

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

October 2020

AATZ Launches Walk for Survival Campaign

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ), on the 16th of October 2020, held a soft launch of the **Walk for Survival Campaign** in Dodoma. This is an Action-Aid Global Campaign which calls for action in face of various crises brought about and/or exacerbated by Covid-19.

During the soft launch, ActionAid Tanzania managed to mobilize 85 rural women farmers from different parts of Tanzania, including the Rural Women Association (RWA) which comprises women who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in 2016, to demand land rights. They were briefed about the campaign agenda and asked to participate in light activities that reflect the Walk for Survival actions.

In her speech, Jovina Nawenzake (ActionAid



Some women who took part in the launch of Walk for Survival Campaign displaying their messages

Tanzania Head of Programmes and Policy said, **“As we commemorate the World Food Day today, AATZ is also walking with other stakeholders with key advocacy messages to influence the government and other respective authorities for survivors of climate justice, which will also mark an official soft launch of Walk for Survival Campaign”.**

During the walk, women participants managed to walk 1Km displaying key

messages on placards such as: “we walk for investment on technology and research on agro-ecology, for adequate resources allocation for agro-ecology, for adequate and quality of extension services, for timely alerts on weather forecast to small holder producers, for promotion and use of indige-

nous seeds, for security and protection to rural women, for equitable earning and decision making on the produces, and for government investment on soil fertility”.

The Walk for Survival is a way to facilitate people to take action. The “walk” is a mobilization opportunity that will help spur and jumpstart our urgent campaigns. The campaign is focusing on bringing people’s issues to the fore and demands to different targets. The campaign is also to help raise ActionAid’s profile, awareness and increase support and constituency around key AA issues, explore fundraising possibilities and stimulate the federation into a joint mobilization action.

ActionAid Tanzania is part of the ActionAid Countries which support and implement the walk for survival campaign under key thematic areas which include; climate justices (food security and livelihoods), Promoting Decent work for Youth and Women, Free and Decent Public Health and Gender-Based Violence.



“We walk for government investment on soil fertility”

National Dialogue on Decent Work in Agriculture



National Dialogue session in progress

By Amne Manangwa, Women's Right Manager

On the 15th of October, every year, the world commemorates the International Day of Rural Women to recognize, celebrate and honour the contribution and critical role played by rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

AATz works with smallholder women farmers from various districts, where the organisation has enabled majority of smallholder women farmers to be part of several platforms, and to discuss key aspects of agriculture including promoting increased financing in the agriculture sector, where needs and demands of smallholder women farmers are given priority.

In commemorating this year's International Day of Rural Women, AATz organized a national level dialogue bringing together representatives of government institutions from the Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Uyole – Mbeya, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) Mtwara; national and local CSOs/NGOs working on agriculture-land related programmes, such as ANSAF, Oxfam, and also representatives of smallholder women farmers.

Complimenting the outcome of the workshop held with smallholder women farmers on analysis of decent work in

agriculture, the national dialogue sought to build on the advocacy around strengthening the role of women in rural and agricultural economies by incorporating the agenda of decent work within agriculture.

It was noted that, 54% of labour vested in agriculture relies on women who are regarded as primary producers. Women work in either family owned farms or as casual labourers for other farm owners, producing either and/or both food and cash crops. However, the working conditions in the agricultural field do not embrace decent work standards, ie. Majority do not have access to modern farming technology to ease their manpower, inadequate access to personal protective equipment for use eg. during disposal of pesticides, indecent

working hours, inadequate access to the market economy and inadequate earning to compensate their labour. Key deliberations of the dialogue summed up that women being a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, constraints that reduce their productivity must be eliminated. Women deserve to benefit from their labour and possess adequate earnings.

Through established networks/platforms for smallholder women farmers, AATz has enabled majority of women to participate in analysis of the government's budget on agriculture sector and develop their charter of demands to influence decision making in government budgeting processes.



Anastazia Madeje, farmer from Chamwino contributing during the dialogue

“Our Labour Should Be Honored Because We Feed The World”

By Amne Manangwa, Women’s Rights Manager

Women are considered as the primary force in agriculture and leading actors in the fight against climate change. They are mainly a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy, as major contributors to food and nutritional security, to generating income and to improving the livelihoods and general welfare of households.

Because of their role in the agriculture economy, women are at the heart of the resilience of societies. However, their labour is inadequately compensated.

Despite women being producers of agricultural produces – ownership of and decision over the produces remain to be the responsibility of a man, with minimal inclusion/involvement of a woman in the process. As such, their agricultural labour is not considered to fall within the standards of a decent labour/work.

Prior to the national commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women, on the 09th October, this year, AATz organized a smallholder women famers’ forum with the objective of analysing smallholder women farmers’ perspectives on decent work in agriculture.

The session brought onboard smallholder women farmers from Kilosa, Mbozi, Kishapu, Simanjiro, Kilwa, Tandahimba, Pemba, Unguja, Singida, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Newala, Mafia and Iringa - to share their perspectives on how they consider agriculture within the decent work context.

The concept of decent work being new and with majority of stakeholders not very well conversant with it, participants were oriented on key highlights of decent work, including a brief overview of decent work standards as



Women conducting analysis of access, use and control of agricultural resources during the forum

per the ILO indicators. The session was facilitated by a representative from ILO, Mr Marwa Maridadi Phanuel, National Programme Coordinator(Governance)

From such orientation, participants were able to undertake a gender analysis to understand women’s role and their participation in agriculture production, using the tool that was designed to analyse the gender division of labour.

From the analysis, it was learnt that there is unequal proportion between the labour that is being invested by women in the agriculture sector versus decisions over an income that has been generated from the produces. Income from agricultural products is largely owned by men who use large portion of that income for their own and personal benefits. The portion that goes to women and family at large is very small. This contributes to poverty and poor wellbeing of the families we

see.

Therefore, according to the analysis, agriculture is not decent work for women. There is inequality in sharing income from agriculture between men and women.

At the end, participants recommended ILO to collaborate with development partners particularly INGOs / NGOs and CSOs and influence the government (the Ministry of Agriculture, in particular) – to invest on programmes that focus on raising awareness on the concept of decent work and setting up national guidelines on understating the decent work indicators, in a user-friendly concept (that reflect the country context especially considering the level of understanding of majority of rural women farmers.



Mr Marwa Maridadi, ILO National Programme Coordinator(Governance), facilitating the session during the forum



Maria Sylvesta, farmer from Singida contributing during the forum

International Day of the Girl Child: Unguja Girls Reflect on Effects of Teen Pregnancies



Girls who took part in reflection during the International Day of the Girl Child

By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP

ActionAid Unguja LRP recently joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child during an event that took place at North B District of Unguja Region.

The event that was held on the 11th of October 2020 and attended by girls from secondary and primary schools from both North A and North B Districts, carried the theme : **My voice My Future.**

On this special day, girls were given the chance to reflect and discuss challenges they are experiencing, of which for North Unguja, the problem of teenage pregnancies was given priority.

In her opening remarks, the Unguja Programme Officer, Ms Aisha Idd, told the girls that: **“When a schoolgirl becomes pregnant, her life changes radically; her education ends, her job prospects diminishes, and she becomes more vulnerable to poverty and exclusion and her health often suffers. Hence, it harms not only individual girls and women, but also their families, communities, and countries.”**

During the event, girls were given the chance to explain their dreams and future careers. Almost all girls claimed to have dreams and goals they want to achieve; doctors, engineers, nurses, teachers etc. and they would like to see their dreams come true.

They were then divided into groups and were given questions for discussion. The questions focused on reasons for persistence of teenage pregnancies in their areas and what do they think will be solutions to it.

In their presentation some of the reasons mentioned for teenage pregnancies were: household poverty, lack of Sexual Reproductive Health awareness from parents and schools and peer pressure. All raised issues were discussed deeply to capture the root cause of the problem.

The girls also admitted that almost all pupils in their schools start relationships with their fellow pupils in the classroom and continue with such relations until some result into teenage pregnancies.

Also due to family poverty, other girls lack important basic needs such as food, clothes, and exercise books, a situation which makes them deceived by men claiming to support them but instead, they end up impregnating them.

Thereafter, a female doctor was invited to speak to the girls on health problems associated with teenage pregnancies. They also asked questions to the doctor after her presentation and the responses

were provided accordingly.

On the other hand, two victims of early pregnancies who attended the dialogue were given the chance to provide their testimonies on how they were affected by early pregnancies.

“I come from a poor family. When I was a schoolgirl, I did not have basic school needs like nice uniform, enough exercise books, shoes etc. For example, I had to use one exercise book for two subjects; One side for English and the other side for Geography. My fellow students laughed at me and when the situation worsened, I decided to accept a sexual relationship with a man who promised to support me. “When I got pregnant, I started escaping school and when my parents noticed it they neglected me. I went to that man and told him about what I am facing and surprisingly he told me ‘I can’t help you with anything. Who told you to abandon school?’ Therefore, I advise you my young sisters to never accept any sexual relationship when you are students. Personally, I want to go back to school but it is too late,” she narrated.

On the same note, Women and Children Officer from North B District Council talked to girls on life-skill issues including; who is an adolescent girl, what it means to be a girl and importance of a girl child in family, community and national development. etc.

At the end of the session, girls were given the chance to write short messages for the day whereby some of the messages they wrote were; Lets cooperate to eliminate child pregnancies, Give Girls Sexual Reproductive Education, Education First etc



Dr Halima Abushiri Abedi, speaking with girls during the reflection

SAWAMA Fights To Protect Women and Children in Mafia

The name SAWAMA has become very popular to Mafia residents, especially women. This is due to the great work they are doing to fight for and protect children and women's rights.

In recent years, the abuse of women and children has been a long-standing challenge and is largely due to local customs and traditions. Muhali (culture of silence) has contributed greatly to the increase of such acts as many community members were unwilling to report acts of humiliation or to testify in court for fear of what the public might think of them.

Sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, and child abuse are just some of the challenges that were facing children and women in the district.

Similarly, women were economically disadvantaged and their participation in leadership was limited due to patriarchy and their lack of self-confidence.

Through trainings and mobilization programmes conducted by ActionAid, women mobilized and formed a women's organization known as Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia (SAWAMA).

The coordinator for SAWAMA, Zuwena Nyundo explains how SAWAMA has continued to play a big role in the fight against women and children's rights. She said SAWAMA opened doors in 2016 with 176 members from eight villages. It's registered and officially recognized.

"After receiving various trainings and self-awareness sessions, we continued to encourage women to join SAWAMA so that we can have greater strength and voice. As a result, to date, we have 830 members in 23 villages and 24 groups."

Explaining on the work they have done so far, Zuwena said they have continued to educate and encourage women to run for various leadership positions, as they have opportunities and rights, educate women on the importance of educating girls, educate community on the importance of reporting violence to relevant offices.

This, according to her, is due to the challenges that exist where violence occurs in villages and not reported, visiting villages and talking to parents about the causes of pregnancies in schools as it has become a major problem especially during the 'Corona holiday', setting strategies to deal with it,



Some members of SAWAMA in one of the trainings

and discussion of unpaid work through circles.

"Due to our initiative, we have seen our fellow women daring to take the form and run for councillorship, some are leaders in the council credit approval committee, others are members of district hospital management health committee, village councils, village committees and many other positions. For us, this is a great achievement because in the past, Mafia women were not confident enough to take part in leadership," explained Zuwena.

Husna Makungu, a member of SAWAMA, also added that, through follow up meetings, lobbying on the right of quality public health services at the district hospital, the government has brought ultrasound machine and built maternity ward, the services that previously did not exist.

"Before we intervened, the quality of health services at our district hospital was not good. Pregnant women were facing challenges. But nowadays, the services have improved. Women are given priority when they arrive at the hospital," added Husna.

The women also added that through discussions in their circles, they tackled the problem of water with village leaders.

"We pushed our leaders to ensure provision of safe and clean water in our localities. As a

result, they made initiatives and currently we are seeing drilling of wells in each village, thus reducing women's time and distance of fetching water," commented Asia.

Other achievements by SAWAMA are: increase in the performance of girls due to parents changing perception on the importance of educating girls and increase in reporting of children and women violence incidences.

"We are proud because currently the district authorities recognize our work and they are involving us in any interventions which relates with women and children issues.

On the government side, Yohana Habakuki Lwendo, Community Development Officer said: **"Through community development department, we continue to promote SAWAMA by connecting them with various opportunities which relate to their work. When SAWAMA succeeds, we are also successful. What is needed is to strengthen their structure at village level and build their capacity on how to use social media."**

SAWAMA's current strategy is to strengthen its structure at village level so that it is easy to educate community members, monitor and report any violence issues against women and children and link the issues with SAWAMA at district level.

Other priorities are to reduce teen pregnancies and strengthen reflection circles at village level.



Members of Parliament from Kilindoni primary Mafia District, ready for the parliament session

said.
"Sometimes when I walk along the road, when I meet with my colleagues I talk to them and explain what we have learnt in Parliament so that they can learn too," added Omar.

They also added that the Parliament is helping them to nurture their dreams.
"My dream is to become a minister in the future. So through this Parliament, I continue to practice and play the role of a minister hence I am sure it will help me to realise my dream," added Sheila.

They concluded that the Parliament also helps the community to be educated and to get rid of old habits, if we are empowered we will be able to express ourselves and shout out in case of any abuse.

On challenges they commented that the major challenge facing their Parliament now is failing to get opportunities to operate outside the school set up.

"We want this parliament to go beyond our school boundaries so that the world can see what we are doing," concluded Omar, adding that childhood pregnancies have decreased slightly due to the education they provide.
 With regard to the eradication of teenage pregnancies which is the main challenge in the area, they advised the government to deal seriously with all those involved in the acts.

"We invite other students to join the Parliament so that they can know their rights and also be able to express themselves," he said.

Pupils Speak on Benefits of Children's Parliament

The Children's Parliament is one of the ways ActionAid Tanzania has been using in its programmes to empower children to understand their rights.

These parliaments have been formed in the model of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania where there is a speaker, Prime Minister, MPs and ministers and it follows all the procedures for conducting dialogue as a real Parliament.

The Parliament of Namedi Primary School in Tandahimba District is one of the active parliaments and it is playing a great role in awareness raising on children's rights in and out of the school.

Speaking about their Parliament, Omary 14yrs (Prime minister) explained that their parliament was established with the aim of empowering children to express themselves and also use it to raise awareness to community members on various issues.

"In our Parliament, we meet every Friday and we discuss various agendas including challenges which children are facing in their environment and what messages to convey to the community members and government leaders."

As for how they are using the Parliament to convey the message, Husna(15) said that they were able to show their parliament on the Day of the African Child at district level and conveyed their message to the district leaders and community members who took part in the

event..
"Through the Parliament the District Commissioner issued a directive that anyone who marries a student or impregnates a child will be subjected to severe legal action."

On the benefit of their participation in the Parliament, they said that it has enabled them to gain confidence and express themselves in front of people.

The Children's Parliament has also helped to convey messages to the community outside the school
 Some parents in our village are still violating rights of children such as too much work for girls hence no time for studying. I use the knowledge of what we are learning in Parliament to educate our neighbours, Husna



Namedi Primary pupils(Tandahimba District), following up student parliament session.

AATZ Trains Youth on Public Expenditure Tracking Survey System

By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP

ActionAid Tanzania recently organized training on Public Expenditure Tracking Survey System (PETS), for youth organization unions in North Unguja Region, aimed at empowering young people to demand their rights, by making the government accountable in the provision of social services and strengthening democracy.

The two-day training (30th and 31st October), held in Unguja, brought together 40 participants (24 males and 16 females)

comprising representatives from partner organisations: JUVIEKA, JUVIKUKA, SADEO, MWAVIKAU, KIDA, ZAFAYCO, and Youth Organisation Union network (YOU).

The training focused on orienting participants on the concept of PETS and accountability; the budget process of Zanzibar government and how they can engage in each step and to help participants to support public projects for undertaking PETS.

The expected outcomes of the training included among others; Enhanced understanding on legal framework, safeguarding decentralization, roles and responsibilities of citizens and institutions established among the participants, improvement of community involvement and participation in community development planning processes, as well as improved gender responsive public services in Unguja.



Youth in a training session

During the session, the trainer used a combination of facilitation methods to ensure that the training was effective, and participants are motivated throughout the session. Some of the facilitation methods included brainstorming, presentation on concepts and processes, group exercises, and sharing of experiences.

Commenting on the training, participants said that it was fruitful and an eye-opener. On the other hand, participants demonstrated their understanding of PETS through sectoral presentations which triggered many questions and case studies experience sharing.

“As a way to avoid conflict during PET process, you need to have back up of sectoral evidence, which calls for effective implementation of 13 PETS steps” Samwely Mkwatwa suggested.

At the end of the training, some participants were selected to go to the field for data collection, which will be followed by analysis, report writing and sharing the findings with the LGAs for discussion.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been using Public Expenditure Tracking Studies and Surveys at local government level (PETS) as a tool in measuring participatory, monitoring of the integrity, transparency and accountability of financial management systems and decision making.

AATZ is committed to 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).

District Leaders Commend AATZ Work

District leaders in some of the areas where ActionAid Tanzania implements its programmes have hailed the organisation for the good work it does in helping communities in various fields.

The officials expressed their appreciation to AATZ staff members who visited their offices, during a monitoring visit in the districts where the organization operates.

In Mafia District, the District Commissioner Hon Shaibu Mnunduma, thanked AATZ for the great work they are doing in the district.

“I am aware of the great work you are doing and I have often participated in your work including the meetings and trainings that you have been doing for the people and they have greatly helped to change the attitude of the community,” said DC Mnunduma

Commenting on the issue of gender-based violence, he said the organization has worked hard to reduce the problem in the district, through meetings with leaders at various levels and visiting schools and talking to students and pupils.

He added that despite these efforts,

intervention is still needed because the problem still exists. He gave an example, that during the period when schools were closed due to Covid 19, more than 30 schoolgirls became pregnant hence insisted the need to change the approach.

“I know that in your intervention you put a lot of effort into motivating leaders and community members to take action. But I think we should change the approach and go directly to the students. Go to the schools and talk to students directly and explain to them the importance of education and the effects of teenage pregnancies. This will help,” he emphasized. *Continues pg 8*

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He also advised AATZ if they can also think of ways to help these pregnant children to get an education outside the formal system, for example QT, so that they can come and do their exams and fulfill their dreams.

On the other hand, the Kilwa District Director Renuus Mchau, said that they have been in partnership with AATZ in the implementation of various development activities including educating the community.

"We have partnered with AATZ to educate the community, and they have provided assistance especially during the flood and Corona calamities. They have also supported the establishment of women and youth platforms that have been used

to provide education. Through the TUJIWAKI platform, they have held various debates, and they have been visiting villages and talking to community members and raising awareness," he said.

Mr Mchau also added that co-operation is still needed because despite the interventions that have been taking place, there are still some challenges.

"The people in our southern regions, still do not understand the importance of education. A parent can decide that it is better for a child to stay home and go to do business such as fishing or agriculture instead of going to school. "We continue to invest in education by enlightening the community to understand the importance of education for children and talking to children themselves. Therefore, we still need your support as an organisation because we still have a lot of work to do to bring about change in society," he

said.

The Tandahimba District Commissioner, Mr Sebastian Wariuba, also thanked AATZ for the various activities it has been implementing in the district.

"I am familiar with the work of AATZ and they have been working with us through the community development office. They have provided great education to the community especially on women issues," he said.

He went on to say that traditions and customs are still a problem and awareness is still very much needed because it is impossible for this challenge to end in a day.

"I suggest the main focus should be on educating women because they are the source of everything," Wariuba added.

Mafia LRP Pushes for Improved Sanitation in Schools

By Mafia LRP Team

As part of its efforts to continue pushing for improved sanitation in schools, ActionAid Tanzania through its Mafia LRP recently conducted a monitoring tour of Kilindoni Primary School, in the district.

The aim of the visit, which was held on the 2nd of October 2020, was to monitor the progress of installation of a water pump and water supply system in toilets and water points at the school that is being supported by AATZ.

The monitoring visit, which was coordinated by the Programme and Sponsorship Officer and the Gender Responsive Public Services and Tax Justice Inspirator, saw teachers, pupils and Tupambane Club members participating.

School children presented speeches highlighting successes and challenges faced by the school and pupils in accessing quality education.

The head teacher presented a progress report on the installation of the water pump and the visiting team observed technicians installing the water pump and the water supply system in toilets and school surroundings.

After the installation of water supply system at the school, the School Management Committee and the community will make sure that hand washing facilities are installed in the latrines for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation.

"Now, a total of 533 pupils (272 girls and 261 boys) can access clean and safe water which has been installed in the school latrines. The school has 8 pit latrines where by 4 are used by girls and 4 by boys with the ratio of 1: 68 for girls and 1:65 for boys. We still have a gap of more than 8 pit latrines, which the construction is still going on, to narrow the gap to the ratio of 1:33 for boys and 1:34 for girls", says Stephen Emmanuel, the Head teacher of Kilindoni Primary school.

On the issue of access to water, Ramadhani A. Madenge, QS Mafia District Council, explained that RUWASA has extended its services up to villages through the establishment of water users committees at village level.

"I kindly urge school management committees and village leaders to work closely with the committees to facilitate installation of water supply systems in schools and other government institutions," Madenge said.

According to findings from the District Quality Education Assurance report (Quarter three) of July to September 2020, there are 6 (5%) primary schools which do not have latrines for pupils and 17% percent do not meet the required standards (not gender responsive)

Through its campaign "Shule ni Choo," the LRP is working with the government and other stakeholders to advocate for the construction and improvement of school toilets for primary schools in Mafia District.

The activity advocate for the accessibility of Gender Responsive Public services in Education as per Mafia LRP programmes plans.



Tupambane club members following discussion during the monitoring

Pictorial.....World Food Day



Exhibition of indigenous seeds



Pili Kashinde, farmer from Unguja sharing her success story from agro ecology



Participants looking at different types of indigenous seeds/during the exhibition



Participants marching during the launch of Walk for Survival Campaign



Group photo during the World Food Day event