

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

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Water Scarcity Affects Njinjo Women

Mariam Magomba(70) is one of the residents of the new Njinjo Village in Kilwa District, southern Tanzania.They relocated to this village after floods wreaked havoc in the area in January and February this year, leaving a trail of destruction.

Together with her family of four children, they relocated to this place, after losing all their belongings to the natural calamity. The possibility of returning to their original Njinjo Village is next to none as the area is prone to floods and a danger to their lives and properties.

Women like Mariam are suffering a double tragedy in the area as despite trying to cope with the effects of floods, that led them losing all their properties, they have to endure lack of safe and clean water.

Although they have a safe place to live and have started a new life, the women explain how the challenge of accessing clean and

safe water in the area is affecting them.

“Currently, we rely on water from small ponds that is not clean and safe. To get water, some of us get up in the middle of the night before others wake up. As you can see, we have been here since 2am and it’s now 10am but we are still to get water. Along the way you may encounter wild animals like hippos, snakes or even lions that can harm you. But because you need water, you have no way out but to brave all the dangers,” said Mariam.

Another resident, Toto Hassan, added: **“The problem of water shortage hurts us and wastes our time. Sometimes you can stay at the pond for up to ten hours to get the water.”**

She went on to reveal that the problem of



Toto Hassan, a resident of new Njinjo village on her way home from the pond

water supply hinders them from engaging in other economic activities.

“Our situation right now is very difficult because we are struggling to settle after the disaster. With no water in the house it will be difficult to engage in other activities . Where do I get that time when most of the time I am in the ponds chasing water for the family?Also some of the income generating projects need water,” Toto said.

Nuru Mohamed, another resident, commented that the challenge of water is giving them hard times because when the water dries up in nearby ponds, they have to walk long distances to fetch it.

“I have a family of eight people. Two buckets of water are not enough for their daily needs as we require atleast five buckets. At the same time, some of us don’t have the means to fetch enough water at once. The only means to carry that water is our heads,” complained Mariam.

About safety of the water,Mwanaasha Liundi said....

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Mariam fetching water in the pond while others are waiting..

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"Animals drink the same water we fetch for domestic use. When you use it for cooking it changes the colour of food, but we have no way out as it is the only option we have. If you want clean water, you must go to other villages where a bucket is sold for up to TZS 700.

"At the moment, our biggest need is water. Whoever wants to help us our priority need is water," Toto pleaded.

Commenting on the challenge, Njinjo Village Executive Officer, Yahya Mketo confirmed that the area has a serious water challenge.

"The government has made efforts to establish a reliable water source for the area but is still to succeed. The council brought in experts and machinery to drill a borehole,

but unfortunately the water available in the area was too salty, so it was not suitable for use. Therefore, we are trying to look for other alternative water sources," he said.

Explaining about ActionAid Tanzania's interventions in the area, Kilwa LRP Coordinator, Steven Bernard said they have been empowering community members to understand gender responsive public services, and their responsibility in demanding them.

"Immediately after floods, we conducted trainings to women reflection action (WRA) circles on their roles and responsibilities in responding to emergencies and supported community members with food distribution including maize flour, beans, cooking oil and rice. Currently, we are continuing to empower

community members on how to cope with impacts of climate change," concluded Stephen.

Despite government efforts to ensure availability of clean and safe water, the gap is still visible not only in Njinjo but to majority of citizens in rural and urban areas. Since women are care takers of the family, they have been prime victims of the phenomenon. A recent study conducted by ActionAid (2018) recommends that when women spend hours collecting water, access to clean water close to home can transform lives. Indeed, the provision of gender responsive public services is key both to delivering on human rights and the SDGs, and transforming women's lives

Journalists Reflect ACDEG Principles & 2020 General Election

By Emmanuel Mabodo, Project Officer

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ), in collaboration with Tanzania Youth Vision (TYVA), recently organised a two-days reflection with journalists on ACDEG principles in relation to the 2020 general election.

The dialogue, which took place from the 24th to 25th of July in Dar-es-Salaam, brought together 40 participants including journalists, and representatives from relevant government offices such as PCCB, CHRAGG, and AG's Office.

The reflection workshop, which was organized in form of a dialogue, was aimed at providing an opportunity for journalists to meet with representatives from government institutions such as the Attorney General (AG)'s Office, PCCB and CHRAGG and sharing key electoral issues, which will inform the media to play

their roles in an efficient way in the forthcoming 2020 general election in Tanzania by following ACDEG principles.

During the session, presentation on key concepts, principles of ACDEG and role of media in the 2020 general election was done. Also, a panel discussion comprising a team of representatives from government institutions (AG office, PCCB, CHRAGG) and CSOs was organised. The session on experience and guidance from government representatives helped journalists to understand key issues to consider during the 2020 elections, to ensure that fair and transparent coverage is enhanced and harnessed.

However, during the discussion, journalists pointed out some of the challenges facing them in ensuring monitoring in the implementation of ACDEG principles including, inadequate awareness and large percentage of journalists and editors do not understand the laws governing elections.

From this interaction, participants confessed that the session was effective in preparing journalists to play their roles efficiently by following ACDEG principles in the 2020 general election in Tanzania.

As a way forward, participants made some resolutions including; influencing government officials and policy



From left, Beatrice Mpangala (AG's office), Francis Luziga (CHRAGG), Jonas Ndunguru (EACSO) & Matai Kirumbi (PCCB) leading a panel discussion during the workshop.

makers such as ministers, law enforcement agencies and various human rights organizations in overseeing free and fair elections; using various platforms organized by human rights organizations as well as the government to advance the agenda of good governance, free and fair elections and to persuade the government to maintain and adhere to principles of democracy, raise and equip government officers, journalists and other interested groups with awareness and necessity of the African Charter on Democracy election and governance (ACDEG).

The reflection was an important milestone of a project titled "Mobilizing Civil Society Support for Implementation of the African Governance Architecture" also known as The Africa We Want. The project is currently implemented by ActionAid Tanzania and its partners.



Journalists in a group discussion during the reflection workshop

Supporting Kilwa Women To Mitigate Impacts of Climate Change



Training participants in a practical session on how to establish different types of gardens at Njinjo village

“In our area, we used to grow vegetables from May to August as we depended on rains and to make matters worse the farming seasons are unpredictable. Now, we have been empowered and we will be able to grow vegetables all the time, a move that will help us improve nutrition, reduce costs and boost income,” she said.

Another participant, Zaina Omary Mpaka, said that the training will go a long way in benefiting women, as most of them did not harvest anything this season due to floods. Hence, they have turned to vegetable farming.

“On my part, I planted three hectares of rice this year. When the floods ravaged our area, all the rice was destroyed, so I didn't get anything. I will use this knowledge effectively to produce vegetables for my family and for sell.

The Agriculture Extension Officer for Matandu Village, Mr Michael Joram, said the training will be of great benefit to the people of Matandu as the farming takes place in areas where floods cannot affect.

When it comes to passing on the knowledge to other community members, Joram said, ***“I have created a group that I will manage and will focus on vegetable farming using the expertise we gained in this training. After that, the group's garden will become a demonstration field for other groups to learn. I am sure this approach will attract many community members.”***

At the end of the training, Actionaid Kilwa LRP Co-ordinator Steven Bernard encouraged participants to put what they have learnt into practice for them to meet the training's expectations. Participants were also given a variety of vegetable seeds so that they could go and set up their gardens.

By Paulina Teveli, Communications

Actionaid Tanzania (AATZ), through its Kilwa LRP, recently organized training on agroecological farming, aimed at empowering representatives of women and youth groups in Njinjo and Matandu villages in the district.

Njinjo and Matandu villages are part of areas that were ravaged by floods that hit Kilwa District causing great damage to infrastructure and leaving thousands of people homeless, while at the same time destroying hectares of crops.

Njinjo Ward was the most affected with more than 6,440 people being displaced while around 3,969 hectares of maize, banana and other cereal related crops were destroyed.

The aim of the training which was facilitated by a trainer from ECHO-Arusha, Ms Happy Mathew -- was to help community members cope with the impact of climate change through engaging in vegetable farming. Specifically, the training was aimed at encouraging every household to curb hunger, increase income and tackle household poverty.

The training, which took place at Kilwa Masoko, brought together 70 participants (46 females and 24 males) comprising representatives from women reflection circles (WRA), youth networks, community development facilitators and local government representatives (district and ward levels).

Speaking about the training, the facilitator

said the training was divided into two parts of theory and practical to give them in-depth understanding and realism in implementing it in their areas. Major topics that were covered include: how to make a compost, plant relationships, cover crops and garden varieties.

During the class session, the trainer used a combination of facilitation methods to ensure that the training was effective, and participants were motivated throughout the session. The methods included presentations, drama, discussions, case studies, brainstorming and practicals.

Commenting on the training, the participants hailed the training saying it was interesting and an eye-opener especially when it comes to practicals.

“After class sessions, we went back to our villages to prepare sites and materials for practicals. We went step by step and we were able to make compost, deep ditches, bag gardens and kitchen gardens,” said one of the participants, Mwanaidi Maridadi, a Matandu villager.

Maridadi added that the training was very important to them because they used to depend on rains only for gardening.



Training facilitator Happy Mathew (4th from left) guiding participants on how to sow seeds at Matandu village

Kilwa Floods:

Women Share Post Floods experience

Sophia, a mother of two who lives with disability as one of her legs is crippled, stays in Matandu village with her four grandchildren. They are victims of floods that hit Kilwa District earlier this year, leaving a trail of destruction and throwing people deeper into the jaws of poverty and homelessness.

But, thanks to ActionAid Tanzania, she has every reason to smile as she is among beneficiaries of AATZ's food support initiative through its Disaster Preparedness & Response Fund (DPRF).

According to her, the area had never experienced such floods all the years she has lived in Matandu, and by the time the catastrophe hit, their farming season had already begun and they had grown their crops.

"I have a one and a half acre farm and I planted rice and maize. The crops were doing well, but when the flood came, they were all washed away. We were left with nothing. My house was also destroyed by the floods and I had to rent a place to live with my grandchildren.

"ActionAid provided us with food support and I got maize flour, beans and cooking oil. To be honest, the food aid helped us a lot because the crops we were expecting to harvest from the fields were all destroyed by the floods," she added.

Commenting on life after floods, Sophia said that she engages in small income generating activities such as plaiting hair for a fee and she uses the money to buy food for her family.

Another beneficiary from Matandu Village, Zainab Ally Naeja, explains that the food aid



Zainab is currently engaging in weaving as one of her income generating activities

provided by ActionAid has rescued them from starvation because they did not harvest anything from their fields.

"After the floods hit our area, we were left with nothing, and the situation worsened because we had no food. If it weren't for the food aid, I really don't know what our situation would be. I don't know how we would have fed the children. I got maize flour, beans, cooking oil and sugar. We really appreciate AATZ for this support," she said.

Opening up on her current life, Zainab said she is involved in small businesses such as selling firewood, weaving, frying fish and selling mandazi (buns) to earn a living.

Another victim, Mwanaidi Saela from Njinjo Village, also shared her heartrending story that this year's floods were severe and cut short all their dreams. **"Before the flood, we had a nice house which we built together with my**



Sophia with her grand children after collecting food items supported by AATZ during floods

husband, but the floods demolished it. Now we have started rebuilding another house though it will not be of the same quality."

She also added that before they received food aid from AATZ, their situation was dire, as they survived mainly on porridge, but their lives changed when they received maize flour, cooking oil and beans.

In emergencies, women are often the worst affected, but ActionAid's rapid response through food distribution to affected communities and empowering women to lead in emergencies, went a long way in mitigating the effects of the floods.

Items distributed by AATZ include 23,390kg of maize flour, 2,366 litres of cooking oil, 3,800kg of beans, 23 boxes of ball pens, 10 boxes of pencils, 21 cartons of exercise books. All items worth 44.6 million..



Zainab showing her farm which she planted rice and expected to harvest but everything was washed away.

Mafia Reflects Impact Of COVID-19 On Education

By Oscar Kapande, Inspirator Mafia

ActionAid Mafia LRP, in collaboration with the District Education and Community Development Department, held a meeting with violence against women&children(VAWC) stakeholders at district level to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in the education sector in Mafia.

The aim of the meeting, which brought together 25 participants (13 females and 12 males), was to understand the magnitude of early pregnancies during the period schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the meeting aimed to get a report on cases of primary and secondary schoolgirl pregnancies from January to July (when schools were closed due to COVID-19) and the way forward on child protection agenda at district level.

Participants who took part in the meeting were representatives from the District Authority, Sauti Ya WAanawake Mafia (SAWAMA), PCCB, and JUDICIARY

According to the District Education Officer (DEO), Musa Lilambwe, so far there are 12 schoolgirl pregnancies (1 primary, 11 secondary) and the schools with the number of cases in brackets are as follows: Kitomondo Secondary School (5), Baleni secondary (4), Mchemi Secondary School (2) and Kilindoni Primary School (1).

All 12 cases have been reported to the police of which 5 cases have been concluded in court whereby 2 cases had sentences of 9 months in prison, perpetrators in 3 cases got 30 years imprisonment, and the remaining 7 cases are still under investigation.

“Some of the children are colluding with their parents to hide evidence when they go to court due to the culture of silence (Muhali),” explained Lilambwe.

The District Medical Officer, Dr Zuberi Ally Mzighe, explained that when many parents find out that their children are pregnant, they do not take them to the hospital for health check up, something which is dangerous.

He also insisted that stakeholders should cultivate the habit of reporting pregnancy cases to hospitals for the mother and child care and treatment. This will help to protect the child and mother against any dangers and diseases like HIV/AIDs and other STIs.”

“I am surprised to hear all these cases in this meeting because at the hospital, we received only two cases. I urge the community to work with law enforcement agencies to save their children from teenage pregnancies,” he said.

The Mafia Police Officer Commanding District (OCD), Mtaki Korogero also expressed his disappointment on the number of pregnancy cases.

“We are disappointed to hear these cases of early pregnancies. This is due to the community’s lack of understanding of the law,” he said. The OCD also reported

that majority of cases are not completed due to various reasons including victims mentioning multiple perpetrators, delays of DNA results, the victims denying any knowledge of the perpetrator during interrogation; the child just says, “I don’t know the person,” and some parents resort to relocating the girls since the case has a timeframe of 60 days, if the victim does not show up the case will be closed.

According to participants, some of the contributing factors are: poverty affecting families to an extent that children are sexually abused even by parents due to their living style and, separation and divorce of parents which exposes the children.

At the end of the discussion, stakeholders called upon the community to cooperate in the identification, response, and prevention of violence against children and women in their areas.



Mafia District Education Officer(Secondary) Mussa Lambwe(standing)contributing during the meeting



A section of SAWAMA members who took part in the meeting



Mafia District Officials in a group discussion during the reflection meeting



Said Edes Mkoba(standing) leading youth discussion during collection of youth views at Mitole village

Kilwa Youth Disclose Priorities Ahead of 2020 General Election

ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) through Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) in partnership with Kilwa Youth Development Initiative (KIYODI), Tumaini Jipya la Wanawake Kilwa (TUJIWAKI) and other youth and women's groups in the district collected youth's views regarding development priorities they want the in-coming government to focus on.

The main objective of the exercise, which took place in form of a min study, was to determine the involvement and engagement of youth in local and national development initiatives for the next five years, as well as to support them to advocate their concerns and issues in the development processes.

The methodological aspects of this study involved collection of primary and secondary data from in and out of school youth in 16 Wards of Kilwa namely Mandawa, Lihimalyao, Singano, Kivinje, Kipatimu, Nangurukulu, Namayuni, Mitole, Njinjo, Chumo, Matandu, Somanga, Mingumbi, Kinjumbi, Masoko and Miguruwe. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used to collect the primary data.

The target population for the study was young people aged between 15-35 years, though; the study also considered other community members with the age of 35 and above. The main sample of this study was 104 young people around all the 16 wards in Kilwa District.

The study purposely focused on both youth in school and out of school as the trends show

that this marginalized group in Kilwa community is being isolated in various decision making processes, which makes their voices not to be heard in various aspects of their lives and wellbeing.

During the process, youth identified what they want to see addressed for the next five years in six priority areas of Education, Health, Economic, Civic and Governance Participation, Access to Information and Volunteerism in Kilwa. According to the study, more than 57% of the respondents were not aware of their youth related policies, which make their participation in civic matters to be very low. This was highly supported by the participants who recommended a number of initiatives to be taken to address and empower youth, including TOTs, reflection cycles as well as youth networks capacity building.

Also, the other area which raised lot of concerns was youth economic empowerment. In this area, challenges identified include: low implementation of Tanzania Industrialisation Policy in Kilwa which leads to low employment opportunities among youth in the region; unclear and regular guidelines affecting youth participation in economic activities i.e taxes; access to youth development funds; low youth economic empowerment mechanisms especially those who graduate from schools and colleges in Kilwa; unfriendly working environment for youth entrepreneurs in Kilwa. i.e market assurance etc and low LGA emphasize in promoting agricultural activities .

Other issues were: unfriendly adolescent and

youth health services, high cost for health services in public health centres in Kilwa, education curriculum & syllabus which are longer relate to current youth needs and labour markets, low level of transparency and information sharing at local government authorities on matters concerning youth and opportunities, delays in accessing information concerning public matters which is caused by unaccountable public officials in Kilwa and low youth spirit in volunteerism.

On how they want to be involved in addressing the issues, the youth recommended two major things: **Involvement** in priorities setting, planning and implementation of different policies/programmes and **Capacity building/awareness** creation in all the issues identified.

However, the study findings were also validated during an event that took place on the 27th of June, this year, in which 16 youth representatives from all the 16 wards involved in the study participated. The representatives were also trained on Civic and Electoral process towards this year's general election.

The issues identified by youth in Kilwa will be incorporated in the national youth manifesto.

ActionAid Tanzania is committed in promoting youth development through mobilising and supporting youth organisations and movements to advocate progressive policies/legislation and their effective implementation.

