him to show to us or the Village Executive Officer or to the Head of Ruvuma Primary School evidence to prove that he was going to transfer Anas to another formal school, but he failed to show and therefore no body was convinced to agree with him.

"We also told him that wherever he wants to take Hussein to, what we need is for him to be enrolled to a known formal school, where even the committee would be able make follow up. Our aim is to ensure that this boy enjoys his right to education," said Ashura.

Currently, Hussein is continuing well with his studies at Ruvuma Primary School. And now, he knows how to read, count and write just within two months. *"When the committee came with Hussein to me, it was in June, and the window for enrollment of pupils to standard one had been closed already.*

Continues page 6....

Village Women Rights Committee...from page 5.

But because Hussein was already 8 years old, we agreed to enroll him under a special programme (MEMKWA) in which he will study for two years, 2019 and 2020 and sit for standard four exams. If he passes, he will join standard five in 2021. I congratulate the committee for the good job," Said Mr Hamim Ali Msondo, Head teacher of Ruvuma Primary School.

The committees are functioning in 15 villages of Tandahimba and 10 villages of Newala. Earlier during their establishment, the committees were oriented on their main duties and responsibilities and were linked to institutions such as police gender desk, Community Development and Social Welfare Officers to acquire technical support when needed.

Women in the respective villages have been benefiting a lot from the work of the committees as many have been assisted to claim their rights including of property ownership during divorce.

Some of the committees (in Kisangani, Mihambwe villages) have been using clinic days for women at village dispensaries to create awareness.



Hussein and his mother at their home

Breaking the culture of silence to curb GBV in Mafia

By Mafia LRP Team

One of the major challenges facing several communities across Tanzania is the culture of silence whereby people, especially women and girls, are afraid to speak out or report incidences of violence when they fall victims.

In Mafia, the culture of silence (commonly known as Muhali) has been existing for a long time and has significantly contributed to the increase of GBV cases because when women and children face violence, reporting to relevant authorities becomes hard due to that culture.

Through initiatives to address violence against women, the LRP does not only empower people to know their rights, but also address cultural practices, norms, attitudes and behaviors that discriminate against the girl child in school and at home.

Mariam Omary Muhunzi, a Community Development Facilitator and member of Mafia Women and Children Right Executive



Children club in one of the awareness session

Breaking the culture.... from page 6

Continues page 7.....

Committee, coordinates two women's groups in Kanga Division in Mafia District. She said that there is a need to break the culture of silence and empower people to be able to boldly speak out and tell the truth.

She noted that, among parents she meets, it was very hard for them to speak out but through several trainings they hold, the situation is changing.

"We had so many cases of teenage pregnancies and abuse in this area, but girls and their parents were afraid to speak and report those who abuse young girls. Most girls and their parents weren't even aware that they had rights and there are laws protecting them, but now they are learning and coming out to report offenders, and seeking support for victims," she stated.

Mariam said that when they meet in the mothers's groups, they tackle several topics in their various trainings that include girls and women's rights and GBV.

Sharing her case, Mariam said she has been a victim of abuse for over 7 years in her marriage.

"I have suffered a lot of abuse from my husband. A week wouldn't go by without him beating me up and hurling all sorts of insults



Mariam contributing in one the events with her fellow women

at me. I was afraid that if I report him, he would chase me, and I would have nowhere to seek refuge and people would laugh at me. But when I got the knowledge about GBV through ActionAid, it totally changed my perception. Now I know my rights and I don't tolerate harassment anymore. I am no longer ashamed, and I always counsel other women going through the same to speak out, report to authorities and seek help," she said.

Mariam is now an agent of change in her community who reaches out to other women who are victims of abuse. She is passing on the knowledge on rights to other women and supporting victims to speak out.

Nuru Ndongole, a teach-

er by profession said that many people keep quiet while going through issues of violence and abuse.

"The situation is changing now. People are kicking the culture of silence away and these days we hear more women and girls speaking out when they face cases of abuse. We hope that this project continues to empower more people, so that we can overcome sexual abuse and gender-based violence," she added.

Stop Violence Against Girls in Schools (SVAGS) Project is aimed at ensuring girls' right to free, quality, public and inclusive education is realized; while also protecting their right to safety and self-determination.

The project targets 6,500 schoolgirls between 9-18 years of age. It also includes 14 women's rights groups that represent women and girls' rights.



Pupils holding a placard with a message on breaking (Muhali) a culture of silence in one of the campaigns in Mafia

Journalists visit Tandahimba and Newala Local Rights Programme

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ), through its fourth Country Strategy Paper, is committed to engage national and international media to reach out relevant audiences. In implementing this commitment, AATZ organized media field visit to Tandahimba and Newala LRPs recently.

The visit, held from the 28th of July to the 3rd of August, was meant to enhance AATZ's relationship with the media to increase dissemination of advocacy and campaign messages, thereby strengthening the organization's linkage with the wider public.

The visit also gave the journalists from print media an opportunity to meet and interact with LRP staff, community members/beneficiaries of intervention, government leaders and partners, and physically see the achievements and document stories for sharing with the public. The visit was also meant to increase visibility of the organization's work as part of its accountability mechanism.

The visit involved three journalists from The Guardian, Nipashe and The Citizen newspapers, which are among major media from Dar-es-Salaam.

Upon arrival in the district, the journalists toured Actionaid offices in Tandahimba and interacted with staff. They also had an opportunity to learn about the LRP history including focus areas of intervention, how the LRP is working with government, CBOs, community members, notable achievements/ impact

During the tour, the journalists visited schools which were established by Actionaid as ACCESS centres and later transformed into formal education system. The schools in Tandahimba are (Mnyahi, Namedi, Mnaida) and in Newala the schools are (Mbeya, Chilende and Tu-



Journalist listening to some of the members of Tukazane women group during their visit

maini). At the schools, the journalists met and conducted interviews with teachers, pupils, parents and school management committee members, and were able to learn how ACCESS system became a catalyst for the improvement of education in the two districts.

The journalist also visited Luchingu and Pachoto villages Newala and Mnyawa Village in Tandahimba and met women groups, Village Women Rights Committees, TAWORO and NEWORA leaders and some of their members.

In these villages, the journalists learnt how AATZ empowers women and their groups to engage on income generating activities and its impact; how the Village Women Rights Committees are working to address issues of violence against women and children and how NEWORA and TAWORO are working to improve women's rights issues in the districts.

They also visited farmers and other agriculture stakeholders who are working with AATZ such as TAFE and held discussions with the leaders to learn how they have been working with AATZ to improve agriculture in

the district.

In concluding their visit, the journalists met government officials including the Newala District Executive Director where they managed to get information on general development issues in the district, how AATZ contributed to the district's development and got clarification on issues/ challenges raised at community level related to education, agriculture, women's rights, health etc.

In Tandahimba, the journalists met experts from the District Community Development Office where they were informed of how ActionAid has been working with the District in addressing issues related to women's rights. They also got different explanations about issues raised at community level which affect women and children and the District's initiative to address them.

Commenting on the visit, the journalists said that they appreciated the engagement as it gave them an opportunity to go down to the grass root and meet community members and learn the real issues affecting them and the needed action from decision makers which will help to address them.

Apart from organizing media field visit, Actionaid Tanzania also works with journalists through their networks in the implementation of some projects activities and capacity building forums. All these initiatives are aimed at strengthening AATZ's relationship with the media.



Journalist chatting with some members of SMC at Chilende primary in Newala District

Pemba youth discuss budget process involvement



Presentation session during the training

Public Expenditure Tracking System/ survey (PETS) is a system for citizens to track public resources, directed to them through funding of social services. Tracking of resources means monitoring flow of those resources from the begging to the end. For example, resources may be from central government, to district council, and finally to the village where the project is implemented.

It is a process that enables citizens to understand their budgetary obligations as well as to understand how or when money is spent as planned. These resources are from taxes, individual donations or contributions and other revenues, or may have been donated

by donors for the purpose of providing various social services such as health, water, education, agriculture etc.

This system is very important in monitoring public resources, as it will not only ensure the government and its authorities in the areas of planning, use, integrity, and management of public resources, but also help to give citizens the means to question and act when it is seen that public resources are not used as required

Lack of accountability in delivering public services as well as people's low level of involvement and participation in decision making processes is a major challenge of the community in Zanzibar. Therefore, in its strategic plan, Pemba LRP is committed to promote accountability of local government authorities and participation of communities, individuals in setting their development programme priorities and to demand for accountability from service providers/government.

Youth from various shekhias in Pemba recently discussed and looked on ways they can participate in the budget processes and track public expenditure on public resources in their areas.

The discussion took place during the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) training, which was organised by Pemba LRP and brought together 30 youth from Wete, Micheweni and Chake districts.

The aim of the training was to raise awareness and increase understanding of the youths on public expenditure tracking surveys.

The training focused on understanding the concept of public expenditure tracking survey and its importance, sources of information and processes of conducting PETS, budget cycle and specifically SMZ budget process, policy and legal framework governing PETS.

Contributing during the discussion, the youth said that the biggest challenge is lack of awareness as the community in general did not understand the budget process nor did they know that they have the responsibility of tracking the expenditure of public resources in their areas.

Speaking to the youth, the training facilitator, Mr Samwel Mkwatwa, insisted that in order to do budget tracking in their areas, they must also be aware of the entire budget process from shekhia to national levels.

"Looking at SMZ budget cycle, it is good for you to be aware of the meeting schedules of ward committees and councils so that you can plan to engage/ participate in the process effectively. Without knowledge of this process, your participation will be ineffective as you will never know where to start," insisted Samwel

While discussing ways on how to strategically participate in the process of budget tracking, the youth noted that they will make sure that they find opportunities of becoming part of the consultative committees at their shekhias, this is the stage in which priority setting is taking place.

They added that, they will conduct awareness and sensitization meetings to communities about the budget process so that they can participate in priority setting meetings where they discuss and raise priorities in their budget which is usually held from November.

They also said that they will collaborate with other stakeholders to reach out to government experts at the ministry level just to make sure that the issues that need to be tackled are addressed and worked on.



Group discussion

Pictorial



Discussions during reflection action training at Kilwa



Journalist discussion with members of Village Women Rights Committee at Newala



Journalist in a meeting with members of TAWORO at Mnyawa village during their visit



Leaders of Tandahimba farmers Association(TAFA) in a briefing meeting with journalist during their visit



Pemba youth in one of the session during the training on Public Expenditure tracking system(PETS)