# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania Jan- March 2022

#### **AATZ Officially Exits Tandahimba and Newala**

ctionAid Tanzania has officially bid farewell to its stakeholders in Tandahimba and Newala Districts after a journey of more than fifteen years of bringing change to communities. The event took place on 23rd March 2022 in Tandahimba and 24th March 2022 in Newala District.

Tandahimba & Newala Local Rights Programme (LRPs) were started in 2002 and 2004 respectively. Three phases of strategic plans have been implemented to address poverty in the LRPs that have contributed to the national-level policy interventions in the process.

The farewell meetings in both districts were attended by various stakeholders whom AATZ worked with, including representatives of teachers, village leaders, community development facilitators, youth networks, women organizations, community groups, government departments, LGA, etc.

The aim of the farewell meeting was to mark the official end of AATZ programs and appreciate the successful engagement and cooperation of various stakeholders in both districts whose contribution has made AATZ work a success.

During the meeting, AATZ Head of Programmes and Policy Jovina Nawenzake presented the work done by ActionAid over the period, the achievements, and the areas in which the government, citizens, and stakeholders need to continue to focus on for sustainability.

Speaking during the event, Tandahimba District Commissioner Hon. Patric Sawala appreciated AATZ for organizing the farewell event and for the contribution to development in Tandahimba District.

"You have done a great job of empowering the community, and you have contributed significantly to the education sector, agriculture, etc. I promise we will work with my fellow district leaders to continue all that you have done. Said Hon Sawala

On their side, community members asked the district government to carry out all that has been established by AATz and to develop it including reflection Action circles, children's parliaments, women's organizations etc.

"Through the circles, ActionAid has built our capacity to mobilize and educate communities to identify and use the opportunities and resources available in their areas for

development. We urge the government to use these circles to educate the community and also to establish circles in areas that do not yet exist". advised Haroun Lada, refelection action circle facilitator.

For Newala District, a representative from the District Commissioner's office, Mr Danies Zenda appreciated AATZ for the great work they have done in Newala and for their cooperation. He also promised to work with the community to continue where AATZ has ended.

In the end, ActionAid issued certificates to various stakeholders as a sign of recognition and appreciation for their contribution to the success

Some of the achievements contributed by AATZ in the two districts are; enabling more than 10,000 children to access their right to education, increased community awareness about HIV / AIDS and thus help reduce the rate of infection, improved cashewnut production and leading to increased income for the



Tandahimba District Commisioner Hon.Patric Sawala handing over a certificate on behalf of AATZ to one of the stakeholder during the farewell

farmers, reducing acts of violence and sexual abuse especially arbitrary divorce, teenage pregnancy, and women's participation in decision-making at various levels.

Areas that AATZ requested the government to focus on for sustainability are; Improving school infrastructures, shortage of female teachers, Community participation in managing and improving the quality of education in rural areas.

The LRP programs were funded mainly through the sponsorship funding mechanism where children are linked to supporters from Italy (tandahimba) and Greece (Newala).

Implementation was mainly done at the village, ward, and district levels.

#### School Children Demand an Improved Learning Environment



friendly learning environment for children with disability, shortage of desks, classrooms, and teachers, etc.

"You find the school has more than 1,000 students and has six pit latrines for both boys and girls. This causes delays in sessions due to congestion during breaks, diseases eg UTI".

Explained Wema Nollo student at Mlowa secondary.

The demands were handed to the District Council chair for their consideration in their executions. They promised to work on those challenges, including showing how far the progress has been made in some of the challenges.

he School children from Chamwino and Singida Districts have requested the government to ensure an improved learning environment in schools, especially school infrastructures.

The children presented their demands during the meetings with Councilors and Council Management Teams organized by ActionAid Tanzania(AATZ) to present strategic areas that needed to be integrated into the district plans.

The advocacy meetings were conducted parallel in Singida and Chamwino Districts on 30th March 2022.

The meetings were attended by District Council members, Council Management Team (CMT) members, teachers from schools under the project areas, Youth forum members, women platform members, and school club members from schools under the project in each of the districts.

The purpose of the advocacy meeting was to provide an opportunity for children to present their messages on the challenges of infrastructures in their schools caused by low investment in education as it was revealed from the education budget analysis reports for both Chamwino and Singida.

The meetings were chaired by a selected member of the school club. The guest of honor was the District Council Chairpersons for Chamwino and Singida Districts.

Prior to the advocacy meeting, there were meetings in both districts to develop messages based on the budget analysis reports. This process involved children's club's members, youth forum members, teachers, and women platform members.

During the meeting, the children presented to the forum various challenges facing them in their schools and called the government to act against them. Some of the challenges were the lack of private rooms for girls, shortage of toilets, inadequate teachers' houses, lack of "When we leave here, we are going to work on these challenges. We will consult our fellow leaders so that a large percentage of the budget will go to the toilets".- said Edson Sweti, Chairperson Chamwino DC.

The activity was part of the Breaking Barriers: Tax Justice & Gender Responsive Public Services Project which was being implemented by ActionAid Tanzania from July 2018. It is a multi-country project which is under implementation in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Tanzania. It is funded by Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation-NORAD



#### ActionAid Joins Other Stakeholders in Zanzibar NGOs Forum



ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) joined other stakeholders in a two-day event titled "Zanzibar NGOs forum" (ZANGOF 2022) which took place at Golden Tulip Hotel in Zanzibar from 12th to 14th March 2022.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Hon. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairperson of Revolutionary Council and the official theme of the event was "Strengthening NGOs and Government Partnership for the Development of Zanzibar"

The objectives of the forum which brought together more than 393 participants from different sectors were; to increase awareness and understanding of NGOs legal framework, coordination, and compliance issues, promote good governance, transparency, and accountability, appreciate NGOs contribution to national development, strategize ways through which NGOs activities can support national plans and priorities, identifying challenges facing NGOs in their operations, find out best ways to address them as well as to facilitate networking and collaboration among NGOs stakeholders and the government.

The forum also involved an exhibition where 92 exhibitors both local and international NGOs were able to showcase their work, product, and services and fora between NGOs government.

AATZ was represented by the Country Director, Mr. Bavon Christopher, the Unguja LRP team, and NORAD project Manager Mr. Karoli Kadeghe. On the launching day, the guest of honor Hon. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar visited the AATZ booth and got an opportunity to listen to AATZ works. He was also given some research publications including "Sealing the Gap-An analysis of revenue foregone within the Tanzania tax system" and how it could be used to fund public education, Assessment of Child Abuse Case Management in the Justice System in Unguja, ActionAid Tanzania annual report 2021, etc

During the exhibition, beneficiaries of Action-Aid's work also shared with the public testimonies on how AATZ has contributed to women's economic empowerment, violence prevention, child rights, and empowerment in Unguja.

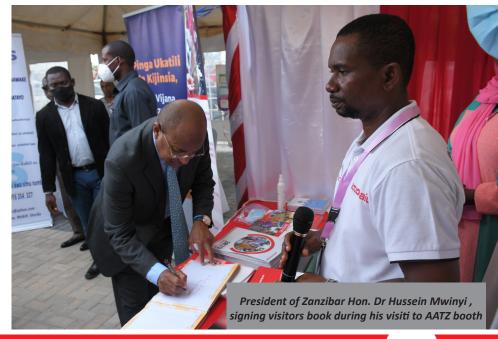
Apart from exhibitions, ActionAid Country Director Mr. Bavon Christopher and other staff took part in several sessions carried out during the forum including the development partners session by USAID where they learned about USAID fundraising.

The forum was a significant opportunity for AATZ to profile its work, strengthen its network and collaboration among NGOs and governmental institutions as well as build alliances and coalitions with other relevant stakeholders.

The forum was also a space to showcase ActionAid's work to the wider public including target beneficiaries, local partners, government authorities, and different development partners for future potential fundraising opportunities.

In the end, participants shared some of the challenges faced by CSOs in Zanzibar including outdated policies and laws governing CSOs operations whereby in some sectors policies do not match with laws.

They recommended that ZANGOF should be sustained to strengthen the relationship between CSOs and the Government and CSOs to continue advocating for the revision of outdated policies.



### Stakeholders Commend Project Contribution in the Education Sector



Stakeholders in Singida District have commended ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) for its significant contribution in improving education in the districts.

Stakeholders made the remarks recently in an interview during the data collection for the endline survey for the Breaking Barrier project that AATZ has been implementing in the district in collaboration with MEDO.

Stakeholders who took part in the interview were LGA officials(education, community development,treasury,) journalist, COS's rpresentatives etc.

Speaking during the interview, they said that the project through MEDO has been instrumental in stimulating improvements in the education sector in the district as there are challenges that the government cannot solve on its own hence the contribution of stakeholders became very important.

Through MEDO we have held many meetings and awareness sessions aiming to promote the rights of the girl child in schools including the presence of private rooms for girls.

Before the project, Girls were missing classes for up to 4 days each month. But awareness and follow-up have helped to reduce that challenge. Said Rehema Mbura, chairperson of the Ilongero primary school committee.

They also added that for a long time children with special needs had been forgotten and they were seen as a curse in the family. But various awareness and training conducted through MEDO have helped the government to make improvements and increase infrastructure in schools with a special education unit including llongero, Mgori and Mtinko.

In the beginning, these schools had a lot of challenges and the government had forgotten them. But the project through MEDO formed groups from the community and went through these schools to identify the challenges facing the schools and used the information to demand the government to take action to address them.

"For example, at Mgori primary school the children with disability were studying outside. But due to the influence and monitoring of the community and other stakeholders, finally, in 2021 the government provided 80 million for the construction of a dormitory and additional classes" explained stakeholders.

About school committees, the stakeholders said, the project has also helped to train school committee members to enable them to understand their responsibilities and to be able to monitor progress in their schools.

"Through the project, we were trained on how to run school committees, our responsibilities, various guidelines regarding school operations, etc. I used the knowledge to lead the committee and we have been very successful in managing various projects in the school." Explained Rehema

Representative from the media, added that the project has helped to educate parents and children hence increasing self-realization and understanding of their rights.

The project has provided awareness on tax justice and the importance of ensuring the tax is returned to support people development in their areas..

"We worked closely with the project and through our pens, the government has acted and made improvements in some of the schools. We used the knowledge we received to shout, and it helped to improve education. We have seen taxes returning to save the people, we saw buildings being built in schools." Said Emanuel Maiko, Star TV journalist

They also said that through the project councilors were empowered so that they could formulate participatory initiatives in their areas and work.

"The knowledge from the project helped us to scrutinize district plans and budgets hence it was easy to do informed decisions and pressurize District Council to take action to address education challenges in our areas. concluded Emmanuel Sima, Msisi Ward Councillor



#### Breaking Barriers in Education:

Community Awareness Increases the Enrollment of Children with Disabilities

n the past, the llongero and Singida communities in general, did not see the value of sending a child with a disability to school. Due to lack of knowledge, they believed a family having a child with a disability is a sign of a curse.

They had to hide or lock him/ her up so that people will not see him/her. They did not know that these children also have the right to quality education as other children.

The problem was also exacerbated by the fact that Many schools' environments were not friendly to children with special needs. This also contributed to the parent's difficulty in sending their children to those schools.

The situation has resulted in many children with disabilities continuing to stay at home and roaming the streets without registering for education.

In addressing the challenge and ensuring the right to quality education for children with disability, ActionAid Tanzania in collaboration with MEDO conducted different initiatives including training the school management committee(SMC) on inclusive education, the right to quality education for children with special needs, tax justice, monitoring of council plans and priorities and meetings with councilors and other stakeholders

The project also trained community groups eg women platforms, youth networks and other stakeholders on the importance of education for children with disability.

The initiatives led to increased community awareness on the right to quality education for children with disabilities. They started

Special education teacher at llongero primary Mr Muna instructing children with disability during their learning

using public meetings to provide education on inclusive education, and others started household visits looking for children with special needs to be enrolled in school.

"Through the training, we received from MEDO we as women used public meetings to educate the community on the importance of sending children with special needs to school. Also, every time we meet in our women groups(vicoba) in the village we used that opportunity to educate and persuade our fellow women about the importance of enrolling their children with disabilities in school". said Amina Ramadhani- one of the parents from llongero village

Also, the initiatives led to Increased parents' awareness and motivation. They started to see the need to send their children with disability

to school. They no longer hide children

For example, here in our village, there is a child who is disabled living with his relatives. Her mother left and moved to Arusha and left the child with his relative. The child was just at home roaming the streets. I tried to make a follow-up and find his mother. I explained and convinced her on the importance of sending her child to school. She understood and returned to sinaida and enrolled the child in school" added Amina.

llongero Primary headteacher, Mr Halid Msangi, explained that enrollment of children with special needs has increased from 14 children in 2017 to 36 children in 2021(21m,15f)

"MEDO training has greatly contributed in increasing the enrollment of children with special needs. Currently, parents are bringing their children to school. In 2021 alone we enrolled 14 children with disability. For us, this is a big number compared to the past years when you get 1 or none." Explained Head teacher, llongero Primary.

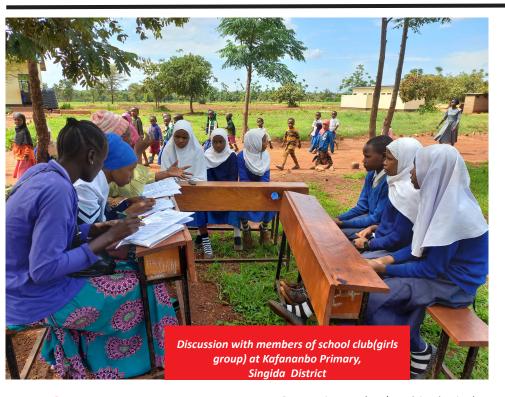
On his side, the special education teacher for llongero Primary Mr Muna added; "The community is now aware. We are receiving calls from people out of llongero requesting the opportunity to bring their children. Some parents from out of our division and ward are bringing their children with disability for enrolment. But the problem is where to keep them. Yes, we have classrooms. But We don't have a dormitory. And due to the nature of their disability, these children can't walk long distances alone. So, we are forced to return them back and enroll only the ones who are living neaby llongero village"

Action Aid Tanzania through *Breaking Barriers and tax justice* projects has been advocating to see governments take action to increase the SHARE of funds allocated to and spent on free, quality, inclusive public education.



#### Breaking Barriers in Education....

#### Empowering The Community and School Clubs to Demand Quality Education



community awareness on the importance of education continued to increase the enrolment rate in Kafanabo Primary School in Singida District.

The school was established in 2015 through community members initiatives who did not want to see their children walking long distances every day to access education.

The school is among 20 schools in Singida District where the project is being implemented.

As the school grows, available infrastructures also become inadequate for a quality learning environment. There was a shortage of classrooms, and the condition of the available toilets was also not good.

With the support from ActionAid Tanzania, MEDO continued to empower School Management Committees (SMC) school clubs, and community groups to demand their right to quality education for their children.

MEDO conducted training and awareness sessions on tax justice and PRS to SMC, community groups and school clubs.

Apart from training, School Management Committees (SMCs), community groups other stakeholders were also trained on how to do budget analysis and to monitor District Council plans and priorities. Community members' participation in the Baseline survey in 2019 also gave them an opportunity to understand challenges affecting education in their area and what needs to be done to address them.

Other initiatives were organizing learning visits to Mtinko, llongero and llongero schools for learning, media engagement, and stakeholders' meetings.

Using the knowledge, ommunity groups eg youth and other stakeholders used different available platforms eg village and ward meetings to spread awareness on tax and child rights to community members.

The awareness on the importance of education and tax justice to school clubs led to increased students' confidence and ability to communicate and articulate their challenges.

The regular initiatives also increased the awareness and motivation of community members in following up and demanding quality education for their children. It also

increased the attention of District stakeholders to the school.

As a result of the initiatives, the school received TZS 67.7 million(2020/2021) from the government for the construction of three classrooms and a toilet with 7 pit latrines. The construction has been finalized and they are now in use.

"Through MEDO I participated in various training including training on the importance of tax in the education development (tax justice). The trainings has helped to open our minds. I did not know my responsibilities regarding school budget, income, and expenditure. After the training, we realized that it is also our responsibility to monitor these things for the development of the school.

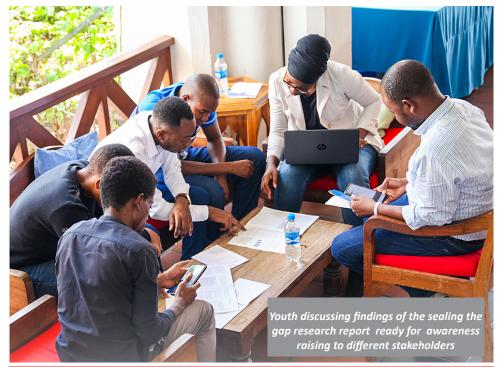
We used the knowledge to continue raising awareness to community members through village meetings about their participation in monitoring and provision of quality education for our children.

For example, We had very bad toilets and inadequate classrooms in the school. But after the various training they gave to the children through the school clubs, the children continued to raise their voices about the shortage of toilets and classrooms. Through their voices, the school received funds for the construction of better toilets and classrooms.

For us, we can say confidently our school has reached this far because of MEDO initiatives"

Narrated John Nyimba, one of the parents.





### Research/Evidence-Based Approach Added Value to The Project

overment officials and stakeholders in Chamwino and Singida districts have said the research and evidence approach used by ActionAid Tanzania in the implementation of its project *Breaking Barriers: Tax Justice & Gender Responsive Public Services* has helped to stimulate implementation and thus bring about change in the education sector.

This was said during the session to assess the implementation of the project which was held in Chamwino and Singida districts in the month of February.

The stakeholders said the approach was effective and it has greatly contributed to pushing decision-makers to take action to address various challenges identified.

They said that during the implementation of the project, AATZ used the technique of conducting research and gathering evidence about the challenges they wanted to address and then used the information to influence and advocate at various levels.

They pointed out that, many of the improvements made during the project period have been attributed to various studies and evidence done by the project.

"Your studies and evidence have helped to open the eyes of government officials because through these studies the government has been able to see the reality and use it to make decisions. For example Ikumese primary school, the government had almost forgotten it. But using the evidence the project enabled the community to shout and demand improvements and now the school is fine, said Njau, a community development officer for Singida District Council".

They added that the studies/researches were also good due to the participatory approach which was used during data collection.

We witnessed community members of the respective areas participating in data collection and analysis of your reserches. By involving citizens in data collection, it gives them the opportunity to see with their own eyes and understand the magnitude of the challenges rather than being done by outsiders/consultants and bringing reports to them. It motivates them to find solutions. Explained one of the stakeholder from Chamwino.

They further said the studies and evidence have helped to challenge government leaders and

push them to take action to bring about improvements.

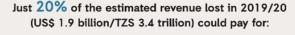
Your research has helped us to get the agenda to take forward during our internal meetings . For example, we used the evidence you collected on the situation on the challenges facing children with disability in their learning environment to advocate for improvement in Mgori, Mtinko, llongero,-schools. Said Emmanuel Sima

Research has been done, challenges have been identified and solutions have been found. In the previous years, We did not know the magnitude of the problems facing education in our areas. But the research and evidence collected have helped us to identify the magnitude of the problem.

They also suggested that, although the research approach is good, it is important to look at its timing and also involve more stakeholders e.g journalists. This is important because they can help with how to put a message that will be easier to reach the community.

Generally, the approach has greatly contributed to reducing some of the barriers to the education sector in the project districts. Our advice is that the studies should continue to focus on addressing the challenges and not shaming the government.

Some of the studies conducted during the implementation of the project were; the baseline survey, Education budget analysis in light of distribution and gender lens, Sealing the gap, privatization of education, the bedrock of inclusion, why investing in teaching workforce etc





186,898 preprimary and primary teachers



The cost of educating all 3.5 million children estimated to be out of



Constructing all 226,065 classrooms estimated to be needed



Other critical needs within the education sector.

## ActionAid Conducts Dialogue on the State of Inservice Training Financing for Teachers

ctionAid Tanzania in collaboration with Tanzania Teachers Union(TTU) conducted two days of the national dialogue on the state and importance of in-service training financing for teachers in Tanzania on 30-31st March 2022 in Dodoma.

The dialogue brought together representatives from Tanzania Teachers Union(TTU), academicians, government departments, and CSOs.

The aim of the dialogue was to provide an avenue for stakeholders to discuss and share information and generate a common understanding on the importance, the status, and hurdles in guaranteeing in-service training provision to teachers in Tanzania, brainstorm and highlight key policy/legal guidelines in the country on in-service trainings and their effectiveness, reflect on the state of in-service training to teachers in Tanzania and its implications to education delivery and quality and chatting out how stakeholders-CSOs, Trade unions, Academia, Media Houses can support teachers' union to advocating for adequate financing of in-service training in Tanzania.

During an official opening, ActionAid Tanzania representative, Amne Manangwa said the organization understands the efforts teachers are making and believes that TTU has experience on matters pertaining to teachers and will take lead in making sure that the deliberations become a useful advocacy instrument to influence the government carter for INSET financing sufficiently.

On their side, TTU Deputy General Secretary Comrade Maganga explained that TTU is advocating for the welfare and rights of the



teachers in Tanzania.

He further explained the efforts the union is making to ensure teachers undergo in-service training through the support of the union, government, and donors through various forms of partnership. The aim of this trainings is to make sure that, teachers are well-updated with on-going changes in society and globally. He said, there are teachers who were employed in 1990s who have not undergone any in-service training.

He also insisted that the lack of regular in-service training for teachers is a crisis, and therefore, it requires more seriousness by the government and other stakeholders.

During the session, participants had a preliminary brainstorming focusing on the understanding of Inservice Training of teachers, the importance of inservice training

of teachers, the implementation of in-service training etc.

In addition to reflection, a presentation regarding in-service training was done by Dr Lucas Mkonongwa. The presentation focused to give participants an understanding of in-service training, Legal and Policy framework of In-service training in Tanzania"

As a way forward, participants also discussed the major critical issues, and how to address them. Some of the critical issues identified were lack of political will, no budget is allocated for in-service training; lack of coordination for INSET of teachers, lack of regularly known framework for INSET, Lack of participation of TTU and CSOs in the budgeting process at district council level, Donor dependence on INSET, attitudes towards INSET which for the teachers is more of getting allowances than knowledge and skills.

ActionAid Tanzania understands that ducation is a fundamental human right which is vital to increase employment and income opportunities. Thus, access to education is an entitlement and fundamental human right to all children and provision of quality inclusive education is an obligation of the governments.

If teachers are to perform their functions effectively and efficiently, it becomes imperative for them to require training in new skills and modern methodology



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### "Shule ni Choo Campaign" Brought a New Hope for Children

puring the implementation of its programs in Mafia district, AATZ realized that most primary schools are not supplied with toilets for comfortable learning. As the result, the situation brought a negative impact on school children, and most girls were affected.

The environment was not friendly to either pupils or teachers. The challenge was discussed critically and led AATZ to use that meeting to share the SVAGS Project baseline findings to reflect on the magnitude of the problem of inadequate toilets for both pupil and teachers.

Through a three years(2019-2021) campaign dubbed "Shule ni choo" ActionAid continues with different engagements to support the communities to campaign on shule ni choo" just to ensure that in the end there is an improvement in the availability of toilets in schools.

The campaign was launched in 2019 targeting the Mafia District Councilors, Planning & education department, District executive director, District Commissioner, ward and village leaders, Marine Park, and Mafia member of parliament representative.

As part of monitring the campaign progress, every year various stakeholders had to mee to evaluate the performance of the agreed interventions.

The campaign initiatives was led by Sauti Ya Waanawake Mafia(SAWAMA), CDF's, children clubs representatives.

As the initiatives of the campaign continues, it resulted to the construction of toilets in 5 schools which were; Kilimahewa, Kanga, Ndagoni, Kipingwi primary School and Gonge which helped to reduce the problem by 70%.



District Community Development officer contributing during "Shule ni choo"reflection meeting

Apart from that progress, during the 2020 campaign review meeting,the District Executive Director(DED)reported that the district has allocated 5 millions to each school which have the shortage of toilets.

Also, the communities, CDFs' and SAWAMA members requested the Mafia Member of the Parliament (MP) to channel the matter to the ministry of education.

As a result of the initiaves, the central government through the Ministry of Finance channelled a total of 1.8 billion Tanzania Shillings to the Mafia district account to support the construction of 2 to 4 classrooms, pit latrines within 20 primary schools in Mafia.

The construction was almost done, and these efforts has reduced the problem of toilets by 70%.

The funds spent to supply public schools with toilets but not still connected with clean water.

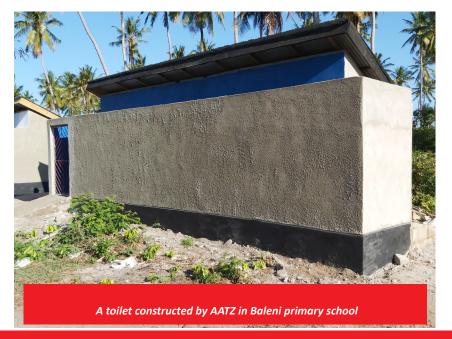
In ensuring quality wash services in schools, community members who have attended the meetings agreed to mark the end of SHULE NI CHOO campaign and re- introduce The new campaign known as "CHOO NI MAJI" campaign for the duration of three years to put emphasis to different stakeholders in adoption of School Water, Sanitation & Hygiene program within the schools development plans.

In Mafia, So far 12 schools out of 40 public schools are connected with water which make students to enjoy their learning environment.

Apart from monitoring imporvement of toilets and environment, the community is now aware on importance of education. and they are doing initiaves

Mother's club are mentoring girls on their growth development in relation to sanitation issues.

"Parents from Mafia have changed a lot as they can follow up and make sure their children are attending school regularly than before. Also parents now attending school meeting and making follow-up of their children progress this is also a good work done in the community by School Management Committee". Omari a teacher of Baleni Primary school and a resident of Baleni village.



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### Pictorial.....Tandahimba/Newala Exit



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