

# Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

September 2020

## TUJIWAKI Pushes to Liberate Kilwa Women

**T**UJIWAKI (Local community women’s group) is an independent women’s forum created by women themselves within Kilwa District in Southern Tanzania. The platform was established in 2016 with 50 founding members from Singino Ward.

The history of its inception stems from mobilization work by ActionAid through Kilwa LRP since 2015, which aimed at raising awareness on trampling of gender and sexual rights and violations of women and girls’ rights. Currently, TUJIWAKI is officially recognized and registered as a CBO since 2017 and it has already reached women in 14 wards.

According to the TUJIWAKI Secretary, Pili Kuliwa, the motive behind the establishment of this network was premised on a dream of one day seeing women from Kilwa being freed from long-term oppression, fueled by traditional values, customs and patriarchy systems.

**“Our traditional values and customs prepare a girl child to be a caretaker of the family and not a leader or person who can have a voice and give**



**TUJIWAKI leaders in a group photo with AATZ team during the monitoring visit**

**instructions to the community. Patriarchal system has also made a woman less talkative in public and society sees her as incompetent. What we are doing through the platform is educating women to realize that a woman is not only a person to take care of the family, but she has the potential to be a leader and has the ability to make decisions,”** Pili said.

She also added that, in fulfilling their dreams, the platform is currently focusing on combating violations of women and girls’

rights and women's economic empowerment and decent work, good governance and accountability, promoting and strengthening the rights of youth and children, access to land / agriculture / environment and food security.

Explaining on how they have benefited from the platform, women from Miguruwe Village said that through awareness received from TUJIWAKI, women in Miguruwe Ward are now aware of their rights and responsibilities in society.

**“We have been able to set up reflection circles that allow us to discuss our challenges and find solutions through demanding actions from our leaders, creating entrepreneurial groups and being able to get loans from Kilwa council, reducing teenage pregnancies etc”.** explained Mariam Mkalipa, TUJIWAKI leader, Miguruwe ward.

Anna Lihindi also added: TUJIWAKI has made women to wake up and recognize themselves. **CONTINUES PG 2.....**



**AATZ Country Director, Bavon Christopher (standing) speaking with members of TUJIWAKI at Miguruwe village, Kilwa District**

## TUJIWAKI Pushes.....From pg 1

*Before, women here were not aware of many things. We were marrying children at the age of 12; we were being abused in our marriages, and also our children were getting pregnant at a young age. But now, I can confirm that things are different”.*

They also added that the platform has encouraged them to form entrepreneurship groups and apply for loans from the District Council.

*“TUJIWAKI has encouraged us to form entrepreneurial group and we received a loan from the District Council. We used the loan to carry out income-generating activities to boost our economy.”*

Commenting on general progress of the platform, Pili revealed that TUJIWAKI has continued to grow and increased the number of members from 318 in 2019 to 520 members by July 2020, increased awareness about sexual violence, human rights abuses and how to avoid them in the society. The platform has reached more than 20,000 people outside and within the district including women, men, youth and children in a variety of ways including the media, such as radio, TV, social media, conferences, debates, seminars and awareness and capacity building sessions.

*“Our biggest dream as TUJIWAKI, is to see women rising up, becoming leaders,*

*owning land and growing economically.” concluded Pili.*

Since its inception, the forum has focused on the promotion of women's rights and responsibilities in line with various policies that affect the interests of women and girls.

The forum has a total of 520 members, and it operates in accordance with government policies, laws and guidelines.

TUJIWAKI is among vibrant District Women Rights associations established through the support of AATZ. Others are SAWAMA(MA-FIA), SAPAWA(Singida), JUWWACHA(Chamwino).

## Monitoring Visit To LRPs & Partners

**M**onitoring, Evaluation, documentation and Learning forms an integral part of the programs in ActionAid Tanzania. As the organisation continues with the implementation of the Country Strategy Paper (CSP IV), and 2020 annual plan, monitoring visit to LRPs, Partners and projects is key.

In this regard, in the month of September, 2020, a monitoring visit was conducted to 6 Local Rights Programmes in the Districts of Mafia, Kilwa, Chamwino, Singida, Tandahimba and Newala. This is the first phase of the 2020 monitoring plan which was planned to be conducted in 8 LRPs.

The monitoring visit team included staff from Head Office (Country Director, Impact Assessment and Learning Manager and Communications) and the respective LRP staff.

The aim of the monitoring visit was to meet with LRP staff and partners implementing the programmes to check the status of implementation, assess the achievements, implementation gaps/issues, document outcomes and stories of change, lessons and good practices by engaging community we are working with.

During the visit, the team met with District officials eg, DC, DED, Community development officer, and conducted discussion on AATZ development interventions, and how to improve working relationship.

Other approaches used during the visit were face to face discussion, focus group discussion, meetings with community groups and interviews.



**Visit to Mandawa village. Meeting with members of TUJIWAKI & youth network at village level**

Some of the major learnings from the visited LRPs were;

- Existence of the Reflection Action Circles is an opportunity for LRPs and the community at large to enhance sustainability and the ownership of the established/existing projects. They can be used as a catalyst and avenue for the members to discuss and strategies on the best ways of addressing issue affecting their livelihoods.
- Also, the established Women Rights Associations (WRAs) in the districts, if well natured, they can become a very good platform of addressing their developmental agenda as well as building agency of change through collective movement as a result of being empowered. For example, TUJIWAKI is well structured across the District and cascaded down to the Wards. They demonstrated strength in addressing forms of power. To continue building these, there is a need of deliberate capacity building across the association to build strong movement and leadership across all levels.
- The children parliament demonstrated to be a very good tool for advocacy on different issues affecting school children. It also builds children confidence while envisioning their future. What needs to be done is nurturing and creating more opportunities to integrate them in different levels.
- Good relationship and cooperation with District authorities creates smooth working environment for the organisation to achieve its objectives. More collaboration especially sharing of plans and implementation report will add value to our work especially in the current context.

# ActionAid & PCCB Strategize On Combating Corruption in Tanzania

By Fatma Likwawite & Joyce Kessy;  
National Inspirators

ActionAid Tanzania in collaboration with PCCB recently organized a two-day training that brought together 60 PCCB officials from all the regions in the country and representatives from AATZ.

The training, which was led by PCCB, was aimed at bringing together key PCCB officials under the Departments of Public Education and ActionAid to effectively engage in in-depth discussions on their works, sharing experiences, as well as contemplating on how to form strategic collaborations with the government to end corruption and ensure government accountability.

Officiating the training, held on the 3rd and 4th of September 2020, in Morogoro Tanzania, the PCCB Regional Commissioner, Mr Victor Swela, appreciated ActionAid for facilitating the training. He explained that public education offered by PCCB is aimed to change community attitudes and behaviours that result in corruption and unaccountability of the government.

Mr. Joseph Mwaiswelo, the PCCB Director of Community Education, said that the fight against corruption has never been achieved,

with the use of punishment: *“It is important to change the perceptions and behaviour of people rather than the use of punishment.”*

During the training, presentations focused on Corruption and ethics, National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Plan Phase III (2017-2022), Prohibitions in Election Expenses Act, Adherence to the principles of Good Governance and Accountability, Public Education Manual and Monitoring of the Use of Public Resources.

Participants had the questions and answers session to get clarification and understanding of different issues from presentations.

They emphasized that community anti-corruption efforts are critical and the conversations to improve, institutionalize and systematize governance should continue.

They also insisted on the need for increased awareness and strengthened institutions since corruption is a systemic issue.

*“PETS is indispensable in the fight against corruption and teamwork is crucial as everyone has a role to play. We need to*



Training in progress

*understand there is need to first change mindset and behaviour... the PCCB cannot work alone; we need cooperation from CSOs and citizens”.* said Mr Mwaiswelo.

*“Community members need to be involved in allocating, spending, and managing public resources and this is only possible when there is a free flow of information and transparency. This will create trust and as a result, citizens will be able to access their entitlements from the local authorities,”* Mr. Frank Mapunga from PCCB Tanga said

At the end, participants agreed to develop an Action Plan to be used to follow-up on public projects, to continue to initiate Anti-corruption clubs at schools, community level & Anti-corruption District committees as well as organizing public education sessions with local government officials.

## Students and Teachers Review Code of Conduct To Create Safe School Community

By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP

ActionAid Unguja LRP, on 2 September 2020, organized a meeting with teachers and students from 36 schools of North Unguja Region implementing the Violence Against Children (VAC) project, to review the code of conduct developed in 2019 and incorporate important inputs and adjustments.

The main objective of the review, that took place at Mkokotoni Vocational Training Centre in North Unguja, was to gather inputs and important adjustments ready for finalization and distribution of the code of conduct, so that it can be used in all pilot schools under the project and later advocated for adoption by all government schools in Zanzibar and if possible Tanzania in general.

Participants were informed that, the rationale for having the code of conduct is that most of the, children spend more time at school than anywhere else. At schools, children need a secure, positive and comfortable environment to help

them learn. Overall, schools are one of the safest places children can be. However, some schools have problems which prevent both children and teachers from enjoying learning and teaching environment. These problems may come from teachers or students, such as bullying and theft, unethical teachers, which make school environment less secure.

A code of conduct describes the positive behaviors expected of the school community, by spelling out the rules regarding children’s behaviour at schools and describes the disciplinary system to be implemented by schools concerning misbehaviors by learners and teachers.

During the inception of the session, participants were asked about their understanding of violence against children and the types of gender-based violence they know. They also discussed in groups about VAC code of conduct draft through identifying issues



students representatives in a group discussion on the code of conduct

which need further clarification. The code of conduct is expected to be applied to all school community while they are on school premises or when they are away from school representing it or attending a school function. All teachers and children at school will be bound by a code of conduct and the administration of the Code of Conduct is the responsibility of the Disciplinary Committee of the school. The institutionalization of the code of conduct will enable School Management Committee and teachers to create a safe school environment.

# Reflection Action Circles: A Catalyst for Women Change



**Zuhura Mnipa, Facilitator for Tunapambana Reflection Action Circle, Newala District, speaking with members in one of their sessions**

we agreed on how to deal with it; we started following parents at home and educating them on the consequences of leaving children alone,” added Shadii Dadii.

Rahisi Jirani, another member of the Circle also commented: We agreed to monitor the children as they leave school. So every evening when the students leave school, I walk behind them. When I see any dangerous behavior, I talk to them to educate them about the dangers, and I also go to the parents to talk to them.

We also presented the challenge to the village general assembly and through that meeting they issued instructions that anyone found pestering students should be arrested and be taken to police.

Like in many other parts of Tanzania, Women from Newala are still facing many challenges including gender inequalities with respect to accessing land, lack of decision on control and ownership of household incomes, polygamy and rampant divorces, early marriages and schoolgirl pregnancy.

Various findings also indicate that many women within villages are illiterate; unaware of any existing entitlements and lack enough assets to fight for their rights, and that their involvement in land administration institutions is limited.

In addressing the challenges, AATZ through Tandahimba and Newala LRP has been working with women to address the challenges using different approaches. One of the approaches is raising awareness and mobilizing women to establish Reflection Action Circles. This facilitates communities to interrogate their practices, reasons behind them and what could they change to shift power.

Tunapambana is one of the active Reflection Action Circle found in Lengo Village, Newala District. The reflection Action Circle is formed by members from three villages including Lengo, Mchedembwa and Mchemo A. It was established in 2017 with 26 members (18 females and 8 males).

Zuhura Mnipa, is the facilitator for Tunapambana RA circle who has been empowered through AATZ awareness programmes. She explains that their Circle

was established in 2018 and is officially recognized by the village government office. She also explained how they work in their reflection circle.

**“We meet every Friday under a tree and conduct discussion. The topics that we discuss in the circle are relevant to our environment. Each time we meet, we identify problems existing in our area, we discuss and analyze them in detail and prepare a work plan. For the ones that we as community members can solve on our own, we divide responsibilities and work on them,”** explained Mnipa.

She added that one of the problems they have been tackling in the Circle is teenage pregnancies in their area.

**“In our secondary school, we got statistics that for 2019-20 seven students became pregnant. We agreed that this is a problem we need to work on.”**

Explaining on how they approached the challenge in the Circle, Rehema Rashid, a member of the Circle said:

**“In the discussion, we saw that the main reasons for children to get pregnant is the long distance from the village to school where children encounter temptations; parents leave their children alone with no food or anyone to help them and go to sesame farming and low income for parents”.**

**“After learning the source of the problem,**

According to Mnipa, other approaches they are using are attending village meetings and ask for an opportunity to discuss the challenges of teenage pregnancies, visiting schools and consulting with teachers and also talking to students and parents using native language that is easily understood. Apart from awareness, Mnipa said that members are also engaging in economic activities including cassava farming and small businesses to help members in income generation.

**“We also found out that some of our colleagues are illiterate, which is a challenge because if they don’t know how to read and write, communication will become difficult eg access to banking services, reading posters, reading text messages etc. Therefore, we agreed that every time we meet, we spend half an hour learning the alphabet. Now there are some women who already know how to read and write,”** Mnip added.

Sharing achievements, Bernadetha.... said the Circle has helped to reduce the number of teenage pregnancies.

**“We recently made a follow up with the school and realized that there are no pregnancies reported. Now, the young people are very scared because they know if members of the Circle see them with schoolgirls, they will report them,”** explained Bernadetha.

*"We are seeing changes as in the past it was difficult for parents to go to school to check their children's progress. But right now, because of our awareness they are cooperating with teachers."*

The circle has also helped 4 women (2019-1, 2020-3) who were being abused in marriage due to arbitrary divorce to get their rights.

Men also witnessed how the Circle has helped them to change their perceptions towards women's rights.

*"We men had the habit of divorcing our wives once we get a lot of wealth, but now men are afraid because they know that if they do so, the law will follow its course and the property will be divided half by half," commented Jirani.*

*"We appreciate the organization (AATZ) for mobilizing us to establish this circle. We are learning so many things and the knowledge is helping us to address various challenges in our areas. We are determined to move forward," concluded Mnipa.*

ActionAid prioritizes conscientization, building the critical awareness of people living in poverty through a reflection action process that draws on AATZ's rich experience with participatory methods. Participatory approaches are used to enable people living in poverty and exclusion, particularly women and young people to analyse power dynamics, inequality and claim rights.

## Access to Decent Work: Working with Stakeholders to Address Challenges

By Stephen Bernard, Kilwa LRP

ActionAid has been working with various stakeholders in Kilwa District to address challenges related to access to decent work.

Since March this year, the LRP has been working with Tanzania Union for Industrial and Commercial Workers (TUICO) and Prime Minister's Office, Employment, Labour, Youth and Disabled in Lindi Region to conduct awareness/capacity building sessions and dialogues between employees and employers from informal sector groups such as Boda-boda, Hotel, Lodge, Bars, Pub and Restaurants, Garages, Kilwa Salt Industries, Private Schools, Domestic Workers, Fish Industries and Women working along the ocean cultivating seaweed, the Fish Industry and so on.

The aim of the interventions was to build a good relationship between informal employees and employers in Kilwa District and having a strong network and coalition, and common understanding of their rights in relation to employment and Labour Relations Law of 2004.

During the engagement and dialogue sessions, some of the challenges revealed were lack of employment contracts, gender imbalances rendering female employees less important than male employees, employees being paid salaries below the stipulated amount as instructed in the Labour and Relation Act of 2004 (the wage payment is between 120,000 – 180,000 Tshs), No pension fund submission, lack of medical insurance and no maternity leave to some workers.

Since the engagement involved represent-



Khadija (second from right, seated) and other Staff who joined TUICO in a group photo with their TUICO leadership

atives from both sides (employees and employer), they continued to reflect upon the challenges and proposed way forward. To help understand the magnitude of decent work challenges, the LRP also supported assessment of workplaces to see if employers are adhering to requirements of labour laws.

Following these initiatives and awareness campaigns, some employees have already started taking action by demanding changes at their work places.

Hadija Abdala Chelewa (43) an employee at Starcom Hotel was among beneficiaries of the trainings conducted by AATZ. She explained how she managed to demand for rights from the employer. Starcom hotel in Nangurukuru has 63 workers of which 40 are males and 23 females.

According to Khadija, the hotel management had not paid salaries to staff from December 2019 to March 2020, which trampled upon employees' rights.

*"I have attended training and dialogue sessions organized by ActionAid between employees and employers. After the capacity sessions, I decided to go back to my workstation and share the knowledge with my core workers. I got an opportunity to gather 43 workers and share with them the need to join workers association and trade union i.e. Tanzania Union for Industrial and Commercial Workers, so that we can be able to demand for our rights. We all agreed, and joined the union in which it was easy for us to demand for our rights including unpaid salaries for about 9 months (from December 2019 to August 2020). As a result, the management has already paid us our March to August 2020 salaries," narrated Khadija*



**Hemedi Kilango, special education teacher at Mgori primary, Singida DC supporting pupils with visual impairment to learn**

Chilangazi said the presence of special desks for children with disabilities is important because some of them are unable to use the normal desks.

*"There are some children with physical disabilities who cannot push their peers on the same desk. So in order for them to study comfortably, they must have desks that meet their needs."* commented Chilangazi

They also insisted that inadequate community awareness on the importance of education for children with special needs is still a problem, hence more awareness should be provided to communities. They also insisted on the availability of official data/statistics for children

with special needs.

*"I suggest that parents / communities and village leadership be given more awareness so that they can put in place procedures to identify and monitor children with special needs from enrolment time and their progress in school."*

Mwajuma Rashid, a parent of a child living with disabilities said that due to limited understanding, she almost failed to enrol her child to school due to her disability.

*"When I saw that my daughter was visually impaired, I became disappointed that she can't study. My neighbours encouraged me on the importance of sending her to school. Now I am happy because I have seen good progress after going to school,"* explained Mwajuma.

Ombeni, a student with poor vision at Mgori Primary School also requested government to build dormitories for them.

*"We need to have good dormitories with electricity. Currently it's a challenge for us to move at night because we can't see. We should also be provided with a female teacher so that if our female colleagues have any issues, then they have someone to tell. Now we only have a male teacher,"* commented Ombeni.

The Chamwino District Special Education Officer, Angela Ulomi, said that they are making various efforts in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that children with special needs are enrolled and receive their right to quality education.

*"My recommendation is that teachers who are attending colleges for education, should also be taught special needs education to reduce the current gap."* concluded Ulomi.

## Inclusive Education Still Needs Improvement

**T**eachers working in schools with special needs children have called upon the government to increase the number of specialised teachers and improve the learning and teaching environment so that these children can also get quality education.

The teachers made the recommendations to ActionAid during a visit to some of the schools with special needs children, which are under the "Breaking barrier and tax justice and GRPS project being implemented in Singida and Chamwino districts. The purpose of the visit was to meet with school leadership, teachers, parents and students to highlight challenges, solutions and opportunities involved in providing inclusive education for children with disabilities.

During the visit, some of the teachers hailed the government for continued support to the schools including provision of food, teaching and learning materials and construction of classrooms. They added that despite the efforts, still there is a great need for improvements especially in availability of knowledgeable teachers, and availability of enough infrastructure.

Mr Jilu Muna Mpanda, special education unit teacher, at Ilongero Primary School, explained that infrastructure, especially dormitories, is the biggest challenge they currently have. "We are thankful that last year, the

government built two classrooms for children with special needs at our school and we are getting food support fund and some teaching and learning materials. But, the biggest need right now is dormitories. I urge the government to improve infrastructure."

***"Another challenge we are facing is the large number of children: If you have more children with special needs, it becomes more difficult to care for them. For example, for children with intellectual disabilities, the standard is, one teacher should teach 5 children. So, if you have 20 children of this kind, you need to have four teachers,"*** explained Mr Mpanda.

Adding on the shortage of teachers, Charles Chilangazi, the Head teacher at Mlowa Primary School - Chamwino, said the government should increase the number of trained teachers for special education needs in schools so that they can better serve the children.

***"For example, in my school, I am the head-teacher and, the only teacher trained for special need education. Due to the multitude of responsibilities, I am unable to give these children enough attention."***

*"I also urge the government to ensure that it regularly organizes short seminars for all teachers on how to care for children with special needs. This is because children with special needs are increasing and we are encouraging parents to enrol them.,"* explained Chilangazi.

Regarding the learning environment,

# Stakeholders Discuss Informal Justice System in Resolving Violence in Unguja

By Aisha Idd, Unguja LRP

**A**ctionAid Unguja LRP, on 8 September 2020 organized a consultative meeting to discuss the use of informal justice system in handling violence cases in the area.

The event, conducted at North A District in North Unguja region, was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Elders, Empowerment, Elderly Women and Children (MLEEWC) Department of Children Affairs, Judge from the Juvenile Court, Police gender desk, an office from the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), paralegals, women rights organizations, youth organizations from the project area (JUVIEKA and JUVIKUKA), school management committees, teachers, district social welfare officers, shehas, and religious leaders.

The meeting was informed by a study report on Child Abuse Case Management System in Unguja, conducted by ActionAid in 2019, which highlighted challenges in accessing justice both in the formal and informal justice systems.

The main objective of the workshop, among others, was to identify (mapping) forms of informal justice system found in the communities, examine the effectiveness and challenges of using the informal systems in attaining justice for victims and recommendations on how well the informal justice can be used in bringing justice to victims.

Mohamed Jabir Makame, Child Protection Officer from the Ministry of Elders, Empowerment, Youth, Women and Children made a brief presentation on the context of justice system in Tanzania and Zanzibar.

In his presentation, Mr Jabir started by creating understanding among the audience on the concept of violence and its types, and court enforcement to perpetrators aged above 18 years and below 18 years.

He also briefly expounded on justice system as a set of legal and social institution for enforcing criminal law in accordance with a defined set of procedural rules and limitations, and led a discussion on the four interrelated principles of social justice which include equity, access (education, shelter, food), participation, and rights or human rights.

Jabir, further asserted that Informal Justice System tend to address a wide range of issues of significant concern to people, including personal security and local crime, protection of property, resolution of family and community disputes, and protection of entitlements such as access to public services.



Participant contributing during a consultative meeting

In his explanation, he demonstrated how informal justice system can be more accessible than formal mechanisms and how it is potential to render swift, relatively inexpensive and cultural relevant remedies.

The Juvenile Court Judge, Miss Nayla Abdulbasit explained the procedures used by Juvenile Courts in handling cases including the advantages and challenges they experience which are related to informal justice systems.

She said that, the court recognizes and sometime uses the informal justice when client opt for it whereby one of the advantages is that it reduces the bulk of cases in courts when clients apply for resolving the case out of the court. However, these cases should not relate to criminal as only courts can deal with criminal cases such as sexual harassment etc.

***"Families have been identified as the biggest challenge in achieving justice for child abuse cases due to embracement of "muhali," leading to resolving the cases in a way that favours perpetrators before reaching the courts, a situation which does not bring justice to the victim but instead worsens the situation,"*** said Nayla.

During the discussion, some participants warned that the informal justice system accelerates Gender Based Violence (GBV),

whereby the husband may create a tendency of committing violence at family level purposeful, since they are aware that there is no lawful action (from court) directed to them except family resolution which bears no consequences to them.

Participants also raised concern, pointing on the need for the court to put in place legal measures that allow husbands to marry a second wife without divorcing the first wife; need to develop options to alter the amount of money declared by the court for husbands who desert their children.

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed that informal justice system should continue being practiced, but those rendering resolutions at family and community levels should observe proper rights benefits and the nature and size of the violence cases. Any resolution done through the informal justice system should focus on helping the victim to attain justice. They also, requested ActionAid to continue availing knowledge on informal justice system and violence at grassroots level as part of raising awareness to the larger community.

# Pictorial.....Monitoring Visit to LRP's



Women group from Kipindimbi village explaining about their farming intervention during the monitoring visit



AATZ Country Director(1st left) speaking during a visit to Kilwa District Executive Office



Visit to Youth group in Kipindimbi village, Kilwa District



AATZ Country Director, Bavon Christopher, chatting with members of Children Parliament at Namedi Primary school in Tandahimba



A visit to Miyuyu primary school, Newala District. This is one of the schools which started as ACCESS Centre



Group photo with Newala Women Rights Association (NEWORA) leaders during the monitoring visit



A visit to water project at Miguruwe secondary school, Kilwa District



Discussion with Sauti ya Wanawake Mafia (SAWAMA) members in Mafia District