

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

August 2020

## Kilwa Community Members Put Theory Into Practice

By Stephen Bernard, Kilwa LRP

**M**embers of women and youth groups in Njinjo and Matandu wards of Kilwa District, who took part in organic farming training, last month, have started using the knowledge to embark on vegetable farming.

The training, which was organised by the LRP, was a follow-up engagement after floods ravaged the area in February 2020 and was aimed at strengthening resilient livelihoods and promoting climate justice hence ensuring sustainable access to food and increase income.

Sharing on how they have applied the knowledge, Hemed Abdallah Kingandilo, a resident of Kipindimbi said that after the training they discussed and agreed that they will establish a group garden.

*"In our discussion, we saw that since the knowledge we had acquired was still new, it was going to be difficult to do it individually."*

*Therefore, we formed a group of 11 people (5males and 6 females).We selected the area and prepared more than 30 deep terraces and we planted various vegetable seeds such as Chinese, okra, eggplant and ngogwe, just to mention a few,"* Hemed said.

Regarding the way they take care of the garden, Hemedi revealed that they have come up with a timetable where two members of the group take care of the garden, including watering, every day.

A resident of Matandu Ward, Said Kassim Malenga, said that they have also started using the knowledge they have received.



*Some of the training beneficiaries from Njinjo village preparing their vegetable garden*

*"We encouraged everyone who attended the training to start a garden at their home."*

*At my home, I have prepared a deep terrace, a bag garden, and a kitchen garden. I have planted vegetable seeds like okra, eggplant, Chinese etc. We thank ActionAid for the training and provision of seeds,"* he said.

He added that other community members are eager to acquire this knowledge, but they want to see the results first.

*"We continue to encourage other community members to learn from us. We believe when we get good results many will start doing it,"* he explained.

When it comes to challenges they are facing during application of the knowledge, Said said, *"Access to animal manure here is a big problem as our society is not pastoralist and to get it you must go to remote areas where pastoralists are, which is expensive. So, most people find it easy to use fertilizers"*

Other challenges include water scarcity and shortage of watering tools. *"These gardens depend on the little water we have. It means if you have a big garden, you will have to have plenty of water."*

*Continues page 2.....*



*Some members of youth group from Mandawa village who received the knowledge from their fellows from Matandu checking progress of their seeds in the nursery ready to be planted in their group garden*

## Community members.....From pg 1

*Our water sources such as Matandu River are very far. For example, every day I use 12 buckets to water my garden, which is expensive to get,” said Mwanaidi from Matandu Ward*

To address the challenge of access to water, Mwanaidi said that in their reflection circle, they agreed to go and ask for government support so that they can dig a well which will help them to easily access water.

Rukia Maguruka from Miguruwe Village concluded saying, *“Women in Njinjo were left with scars and no hope after the floods. But with this knowledge, I believe it*

*will help us to get more vegetables for consumption and for income generating. As a women’s platform leader, I will continue to teach others within our women facilitation circles to practise the skills.”*

To scale up the knowledge to household level, the trained women and youth in Njinjo and Matandu communities managed to share the knowledge within Women and Youth facilitation Circles as well as during village meetings to be able to practise the skills at household level and the community at large.

*“Because I have already planted the seeds, I*

*organised women from our Reflection Circle to come and learn at my house. When they came, I oriented them on everything we learnt during the training and how to set up small gardens near our homes. Most group members were inspired and they want to embark on it also, though they are worried about access to water, explained Mwanaidi.*

Up to now, in Njinjo Ward, 62 women and 37 men received training and 8 households have already what they learnt into practice. In Matandu Ward, 30 women from reflection circles have been reached with the knowledge, of which 6 members have already prepared gardens and planted seeds.

## CSOs Reflect Progress on ACDEG Charter Ratification

**By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer**

Ratification and signing of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance (ACDEG) in Tanzania is a very crucial step in strengthening democracy and accountability in the country.

This was emphasized during a two-day CSOs meeting organized by ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) in Dodoma from the 14th to the 15th of August 2020 and involved stakeholders from CSOs, Media and Youth (Activista).

The aim of the meeting was to validate and popularize key developed advocacy messages, which can be used by various stakeholders in influencing the Tanzanian government to ratify and sign the Charter.

The meeting was also meant to develop a joint action plan on how to engage the government on ratification of the ACDEG.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr Elias Mtinda (AATZ representative) explained that despite various initiatives done by AATZ in collaboration with its implementing partners in creating awareness on AGA and ACDEG to various stakeholders, still, there are some challenges to both community and government officials on understanding of the charter (ACDEG).

He also added that the meeting is intended to create awareness to CSOs, media and youth on ACDEG and its key messages so that they can continue to raise awareness on importance of the government to sign the charter.

Participants were also informed that AATZ, in collaboration with EACSO, had conducted legal analysis of the charter, to understand its compatibility with the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.

They were also advised to use the analysis and simplified book of key advocacy messages for various engagements and advocacy purposes.

During presentation, Advocate Edison Kilatu pointed out that Tanzania has at least taken some steps to implement all 13 objectives enshrined in the charter. He added that ratification of the charter will recast and strengthen the position, influence and prestige of Tanzania in the regional and global map.

*“The charter has a lot of benefits in terms of enhancing democracy, human rights cooperation, security and the rule of law, except two aspects that contradicts with Tanzanian Constitution. The two aspects are independent candidates and challenging presidential poll results in court,*



**Section of the meeting participants following presentation**

Advocate Kilatu said.

At the end of the meeting, CSO representatives and other stakeholders demanded cooperation among stakeholders and for them to take the agenda seriously, to engage the government for it to see the importance of signing and ratifying the charter. The meeting also recommended the commitment of media engagement as a key instrument to cover ACDEG messages for awareness raising to all citizens in the country.

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) through the Africa We Want Project is committed to enhance the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other actors as they are the gateway to the people, who are not only the rights bearers with responsibility to hold the government to account but also an important wing in influencing the needed changes as well as the government to sign and ratify the charter.



# Unguja LRP Marks International Youth Day



Group photo after the event

By Bakar Khamis, Unguja LRP

In commemorating this year's International Youth Day, ActionAid Tanzania-Unguja Local Rights Programme (LRP) in collaboration with youth organisations, Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges (ZAFAYCO) and Youth Organization Union (YOU), organized a one-day dialogue on decent work.

The dialogue, which ran under a localized theme: "MIKATABA YA HAKI NI NGAO YA AJIRA MARIDHAWA KWA VIJANA," was held on the 15th of August 2020 at the Integrated Child and Reproductive Health Center - Kidongo Chekundu, Unguja - Zanzibar.

The dialogue brought together participants from the Ministry of Labour, Empowerment, Elders Women and Children, representative from the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture, Zanzibar Trade Unions including Associations of Employers in Zanzibar, Association of Employees in Hotel and Household workers, young people employed in the tourism industry, Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce, the media, youth organisations JUVIEKA, JUVIKUKA and their network -Youth Union(YOU).

The event was aimed at marking the International Youth Day with specific objectives that reflect the local context. Specific objectives were: Raising awareness among youth and other stakeholders on decent work; Reflecting on youth employment challenges associated with lack of decent work contracts, and provide a platform for advocacy on policies and practices that promote decent work and safeguarding youth employment at all times.

The dialogue started by exploring challenges faced by young people in the employment sector. This was presented in a drama form by a group of young people, who displayed how young people are sometimes ill advised and trapped in abusive work with ill-fated contracts or with no contracts at all. The drama also formed the basis for panel discussion which comprised a team of representatives from government (Ministry of Labour Empowerment Women and Children department of labour), Zanzibar Trade Unions (ZATUC) and Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce.

During the discussion, Zanzibar investment policy sparked heated debate among the youth due to some of contradicting issues. They went on to call upon the government to act on investment regulations especially in the hotel

sector.

Also, the youth singled out some of the challenges to include: Negation of employers to grant employees' rights such as joining social security funds (ZSSF); Workers union's failure to reach out to hotel employees to raise awareness of their existence and their role in resolving workplace issues; Need for frequently education regarding employment policy especially on the employment standards as a way to inculcate employees' rights awareness in Zanzibar, and concerns over poor and negligible performance of ZSSF to its members.

Participants called upon the government to institute proper and regular monitoring of employers to ensure that all work contracts are decent and local employee benefits package is clearly outlined before granting investor licences. Additionally, the government was urged to put compulsory policy measures to facilitate hotel employees to secure decent work/employment contracts and the rights of employees to retain a copy of work contract be adhered to. Moreover, the government should work with other stakeholders to develop a response policy that would specifically deal with emergencies at times of outbreak of diseases or other calamitous incidents.

Young people constitute the biggest proportion of the society but their needs are not well addressed and their potentials are not unleashed properly. ActionAid Tanzania is committed through its Country Strategy Paper IV to mobilise and support youth and their networks to advocate progressive policies/legislations and their implementation.



Youth presenting challenges facing them using a drama during the IYD celebration



# National Youth Dialogue On Decent Work:



**Panel Discussion: from left, Khamis Abdallah (Zanzibar Employers Association (ZANEMA), Marwa Maridadi (ILO), Maalim Ally (Chama cha Waalimu Zanzibar), Jackline Sarungi (TUICO), Yunge Nunda Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE)**

**By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer**

As a continuation of its efforts to push for decent work among youth, ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) recently organized a one-day national youth dialogue with employers in the country.

The dialogue, which was held on the 10th of August 2020 in Dar-es-Salaam, brought together 81 participants comprising employers, employees from formal and informal sector, a representative from ILO, government agencies, trade unions, private sectors, and youth associations.

The major objective of the dialogue was to create awareness on decent work and economic growth to the informal sector (employers) for action, generate key issues and concerns from employers on decent work that will inform strategic planning for advocacy work and creating a common understanding on how employers put in place mechanisms in addressing national and international laws/policies related to decent work.

Officiating the event, AATZ Head of Programme & Policy, Ms Jovina Nawenzake said that, Tanzania is a youthful country because a large proportion of the population comprises youth. Also, the country is currently building an industrialized economy with the aim of creating more employment.

She emphasized that the youth dialogue was aimed at discussing appropriate ways for youth to get decent employment.

***"Today's dialogue has invited employers and employees' representatives to discuss and get opinions on how decent employment can be attained. I hope the dialogue will pave the way for discussion, consensus and establishing commitments to improve working environment and setting strategies to attain decent work,"*** explained Nawenzake.

According to his presentation, some of the roles of the employers are: Adherence to international labour standards (Conventions - (190), protocols- (6), recommendations - (206); Setting and implementing organisational policies and strategies that promote gender equality; Compliance with national employment policies and labour laws; Ensure respect for fundamental principles and rights at work; Guarantee protection of workers' rights (Freedom of association, Payment of remuneration, Leaves, Organisational rights, etc) and Ensuring safety and health at workplace.

The presentation raised a lot of interest among participants and they asked a lot of questions.

On the other hand, the youth presented their demands using creative role play which focused on challenges they are facing at their work places and recommended actions by employers and other stakeholders including trade unions.

The challenges raised include lack of employment contracts, lack of health insurance, lack safety at workplace, and sexual abuse at the workplace.

To stir discussion among participants on the aspects of decent work,

As part of the dialogue, the ILO National Project Coordinator – Governance, Mr Maridadi Fanel Marwa, made a presentation on 'Decent work and the role of employers.'

challenges and way forward -a panel discussion which involved representatives from ATE, TUICO, TTU, Zanzibar Employers Association (ZANEMA) and ILO was also part of the dialogue.

Employers and other stakeholders got the opportunity to respond to challenges raised by the youth as well as sharing their experiences on issues of decent work at their workplaces.

***"There are a series of awareness creation and training programmes for employers to enlighten them with new and current development in labour laws and policies applicable in formal and non-formal sectors, and works very closely with trade unions,"*** explained MsYunga Kanuda - A representative from Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE)

At the end of the dialogue, participants came up with recommendations on decent work for both informal and formal sector and these include: Employers should collaborate with government and workers as well as other stakeholders; Trade unions should improve the use media to reach many employers with education and ILO together with trade unions, promised to improve their strategies to reach more employers on decent work including an increase in the use of media.

The Youth Empowerment and Influence in Tanzania is a Strategic Partnership Agreement (YEI) project which runs from 2018 to 2021. The project is implemented at national level and at local level under ActionAid local rights programs (LRPs). AATZ, through the project, is committed to ensure national youth issues related to decent work are addressed by key stakeholders including the government as well as employers from both formal and informal sectors.



**Maalim Ally from TTU Zanzibar contributing during the dialogue**



# Pemba Youth Street Caravan Advocates Good Governance



**Representatives from Pemba Youth voice moving in streets during a three days street caravan to raise awareness and advocate on good governance**

**By Severine Mapunda, Pemba LRP**

Pemba youth, in collaboration with Action-Aid Tanzania and Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA), organised a four-day Caravan as part of advocacy initiatives in the implementation of Africa We Want Project in Pemba.

The Caravan, which took place from the 13th to 16th August reached community members and youth in 25 shekhas, including the most remote areas of Micheweni District.

The Caravan comprised edutainment by cultural groups from Wete, 20 youth lead committees, 50 cyclists from Tumbe Cyclists Club who played a great role to help organise and gather people from the streets using loud speakers. The people in turn received key messages on good governance and education on tackling corruption during the forthcoming October 2020 election.

The Caravan was aimed at raising awareness among communities on issues of good governance in relation to Africa Governance Architecture and Africa Charter on Democracy, Election and Good Governance.

Another objective was to have young people well informed for them to demand implementation of the charter in their communities, as well as educating people to shun any form of corruption during the 2020 general

election.

During the event, local artists performed drama and songs with theme on democracy, good governance, avoidance of corruption during election and issues of human rights. In each stop, youth distributed brochures and explained the components of the charter, its importance to the country's democracy and development as well as explaining and shared the Swahili developed communicate on why Tanzania should rectify and sign the charter.

"For me, doing this as part of youth-led committee, is a great opportunity as it allows me to strengthen my skills and qualities that will help me push forward the agenda of democracy in my community," said Hakima Ali, a 22-year old youth from Pemba Female Youth Organization, who participated during the Caravan in Micheweni District.

Speaking on corruption during elections and its effects on communities, the Education Officer from ZAECA, Mr Khamis Kombo Muhamed, insisted that community members should not be persuaded and tempted to receive gifts in exchange of their right to elect a leader who will bring change to the communities and doing so is against the law and even the African Charter on Democracy, Election and Good Governance.

***"I didn't I know that receiving gifts from politicians during election period is related to corruption. They always come to us with special names like samaki, bahashishi,***

***zawadi and vichocho vya maendeleo ya vijana,"*** said Juma Ali Juma, a Micheweni resident.

The Caravan provides an opportunity to gather different segments of society and foster debate and dialogue, through exchange of knowledge, networking and community-led actions.

The four-day caravan created a space for the development of youth and community dialogue activities that will benefit the local communities and will inspire young women and men to participate in the progress of their communities, enhancing their crucial role in the response to local needs, good governance and demand for free and fair election.

The Youth Street Caravan under AGA/ Africa We Want project is part of the implementation of activities which contribute to AATZ's priority 2 (Promote participation of citizens in democratization processes and representation of women and youth in governance systems and structure) in view of the newly developed CSP IV both at local and national level.





Participants in a group photo after the event

Also, it was suggested that Ward Education Officers and other leaders pay visits to schools and do not end by signing visitors' books, but need to make sure that they see the condition of the toilets and address any challenges. Other suggestion was that social welfare officers and community development officers prepare cleanliness monitoring toolkit that has a component of monitoring school toilets. And, it was

pointed out that any need for approval and advice on school toilets construction is a district priority hence the District Engineer must attend the sites at respective schools and advice accordingly and timely.

Local leaders need to make sure that all meetings that are required are conducted and all people are informed, Social Services Committees at village and ward level need to be accountable for school development, Political leaders including Ward Councilor can be invited in order to support in pushing the school development agenda and be part of addressing challenges facing schools; Local leaders need to get orientation sessions to know their duties and responsibilities and linkage with school affairs.

The campaign is linked to ActionAid Tanzania CSPIV Programme Priority 2: Enhance civic participation and state accountability for democratic governance and redistribution of public resources (Taxes) for the delivery of quality, gender responsive public services (education and health). ActionAid Mafia will continue to support stakeholders' meeting that will be convened after every 6 months to assess the progress and see if the target of getting all schools in Mafia to have sufficient toilets is on track.

## Mafia LRP Evaluates School Toilet Campaign Progress

By Amri Lutera, Mafia LRP

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) Mafia Local Rights Programme (LRP), recently organized a one-day follow up meeting on its campaign dubbed SHULE NI CHOO, to evaluate agreed actions planned during last years' (August 09, 2019) advocacy meeting on improved toilets in schools.

The follow up meeting, which took place at Caritas Hall, brought together 50 representatives including the District Administration Secretary, District Executive Director, District Medical Officer, District Planning Officer, District Health Secretary, District Water Engineer, Head of departments of primary and secondary schools, Community Development and Social Worker, 10 teachers, 10 village chairpersons, 10 School Management Chairpersons, two representatives from school quality assurance and eight ward education officers.

The objective of the meeting was to evaluate progress on the agreed action plan on what needs to be done to improve sanitation facilities in schools, specifically toilets for girls and boys, including water services.

During the meeting, Mr Shabani Z. Shemsanga from the District School Quality Assurance Unit made a presentation on the improvement of school toilets in Mafia District and was followed by open an discussion by all participants.

Some of the challenges noted during the presentation were: Shortage of toilets, and some schools had no single toilet in good condition, with most of the school toilets being extremely dirty most of the time;

Students' inadequate knowledge on importance of keeping the toilets clean; Delays by the District Engineer to guide and advice school management about toilet construction; Lack of accountability by community members when it comes to development affairs of the general public; Poor involvement of political leaders in school development; Lack of accountability by the permanent committees in villages in monitoring the conditions of school toilets and Lack of water in some of the schools.

The Head of Mafia Planning Department, Mr. Shafii Kipande, during his contribution said, **"Mafia District has 34 primary schools of which 32 are government owned while two are private schools. It also has six (6) all government secondary schools. In 2019 the availability of quality modern toilets in primary schools was a challenge but with some efforts, 40% of the schools now have toilets which are in good condition, 30% of the schools are in on-going construction and maintenance while 30% of the schools have their toilets in bad condition. In 2020, the availability of quality modern toilets in primary schools is 77% (Key 77% good condition, 17.5% Bad condition and 5.5% No toilet at all) while for secondary schools is 100%. All the secondary schools have special rooms for adolescent girls in their toilets".**

During the discussion, participants agreed that community members need to be involved and there is need for closer supervision by village leaders, and School management need to ensure cleanliness of the school toilets through their systems.



Mr Shafii Kipande, Head of Mafia Planning department contributing during the meeting



# AATZ Presents Research Findings to Ministry of Education

**By Karoli Kadeghe, Education Manager**

ActionAid Tanzania recently presented a research report titled: The Bedrock of Inclusion: Why Investing in Teachers is Critical to the Delivery of SDG4, to the office of Commissioner for Education in the Ministry of Education Science and Technology at the Ministry's head office located at the University of Dodoma.

The presentation of the report, which was made by Pasian Siya from Tanzania Teachers Union on behalf of AATZ on the 20th of August 2020, was a response to a call extended to ActionAid by Dr Magreth Matonya, who is heading the Directorate of Inclusive Education in the Ministry.

The validation session was attended by 28(12f, 16m) government officials from the office of the Commissioner of Education - Ministry of Education Science and Technology.

The research report, presented for validation is a multi-country work conducted in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania in 2018/19, to assess the extent on these respective countries are investing in the provision of inclusive education especially on the human workforce - Teachers.

During the presentation which also involved discussion, reflections, questions and answers session, the commission team appreciated four key recommendations given by the report including being ready to learn and use the Washington Group Child-functioning module, since the currently used one-BEMIS/EMIS seems to have shortfalls.

They also challenged and advised re-addressing

of some issues, including showing disaggregated data by countries under study on how they are doing in the journey towards achieving delivering of quality inclusive education.

The validation meeting became a very helpful avenue for AATZ to learn that government is implementing a lot of initiatives to improve teaching and learning environment, including but not limited to maintenance of building, where already 22 sc secondary schools are about to be given 500 million shillings each for the same. On the same note, the ministry has already requested a permit to employ 400 special education teachers for the year 2020/2021. About 23 secondary schools in Tanzania mainland are now providing inclusive education.

The validation also opened doors for networking with ministry staff and other stakeholders.

The report is expected to be launched on the 5th of October 2020 at international level and thus prior its launching, it was deemed important that another final review is done on it before each respective country endorses or signs it.

In concluding the validation session, Dr Matonya extended gratitude to AATZ for the presentation made and contribution from participants. She also



**Dr Magreth Matonya (centre) leading discussion after presentation of the research report**

promised that the contribution provided will be included in the written feedback of the ministry to AATZ. She also showed the willingness of the Ministry to continue working together with ActionAid.

The research is part of Breaking Barriers/Tax Justice and Gender Responsive Public Service-Education project that ActionAid and its partners are implementing. The initiative focused on breaking barriers which inhibit children with disability and girls from enjoying quality publicly funded education.

## Empowering School Club Leaders on leadership Skills

**By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP**

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ), through its Unguja LRP, recently organized training on school-based violence prevention, aimed at increasing awareness among children on their rights and knowledge of preventing violence, building capacity of the school community such as teachers, parents, school management committees and CBOs/NGOs on violence prevention, respecting and protecting the rights of children, especially their right to education.

The training took place on the 13th and 18th of August 2020 in Unguja Zanzibar and involved leaders of school clubs (chair, vice

chair, secretary, treasurer,) and club teachers from 30 schools.

The schools that participated include Upenja, Makoba Secondary School, Mgambo, Donge Secondary School, Fukuchani Secondary School, Kidagoni Primary School, Matetema Primary School, Kinduni Primary School, Kandwi Primary School, Pale Secondary School, Kiwengwa Primary School, Nungwi Primary School, Nungwi Secondary School, Kibeni Primary School, Kibuyuni, Mangapwani. Others are Mahonda Primary School, Mahonda Secondary School, Fujoni Primary School, Kidoti, Potoa, Bndamaji and Kijini.

The aim of the training was to equip club leaders with important leadership and facilitation skills and to strengthen their capacity in setting strategies for better implementation of school-based violence prevention programme in their schools.

During the session, students were given room to interact and reflect on VAC in their perspectives. They were also oriented on the concept of violence, types of violence, and how to report cases of violence against children. The training package aimed at curbing violence against children at school settings.

*Continues page 8.....*

## Empowering School Clubs.....from page 7

The facilitator used methodologies such as presentations, discussions and brainstorming to make the training more effective.

During discussion, majority of the students demanded clarification on corporal punishment inflicted by teachers in school, the question which secured an antidote from school club teachers that the Ministry of Education in Zanzibar allows 2-3 whips to students in case of misconduct and the task is entrusted to the headmaster of the respective school.

“Students need to carry out their responsibilities, we teachers..... we don’t

like inflicting corporal punishment to students but in case of disobedience the government allows 2 up to 3 whips to students for the sake of discipline”, one of the school club teachers stressed.

The students also shared challenges on reporting VAC cases in suggestion boxes: “Sometimes we are afraid to write VAC cases and drop into suggestion boxes as the teacher might know your name,” one of the students murmured.

Students were taught on how to report cases in suggestion boxes without writing their names.

Furthermore, club leaders and club teachers were oriented on their specific roles as outlined in the school club manual. More importantly, club teachers were insisted on their coaching and supervisory roles to ensure that they create space for club leadership to down step VAC knowledge to the rest of children at school.

## Small Holder Women Farmers Learn Agriculture Accountability

*By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer*

In ensuring that the government plays its role of availing extension services to farmers especially women, MIICO, an ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) partner, conducted orientation training to women smallholder farmers in Mbozi District on accessing the right quality extension services to enhance food security.

The training, which was conducted from the 16th to 20th and from 22nd to 26th of June 2020, brought together 62 participants of which 42 were women. The participants came from five wards of Mbozi District and comprised village and ward officials, district representatives, development workers, CSOs and media representatives.

The main purpose of the training was to strengthen capacity of the community, especially women smallholder farmers (SHFs), towards demanding access to quality extension services as rights based (RB on Extension services) with analyzed supportive evidence based.

The training was conducted in both interactive and participatory ways, drawing from the appreciable and accumulated experiences of the development workers, media, government officials and community representatives working along women empowerment thematic areas, extension service delivery machineries and food security programmes.

During the training, participants were oriented on various agricultural policies, guidelines and acts, as important facilitating tools for accessing agricultural extension services and executing Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM). They were also taken through the citizen’s rights, planning and budgeting processes, access to financial resources to women, Agro-ecology, Social Accountability Monitoring and Gender aspects.

A quick scan of some policies revealed that provision of extension services to farmers (women inclusive) is adequately addressed and/or directed. It was also learnt that there are a number of policies, acts, programmes, plans, strategies etc in the agriculture and livestock sectors, but they are not adequately known to development practitioners (including government officials).

Contributing during the session, Ms Ajenikisa Kayange testified that women can present and defend their agenda if offered convenient advocacy environment. She shared that before MIICO and AATZ trainings, it was hard for women to stand up and demand their rights. But after being empowered, they were able to stand firm and convince voters in Hasamba to elect a woman councilor.

It was also learnt that even though Agro-ecology has proved to be sustainable and friendly to smallholder farmers, it also offers an appreciable degree of autonomy, freedom and economic options. Thus, food security for smallholder farming communities is solely anchored on Agro-ecology practices.

On the other hand, extension officers revealed that the government is not taking initiatives to enhance Agro-ecology but rather puts more effort on conventional agriculture. Therefore, women smallholder farmers were advised to diversify application of environmentally friendly agricultural practices that include Climate Smart Agriculture.

At the end of the training, it was concluded that human and citizen’s rights in

Tanzania that can be extracted from the constitution and other sectoral policies, strategies, guidelines, acts etc, have addressed significant concerns and directives in safeguarding women’s access to adequate, timely and quality extension services.

The noted major barriers have been poor enforcement of the mentioned legal intentions, which calls for concerted efforts from farming communities (especially women), development practitioners and governance arms to ensure that the opportunities and powers offered by the set legal documents benefit women and communities at large.

Other recommendations included establishment of oversight (watchdog) bodies, building strong coalitions, raising evidence based agendas (women and extension services), creating alternative solutions etc as ingredients to ensure that women priorities (in line with access to extension services and food security) are appreciated, honoured and taken aboard in development plans right from village, ward, district to national levels.

Actionaid in partnership with MIICO are implementing a project entitled: ‘Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight Capacity for Rights-based Public Resources Management in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa’. The PSA project is aimed at strengthening capacity of issue-based CSOs, women smallholder farmers’ organisations and media, in rights and evidence-based social accountability monitoring and advocacy in the agriculture sector.



## Serikali yatakiwa kusaini ACDEG

ali walipewe kulinika elimu kama ni astashada badala kadhi ya fani.

Erake, Ofisa Mkuu wa Serwa wa ActionAid, aliofanyika hivi karibuni, ongezeko la ajira moja na ongezeko wa nguzo hazina staha.

Ali lizi kazi ziwane maofisa ukuguzi ukuguzi wa mara tu za kazi ili kubalini angamotoni na kuzi-kusimamia staha.

Wawala ukuguzi wa kuzungumza na alazimisha wajirikuondoa udhalilawazwa wa kijinsi na kazi pamoja mchango ya mifuko kumbusha vyama