

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

May 2019

Orienting Staff and Partners on Reflection Action Process



Omary Salim, Pemba LRP officer explaining to community members about income and expenditure tree tool before using it with community members.

photo by Samwel Mkwatwa

By Paulina Teveli, Communication Officer

AATZ staff and representatives of partner organisations came together for a full week training on Reflection Action process at Seascape Hotel in Dar-Es-Salaam.

The training which took place at the end of May and facilitated by the Head of Policy and programmes, Ms Jovina Nawenzake involved thematic managers, project coordinators/ managers, LRP coordinators and officers and partners staff

The aim of the training was to orient staff and partners on the reflection action process and tools so that they can mobilize and organize people for course of action. The training was also organised as part of the efforts to operationalise and realise the goals of the Country Strategy Paper Four (CSPIV).

The training was also necessary because it will help LRPs and partners create grassroots forms and develop strong connections in addressing structural causes of poverty and inequalities. Connecting people and actions is very important to mobilize mass and sup-

port to shift power and realise sustainable change unlike working in isolation. Most important the organization intends to promote peer to peer learning and alliance building.

The training was officially opened by, AATZ country Director Mr Yaekob Metena. He highlighted that both Global and AATZ strategies made commitment to deepen rootedness of the organisation programmes and advance the HRBA approach. Thus, this training is very important to operationalize the two strategies as well as deepen HRBA practices across the organization.

He emphasized that to make reflection action a reality, staff and partners must cascade the knowledge down to the community, learn from previous community development facilitation circles, strategically select community facilitators and develop a workable plan.

During the training, different learning methodologies were applied as most part of the reflection action process includes tools to analyse different rights and development issues.

Also, as part of the training participants had an opportunity to visit a nearby community SOGA village to practice the learned tools with community members. Participants in their groups prepared different tools which they used at community in Soga to analyse different issues as per group preference.

At the end of the training participants set a way forward where each LRP and partner organisation developed an action plan on how they will apply the knowledge. The action plans aimed to establish Reflection

Action Circles in the community which in future will help to form strong movements at the grassroots level.

LRPs and partners will use Reflection Action circles to ensure continuous power analysis and constituency building. Thus, the existing community-based organizations and Women Rights Associations will be transformed and ensure that their activities are contributing to the broader vision for social change.

Reflection Action is designed as an integrated approach drawing best practices from all other participatory approaches. The 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.

Do I Fit For The Purpose?

Action Aid Tanzania has, since 2017, undergone changes in the management process, a move that has had implications on its programme directions and organizational development processes such as structure and staffing.

On the other hand, the organization has put in place a new Country Strategy Paper for 2018 - 2022 that requires renewed commitment of all the staff and leadership.

To address this, the Senior Management Team(SMT) decided to bring together the entire ActionAid Tanzania family to convene for retreat and get time to reflect on achievements and challenges, as well as lessons learnt so that everybody is aware of organizational expectations and effectively play his/her part.

The retreat that took place at Tanga Beach Resort, in Tanga Region from the 5th to the 10th of May 2019 with the theme **"Do I fit for the purpose?",** had specific objectives to internalize and build clarity on the new CSP IV Priorities and HRBA programming; build common understanding on new ways of working between different functions of the organization and partners.

It was also aimed at boosting team spirit, imparting organizational values towards implementation of the new CSP IV, building a strong country programme and to put together strong staff relationship which



Solidarity commitment...

Photo by Samwel Mkwatwa

enhances team work.

Addressing staff through skype, ActionAid Regional Director Mr Jemal Ahmed told participants that retreat is an important space to re-energize and commit our work to marginalized women, children and young people.

He also stressed upon the importance to refer and reflect on global strategy and ensure that social justice cannot be achieved without social movements and activism in our programmes, which in turn should be able to address injustice and reduce poverty.

funny together for team spirit.

"This is a rare opportunity which the organization has committed to ensure staffs are able to participate and come up with new energy. The organization has committed money to this event because it adds value, not only in terms of getting reflections but also ensuring staff are rejuvenated into new spirit," added Metena

During the retreat, reflections on the organisation's vision and priorities around programme, finance, human resources and support service and familiarisation of different policies took place.

Also, apart from work related programmes, team building exercise and entertainment were mainstreamed across events to refresh and renew individual and group commitments.

Giving closing remarks, Mary Nsemwa – AATZ Board Chair who was also among the board members who participated in the retreat said; *"Retreat is a space to come together, reflect and do resolutions. The things you were talking here are not just noises, but they are things that will strengthen the pillars of AATZ. We need to learn and reflect from our own experiences, practices, and policies. We are players of AATZ and as a team, we need to aim to achieve together,"* insisted Mary.



happy moments after games..

Senior Management Team Visit Chamwino LRP

The Senior Management Team members consisting of the Country Director, Head of Program and Policy, Head of HROD & SS and Head of Finance conducted a visit to Chamwino and Singida Local Rights Program (LRP) from June 2 – 5, 2019.

The main purpose of the visit was to jointly review the partnership status ActionAid Tanzania has with AFNET in the management of the LRP. AFNET has started the full management of the LRP since January 2019 after a one-year transition period.

The visit included introductory meeting with AFNET staff, site visit to Kawawa and Chilonwa Villages where discussions were held with children, community representatives, Community Development Facilitators and village government officials.

Separate discussions were also held with program and finance staff and the Executive Director which was substantiated with document review.

In the course of the visit, assessments were made on program implementation in light of program quality parameters, the financial management practices

vis-a-vis policies, procedures and standard practices and the human resource management processes.

Moreover, review was made to understand to what extent AFNET has addressed recommendations/ advises provided by ActionAid Tanzania Team on program implementation financial and human resource management in the past.

Among others, the site visit created an opportunity to the team to interact with community representatives and children and Community Development Facilitators in particular.

The conversation conducted with children who are members of school clubs in both village schools indicated how children are conversant of their rights.

'Now, I know my rights. The government has to provide all children quality & free compulsory education' was the testimony shared by Aziza J, a 13 years old girl.

Many other children narrated well list of children's rights and how they demand these.

The interaction made with 4 Community Development Facilitators (CDFs) in Chilonwa Village also shed light on how they are involved in community development works and sponsorship management.

The team learned that the CDFs are aware of their expected roles and are deeply involved in grass-roots works. They indeed raised questions on their engagement to which the team explained and also advised AFNET on how to address.

Generally, the review process revealed that the partnership has progressed well in the last five months in areas of program implementation, financial management, sponsorship management and other administrative matters.



Exchange of ideas with Community Development Facilitators during the visit

On the other hand, limitations were observed in all of these areas that have affected the overall performance of AFNET some of which are serious that deserve urgent attention by the AFNET management and the Board.

The team also observed some limitations from ActionAid side in shaping the partnership. The exercise also enabled the team to understand AFNET's views on the partnership process and its expectations from ActionAid Tanzania.

At the end of the visit, the team had a feedback session in which two AFNET Board members (Chair and a members), the Executive Director and Senior Staff attended where detailed feedback was shared including areas that deserve urgent action by AFNET to ensure the partnership



Aziza at her school

Pemba Youth Demand Accountability & Right to Participation

By Omar Salim, Pemba LRP

In enhancing good governance through rights, youth need to be groomed in a manner that will make them good citizens, who actively participate in issues affecting their lives. But for Zanzibar, it is still a challenge, as despite young people being the largest group in terms of population, they are not involved in the development planning.

To make matters worse, limited opportunities for them to participate in political processes and decision-making, have had a profound effect on their economic and decent employment prospects. And, youth for a long time have been complaining that democratic participation and their right to participation are not enjoyed by many young people in the Isles.

In addressing this challenge, ActionAid Tanzania has been empowering youth through trainings and mobilization, to help them become vibrant in demanding their involvement and participation when it comes to decision making, in various aspects that impact their lives, as well demanding improved public services in their localities.

The intervention saw youth clubs being established in three shehias, to act as an avenue and provide a platform for youth to analyse, reflect on their social problems and look for possible solutions.



Said Musa leading a discussion during one of the meetings with youth in his community

Having been trained, some members of these clubs started to disseminate the knowledge through training other community members on youth participation, taxation and GRPS, democracy and other concepts that ActionAid is spearheading.

In addition, youth from the North Region made inroads by meeting councillors to discuss their challenges and demand better social services in Micheweni and Wete districts especially on education, health and water services.

“After the trainings we received from Actionaid, as youth from Pemba we decided to meet councillors to share our views on how we can be involved in issues affecting our lives. And as members of the community, we have many things that we think can be done by the government to improve gender responsive public services in our district,” said Said Mussa, a youth from North Region.

He said that they met as youth and reflected on challenges and possible solutions, adding, “We decided to write a letter to councillors in Micheweni and Wete districts on our demands as

stipulated in the youth policy including the allocation of 5% of the budget for the youth, involvement of youth in issues affecting them, regular meetings between district council and youth and for thorough analysis of the community needs based on quality education requirements.”

Mussa also said that during the process, they noticed that Micheweni and Wete district councils were not even aware of the 5 per cent allocation for youth development. The councils declare that from the coming budget, they will allocate the required percentage for youth development as the policy stated.

“I really acknowledge and appreciate the efforts made by ActionAid in building our capacity and how they made us confident in fighting for our right to participation and also making leaders accountable”. “narrated Musa.

In its Country Strategy Paper(IV), the organisation is committed to advance the rights of young people through mobilising and supporting youth and their organisations and movements to advocate for progressive policies or legislation and their effective implementation.



Pemba Youth in one of the bonanza organised as a strategy to scale up awareness raising

EAC Farmers Push For Adequate Agriculture Budget Allocation

By Joram Wimmo, PFA Project Coordinator

The East African Community (EAC) smallholder farmers have called upon the region's partner states to allocate adequate budget for agricultural development in their countries.

The call was made during the 4th EAC Agriculture Budget Summit held in Arusha last month, which brought together smallholder farmers, CSOs, media and government officials from the EAC region.

The summit with the theme, *'Promoting an Inclusive, Farmer Centered EAC Agriculture Budget Process: Towards Fulfilling Malabo Declaration Goals'*, was aimed at catalysing participation and inclusion in public financing and policy making for agriculture at the EAC level, as well as enhancing mutual accountability to benefit smallholder farmers, including women in the region.

The farmers urged the region's six partner states to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture, if they want to address poverty in their countries, emphasizing that EAC should be concerned about food import costs they incur, as millions of people go to bed on empty stomachs.

They also observed, with great concern, the numerous challenges faced by small-scale farmers and sector actors which include; poor post-harvest handling, imperfect and non-functioning markets and the exploitative market practices, poor investments in research, limited access to markets within the region and beyond, limited access to financing and technologies, effects of climate change, unresponsive policy and legal frameworks, pests and diseases and limited access to agricultural extension services among others.

In his opening remarks, the Rt EALA Speaker, Honourable Ngoga Martin said that it was indeed an honour to see the Legislative Assembly working with them and the recommendations will be taken



**THE 4TH EAC AGRICULTURE BUDGET SUMMIT
MAY - 10 - 2019 AT EAC HEADQUARTERS
ARUSHA - TANZANIA**



seriously.

He further noted that agriculture has remained a critical sector in EAC partner states and it is important that stakeholders join forces and focus on improving it in line with the commitment of EAC Heads of State, EALA MPs, national parliaments, CSOs as well as the media among others.

"The people of EAC are largely rural and natural resources based; majority of whom depend on agriculture, therefore, as an economic sector agriculture plays an important role in the EAC integration process. The sector contributes about 30% of the regional GDP and in terms of food security and employment, agriculture employs close to 80% of the region's 170million people who live in rural areas and depend on farming for their livelihoods."

The Speaker promised that he will work with his team to ensure that the summit is institutionalized and is included in the EALA annual calendar. He also suggested that it is better for members of the national parliament to participate in the summit, since they are the ones that do the planning for their respective governments and when they become part of the process more success will be realized.

Hon Dr. Gabriel Garang Aher Arol, who is a member of the Agriculture Trade and Natural Resources (ATNR) from South Sudan, said there is disconnection between small-scale farmers and institutions of learning such as universities and colleges.

"Politicians talk on issues and make legislations and policies but don't take steps to implement those policies. We can talk but if policies are not implemented nothing will be improved. There is need to make sure that our technocrats implement policies to solve problems affecting our people."

Among other issues, participants insisted that EAC should spearhead the establishment of the East Africa Agriculture and Food Security Commission to strategically handle issues of agriculture transformation, and food and nutrition security in the region.

In closing remarks, Constance Okeke, Actionaid's International Project(PFA) Manager said, *"We are Grateful of the opportunity to have women farmers from all the 6 partner states. We hope to get the support of EALA and that in the coming biennial review report all the EAC partner states will not be below the set-up benchmark indicator."*

In the month of May, agriculture and specifically agro-ecology was the major topic from our work which caught media interest. To read more the stories, visit the news section in our website at www.tanzania.actionaid.org

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By Beatrice Philemon

ASHA Ramadhani one of villagers in Ntondo village, Singida Rural District who have benefited from a three-year project known as Singida Nutrition and Agro-ecology Project (SNAP).

The project was established in 2001 in Singida Rural District to promote agro-ecology and food security involving women. The project aims to improve food security and enhance household and community resilience.

Implemented in Singida Rural District, SNAP is coordinated by the Singida District Council in partnership with the Singida District Council Foundation.

For more information, contact the Singida District Council Foundation.

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PAVING THE WAY

Il libro *Il mondo non è un villaggio* di John R. Coatsworth, edito da Adelphi, è un'opera di grande valore scientifico e di grande interesse per il pubblico. Il libro è diviso in tre parti: la prima parte è dedicata alla storia del commercio internazionale, la seconda parte è dedicata alla storia del commercio interno, la terza parte è dedicata alla storia del commercio internazionale e del commercio interno. Il libro è un'opera di grande valore scientifico e di grande interesse per il pubblico.

Wednesday 23 May 2019

By Correspondent Gerald Kluge

SINGIDIA district needs a better chance to improve rural life. Gender and food security than any other time following a comprehensive rape-avoidance training project that has so transformed a great number of farmers from 20 villages and received peer educators who are now playing a key role of educating farmers.

Through Singidha Nutrition and Agro-ecology Project (SNAEP) the member farmers have worked hard to establish the

They also carry out more home visits to reach their ill-farmer about health and feeding child and feeding practices and gender.

"We have been imploring this project for a period of years. In our district we have a shortage of extension officers but through tractor farmers are now aware that we shall be using tillage that are not in project. I commend Action Tractor and farmers for initiative of empowering a farmer, he said.

The last employment of extension officers was in 2012, it

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The farmers have been taught on how to prepare proper nutritious food without loss of some food nutrients. Through SNAP, the farmers have also been educated on the importance of preparing nutritious food.

Moreover, there is a change of mindset among the farmers as many are now involved in agroecology methods, mixed farming and intercropping. In the past, for example, the legumes were used as cash crops but through the project, have changed the farmers who are now growing and consuming the legumes for protein.

According to Edward John from Maphonga village, SNAM has addressed nutrition and gender issues through training and exposure visit which was held in Malawi a couple of years ago.

The participating households received assorted varieties of legume seed to plant up to a quarter-acre, choosing from a basket of legume options to suit their needs including pigeon peas, cowpeas, groundnuts, and soybeans.

ALA meets challenge

achievements are to participate in Nuzuman shows at Nigatal grounds in Dodoma where we received the trophy after naming the winners.

Pili Shabani from Nsinda village explained that many farmers had no knowledge on agronomy methods, nutrition and gender but after the intervention, this knowledge has spread to many communities.

"Dietary diversity in many households and consumption of more fruits and vegetables, animal

Many farmers are now confident of getting nutrition and ensuring food security due to introduction of intercropping system. The project has also addressed gender issues in the sense that male-dominated and women inferiority are gradually disappearing, she said.

"Women have been empowered, they are now participating fully in meetings and decisions making at household level and at the village level. They are

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could be helping the local and indigenous smallholders to be able to grow and eat because for the next ag-

on the project, a representative Nelson Mandela Israel started thanked the director council and for work-

the objective of the cooperation has been production, ensuring improved nutrition, education on agroecology issues.

At Lund University we give your participation value and achievements in course of implementation," she said.

Professor, Jyoti Mangra
Indira Gandhi **Research and**
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hated for more. The Chair of the lobby and supporters passed to help the servers.

...and the East Africa group, which will coordinate an expedition to the region by working with the United Nations. The group hopes to find out why the violence has broken out there and how to prevent it from spreading to other parts of the continent.

The United Nations has also sent a peacekeeping force to the region. The force is made up of soldiers from several African countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, and Senegal. The force is supposed to help the warring parties reach a peaceful settlement.

The situation in the region is still very tense. There are many reports of violence and human rights abuses. The United Nations is working to help the people of the region and to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

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Life sciences must have policy

The government must provide a policy framework for the life sciences sector, says a report by the National Commission on Bioethics and Biosafety. The report, titled 'National Commission on Bioethics and Biosafety: Report of the Commission', was released on September 10, 2009. It is the first of a series of reports that will be released over the next few months. The report highlights the need for a clear policy framework for the life sciences sector, which is currently fragmented and lacks a cohesive vision. It also identifies key areas for policy development, including bioethics, biosafety, and biotechnology. The report is a significant contribution to the ongoing debate on the regulation and development of the life sciences sector in India.

Professor urges
on agro-ecology

...the world's govt

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Pictorial.....



More practical discussion on Reflection Action Tools



Head of Programme facilitating during the training



Staff & partners reflecting together on Reflection Action tools



group photo during the retreat



We are winners.....

All photos by Samwel Mkwatwa



"We have other talents....."



"Super Users..."