

Monthly News

ActionAid Tanzania

August-October 2021

AATZ Joins Other Organisations in the CSO Week

ActionAid Tanzania joined other civil society organisations in the country to mark the CSO week which took place in Dodoma from the 23rd to the 28th of October 2021.

The CSO week is an annual event organised by a consortium of Tanzania-based local and international Tanzanian civil society organisations.

The primary objective of the event was to strengthen relationships between key development actors including CSO-government relations, CSO-parliament relations, CSO-private sector relations, CSO-CSO relations, and CSO-citizens relations. The opening ceremony was graced by Hon JOB NDUGAI, Speaker of the National Assembly and the official theme of the event was 'CSOs' contribution to National Development.'

The week was preceded by a two-day exhibition where all participating SCOs got the opportunity to showcase their work to the public.

During the event, AATZ also had an opportunity to showcase and share its work to the citizens, who visited its booth. It was an awareness raising opportunity where people got time to know what the organisation is doing in the communities in general.

Apart from exhibitions, there were different conferences with different agendas where all participants had an opportunity to attend relevant sessions to them.

On its part, ActionAid held two conference sessions and shared findings of the *unpaid care work* report and *Trends in the public sector & its implications on public service delivery*

For more information about ActionAid activities at the event, please follow us on our social media channels;
<https://twitter.com/ActionaidTz>



Elias Mtinda(AATZ livelihoods&resource mobilisation Manager) explaining about AATZ work to visitors



Stakeholders Call on Government To Improve Access To Gender Responsive Services.

customs are eliminated so that unpaid care work becomes the duty of everyone” advised Flora

Another participant added that our lifestyle is dominated by patriarchy system, all the works are vested to a woman, during divorce-a woman gets nothing.

“Most of household chores are done by girls. Family budget needs to recognize the needs of a girl child such as menstrual needs. Men need to recognize that the

duties/roles of care services are overwhelming women”

Naomi from Tanga advised that It is high time to come with broad/bigger research that we will be used to inform the government on unpaid care work issue and also how to bring onboard the voices of the affected during the engagement with decision makers.

At the end, the presenter concluded that care works are not meant to be women’s work alone- unpaid work is everyone’s work. We should not forget the role of government in reducing the time spent on attending care service works and unpaid care works such as fetching water from a long distance.

Participants advised that more awareness should be provided to community on the impact of unpaid care work to their daily lives.

from WEE,Physically and emotionally hurt.

“Unpaid work is a responsibility of everyone and not women only as it is now. Everyone has a role to play, - government, family, and the community. without putting more energy/-weight in recognizing care, there will be no development. If we need women to participate in leadership as a community, we need to consider the issue of unpaid care work”

She continued, “If government provides services to the community, then it will be easier for women to do their tasks. For instance, if there are well-developed/furnished public day care centers, then women would leave their children in those centers and go for paid works”. insisted Naomi

Unpaid care work has not been given its value – those activities that mostly women do at home are not given priority because they are unpaid. They are not calculated in the GDP and If we do not value unpaid care work, the poor will remain to be poor.

Floral Mlowezi, farmer from Mbeya, contributed that, even though the policies are very clear on provision of the public services, still there is a difference in accessing the services between rural and urban areas- eg water, energy such as firewood vs coking gas/charcoal

“What need to be done is to ensure wrong tradition and

Participant contributing during the session

Stakeholders and CSOs members have urged government to improve access to gender responsive public services to reduce burden of unpaid care work to women.

The call was made during the side event session titled Towards a gender responsive public sector: The case for consideration of unpaid care work” which was hosted by ActionAid Tanzania during the CSOs week at Dodoma on 26th October 2021.

The session which was attended by more than sixty participants aimed to bring to the fore the issue of unpaid care work that is often missing in analysis related to the gender gap. The session also aimed to increase understanding of unpaid care work concept to participants so that they can be able to advocate for its consideration in gender equality programmes.

Naomi Shadrack, who was the key speaker presented the findings of the research (“In the context of Women Unpaid Care Work and Its Impact to Development In Tanzania’) conducted by ActionAid on how roles and responsibilities of taking care the family is hindering a woman in participating in productive works.

She highlighted that Care services-are day to day works which enables human being to live such as cooking, washing home utensils taking care of family member etc but they are often unrecognized, not shared and they are too much.

According to Naomi, the implication of Unpaid Care work to lives of Women includes; Double Burden (Balancing Paid and Unpaid care,Increased Poverty,Failure to sustain gains made



Session in Progress

International Youth Day:

Youth Urge Government to Promote Better Agriculture Practices

By Joyce Kessi, Inspirator Kilwa LRP

The Kilwa Youth Development Initiative, in partnership with Kilwa LRP and Global Platform Tanzania, recently commemorated the International Youth Day (IYD) in Kilwa through organising a youth dialogue.

The event, which was held on the 12th of August 2021, brought together more than 80 youth representatives, government officials and youth stakeholders.

The discussion focused on food system, as well as advocate for government attention towards the promotion of better agriculture practices and sustainable value chains for our planet, and healthy lifestyles.

With the theme of this year being, “Transforming Food Systems: Youth innovation for Human Planetary Health”, the event was an opportunity for youth, especially those who are directly engaged in food production, to offer immeasurable contributions to the agricultural system and policies and their subsequent implementation to transforming food system in Tanzania.

Before the commemoration event, representatives from KIYODI, respective government departments (Nutrition & youth officer and TUJIWAKI, visited six wards (Kipatimu, Chumo, Namayuni, Kilanjelanjé) and conducted awareness sessions with youth.

The awareness focused on IYD and its importance to youth, participation of youth in encouraging youth involvement in the safe food production system and environmental protection, climate change and its impact. Furthermore, young people were encouraged to discuss available opportunities in food production and the following opportunities were pointed out: Availability of land, Water, Market, Labour.

During the climax of the event, the youth used the opportunity to present all the demands gathered from the communities for discussion. Some of the challenges/demands includes; shortage of extension officers, lack of enough capital, poor climatic conditions, lack of knowledge to cope with the effects of climate change etc.

The youth admitted that Kilwa is blessed with resources for generating food production whereby most of young people, especially young women, are highly engaged in agriculture for subsistence and income generation.



Some members of KIYODI in a group photo after the event

However, they engage in production which do not enhance pro-people development as it often destroys the resources on which the economy depends upon. Some human activities undertaken and cause damage to the environment include overconsumption and over exploitation of natural resources and deforestation. All these activities result in low productivity, increase of diseases and shortage of food which increasing the burden of work to young women of which family care depends upon them entirely.

On their side, LGA representatives responded to some of the challenges faced by youth. They admitted that the shortage of extension officers is a big challenge in the whole district and promised to continue making follow ups.

As a way forward, some of the proposed recommendations were: Supporting students and pupils to establish organic vegetable gardens in schools, that contribute to the access of nutritious food and addressing some challenges in schools, through income gained after selling vegetables.

To conduct an analysis on existing farmers associa-

tions policies and laws, identify gaps and bring youth recommendations to the responsible authorities for review. Through awareness raising sessions, 842 people were directly reached whereby 474 were male youth, 328 youth female, 29 adult men and 11 adult women. The event was a good platform for youth to increase their visibility on how they contribute to access of food at families and community levels in Kilwa District.

The commemoration was in line with the SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 1 on ending hunger as well as with ActionAid Strategic Implementation Framework - SIF 2, #SystemsChange for Climate Justice and Economic Justice.



Improving Women Understanding on Alternative Means of Agriculture Production for Sustainability



Iyula women platform in one of their trainings

Despite being major producers in agriculture, many women in Mbozi District, Songwe Region in Southern Tanzania have been left behind economically for many years. Lack of income, traditions and misconceptions about women made them to be regarded only as tools or productive workforce.

Also, inadequate knowledge on their rights, limited budgets in the agricultural sector, and poor extension services, added to the challenges for smallholder women farmers.

In addressing these challenges, ActionAid Tanzania in partnership with MIICO, is implementing a project titled, “Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight Capacity for Rights-based Public Resources Management in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa”.

The project seeks to improve public service delivery in the agriculture sector (food security), and health (HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, and rights) by strengthening the oversight and social accountability roles of five target groups in the SADC region.

Some of the activities conducted through the project included training to women SHFs on agro ecological practices, so that they can identify the ones which will suit their environment, awareness training to women on the importance of extension

services, budgeting process at village level, women forums for mobilization and organization for collective voice and actions etc.

Sharing on how they have benefited from the project, Cecilia Mwansembo, Secretary for Itaka Village Women Platform said:

“In our area, we used to cultivate using traditional methods, but after the training we now understand the importance of using extension officers. We contact them regularly and they advise us on different issues related to agriculture. We have seen the importance of using extension officers and follow their instructions.”

They also said that the agro-ecology knowledge they received through the established Farmer Field Schools have helped them to improve this farming season.

“Unlike previous years, this season I used agroecology approaches and I have realised high yields and the cost of production decreased from 470,000/- to 220,000/-. We use natural fertilizers, traditional seeds, and natural pesticides to store our food.”

Rose Mwalemi, the Chairperson of Iyula Women platform in Iyula Village, says, “Agroecology has enabled women to cultivate even if we do not have the

money to buy fertilizers and pesticides because natural materials are inexpensive.”

The women added that previously, they used to be afraid of extension officers, but now they are using them and seeking expertise for challenges they face in agriculture. “In the past we were unable to communicate with extension officers. We thought they are government bosses, and they were not for us.”

The women further testified that, in general, they have changed a lot and now they are part of the process from production and ownership of resources.

Now things have changed a lot, we are aware of many issues, and we are using that knowledge to get rid of poverty Commented Rose Mgala from Hasamba Village

In implementing the project, MIICO focused on agriculture, advocating for three areas: Allocation of extension officers per standard; Quality extension services provided meet and address women issues and, Experiment with alternative means of agriculture production for sustainability and quality (e.g., agro ecology) through demonstration plots.

During the implementation, five agro-ecological Farmer field school (FFS) have been established in all the project villages., Women have identified and adopted agro-ecological practices that suit their environment i.e. use of indigenous seeds, organic/green manure& local herbicides.

A total of 1,115 Households out of 2,480 have adopted agroecological practices, Increased women access to extension service. For this quarter, 1,047 women which is 10.5% of 9,922 of total women population from five villages of the project area, were able to receive an advisory through farmer education, farmer information, and farmer’s field schools from district and village extension officers.



Members of women group in a demo plot

MALIWE TAALUMA : YOUTH CONSERVATION GROUP

The Arise of The Forgotten Lake Maliwe” Initiatives Done by Young People in Kilwa.

By Said Mkoba, Youth Activist, Mitole Ward Kilwa District

My name is Saidi Mkoba, a resident of Mitole Ward, Kilwa District. I am a climate change activist and youth leader in the youth circles under the Kilwa Youth Development Initiative (KIYODI) in Mitole ward.

What pushed you towards conservation of the lake?

I got so upset and it made me feel so bad to see the imminent extinction of our history (The Lake Maliwe), I grew up enjoying the benefits of the lake and we as a community benefited. Deforestation near the lake, dominant shifting cultivation of sim sim, which resulted to severe drought near the lake caused the natural scene of the area to completely vanish. Over 10-year long conflicts among our three villages namely Kipindimbi, Mitole and Ngea over ownership of the lake, made the situation worse.

After resolving the conflict, we were given mandate by the leadership of all three villages to manage the lake and do social-economic and cultural activities like tourism, fishing and engaging in planting of trees and gardening. Bad traditional practices and beliefs that there was no need to protect the lake, due to myth and traditional acceptance that Lake Maliwe has its own protection fueled the situation. This was worsened by the myth, while a lot of activities like cutting down of trees, overgrazing of domestic animals around the lake and unwanted fishing were still on. This made me to act and mobilize other youth, to act and assume responsibility of conserving and protecting the lake.

How did you start the initiative?

Our journey started soon after the social

entrepreneurship training conducted by ActionAid. I managed to convince and mobilize other youth and we formed a youth facilitation circle/group known as 'Maliwe taaluma' group which comprises 19 members of which eight (8) are female and eleven (11) are male. We have our constitution and we got a certificate from the district authority. One of our agendas is conservation and forest resources and water management and we have approximately 1,000 hectares of land to conserve, of which Lake Maliwe is within the land territory. We also promote local tourism initiatives to make the lake known and to make awareness in our community on alternative crops to cultivate such as sunflowers that does not affect the environment like Sim Sim.

Our ward is among other wards that were seriously affected by floods in 2020, where we almost lost each and everything. And, eventually this is something that took me and my fellow youth on the same page, when it comes to climate change, and the need to reduce the climate crisis. I strongly believe that with increasing flooding in my community, younger people will inevitably embrace climate generation.

For a very long-time, climate change was a distant threat in Kilwa. But now, it is something that occurs frequently with floods, prolonged droughts, and unpredictable rainfall

on which to a large extent affects the lives of people and increases the poverty rate, especially among marginalized groups. In January 2020, Kilwa was affected by floods that threatened lives of more than 8,600 people across Njinjo, Mitole, Miguluwe, and Kivinje



Said Mkoba, chairperson of Maliwe Taaluma group

Singino areas where AATZ Kilwa LRP operates. The floods swept away people's houses, food, businesses, farms, and other properties while many people especially children, women, and elders died. The struggle was real! government, and other stakeholders came to evacuate people to new residents and provided us with humanitarian support like food, mattresses, vegetable seeds, medications, and clothes.

I cannot forget this; I was carrying a big load in my heart thinking about how best I can support my community to overcome the climate crisis and rescue our lives. I felt so bad that innocent children, women, the elderly, and people who were sick died during the floods. Something that hurts me more is that I lost my grandmother during the floods. Having this burden in my heart, I managed to encourage youth participation in protecting and managing available resources such as Lake Maliwe, forest, and preventing all human activities that destroy the environment.

To a larger extent, our group is committed to encouraging the broader community to acknowledge climate change and to carryout sustainable production activities that will help generate income and promote the restoration and regeneration of the environment at the same time.

Therefore, we strengthened the security around the lake and forest by ensuring that destructive human activities like illegal fishing, deforestation, and bush fires are completely prohibited. All villages were informed that no destructive human activities were permitted, and should save themselves from legal action being taken against them. Moreover, the group has set aside 10 hectares of the



Members of Maliwe youth group in one of their meetings with LRP staff

Maliwe Taaluma....

From page 1.....

forest. with native flowering trees close to the water and put in place adequate security for beekeeping and harvesting natural honey.

Now, I feel relieved because it's like I have unloaded a big load from my life. I am happy because I and my fellow youth, who experienced flooding, have become more concerned about climate change and demand action to address it. We are also feeling more confident that our actions, such as protecting and managing Lake Maliwe, the forest, and preventing all human activities that destroy the environment would positively influence climate change.

What are the biggest struggles your community is facing in this climate crisis? What are the causes?

As a climate activist, I discovered that my community lacks conservation education thus continue with traditional way of doing cultivation, especially shifting cultivation of Sim Sim, that destroys the environment by causing deforestation. My community needs more knowledge on conservation and management of our natural resources.

Unstable climatic condition like erratic rainfall, changing of the growing season, and the shifting of sea water (resulting in shallower water)

prolonged dry episodes, and occurrences of natural calamities like floods which resulted in loss of lives and properties.

Causes include overconsumption, deforestation, bush fires, overgrazing, shifting cultivation, the use of inorganic manure and illegal fishing practices like the use of gunpowder and inadequate knowledge of environmental conservation.

How does the community responds to the climate crisis? What are the solutions?

Conservation of Lake Maliwe and the surrounding forest by youth in Mitole Ward, prohibits community members from

misusing the local natural resources. To a larger extent, community members are highly affected by the climate crisis because they do not have sufficient skills on how to cope and respond to changes caused by it.

What do you ask world leaders during Pre-cop and cop26?

- Promoting young people to participate in climate justice activities.
- Global youth orientation on a participatory young engagement approach on climate justice.
- Funding young people environmental conservation initiatives.
- Provide a strong global networking and support to young people on climate justice initiatives.
- To have a well-coordinated and supportive advocacy hub for young people on climate justice.
- To provide/support a sustainable adaptation programme to young people to enable youth to cope with the stress of climate crisis.
- Support young people on agroecological practices which will promote income generation, human and climatic health.



Sharing Findings of the New Report: *“Sealing the Gaps”....*

In the month of October, ActionAid Tanzania met with different stakeholders including CSO, government officials and media to share finding of its new report titled; ***Sealing the gaps: An analysis of revenue forgone within the Tanzania tax system and how it could be used to fund public education***

The specific objective of the forums were to raise awareness on the findings from the report, mobilise support and ownership of the agenda from likeminded organisation and collective attempt to influence desired policy change.

The research explores some of the ways the Government of Tanzania is currently losing valuable tax revenue and how, ‘sealing’ these ‘gaps’ could help increase the overall size of the national revenues & Allocation to public service.

The report highlighted the following key issues;

- options available for financing
- Debt trend in Tanzania
- A need for domestic resource mobilisation

- Tax performance
- How the government is losing in taxes
- need to work on closing loopholes leading to losses in tax revenue



Dr Balozi Morwa, AATZ Tax advisor presenting the report findings to members of CSO



Members of hunters group in their work station waiting for passengers

Empowering Women and Youth to Access Government Resources

Women and Youth in Kilwa District have described how the 4% loan granted by the District Council has become a saviour to them.

In 2018, the Government of Tanzania amended Section 37 of Local Government Finance Act by adding that all Local Government Authorities are to mandatorily set aside 10% interest free loans from their own revenue for empowerment of women, youth, and people with disabilities, by providing groups to carry out income generating activities to lift their households out of poverty. These 10% free interest loans are distributed through a 4-4-2 principle (4% women, 4% youth, 2% people with disabilities (PWDs))

Speaking recently, women in Kilwa said that in the past they did not know that there were loans provided by the government for women and youth.

They said that, through the awareness provided by TUJIWAKI and ActionAid, they have been able to find out that there are funds allocated by the District Council to provide loans for women and youth.

Pili Mohamed narrates how the knowledge helped them to access the funds:

“TUJIWAKI educated us about the availability of loans and encouraged us to form groups and apply for loans from the council. We formed groups and followed all the procedures, and we were able to get loans twice,” Pili said.

Pili added that their group known as Maisha ni kutafuta applied for the loans twice. In 2019 they borrowed three million shillings and in 2020 they borrowed four million shillings which helped them to engage in various income-generating activities including agriculture, small businesses etc.

“When we received the loan last year, we engaged in sesame farming project as a group. After harvesting and selling, we distributed the profit amongst ourselves. The income enabled me to change my life and my family, as I re-invested the amount in my other income generating activities. For the first time in my life this year, I was able to buy a bed and a mattress. Before this, I use to sleep on the floor. I have also been able to support my children’s school needs,” narrated Pili.

Rehema Likwate also shared that, through their group, they were able to get a loan from the council which enabled them to carry out income-generating activities. Through the profits I made from the loan, I managed to renovate my house from a mud house and now I have a nice house to live in.

Pili Kuliwa, Secretary of TUJIWAKI, explained that they have been sensitizing women through different meetings to form groups, so that they can access loans from the District Council.

According to her, for the period of 2020/2021 they managed to mobilise formation of 26 groups which accessed loans from the District Council.

Because of this initiative, women are now engaging in social economic activities such as farming as means of income generation and other small businesses, commented Pili

On the youth side, the Hunters' group reports that after being inspired by KIYODI (Kilwa Youth Development Initiative and AATZ) they formed a group of ten young men and applied for a loan from the district.

Rashid Mkomweke, Chairperson of Hunters group explains that after receiving the knowledge through ActionAid and KIYODI, they realized that there is a chance to get a loan from the council.

“We formed our group of youth and followed all the procedures as instructed. We applied for a loan of TZS 25 million in which we were aiming to get ten (10) motorcycles (bodaboda). After their evaluation, we managed to get ten million only and we were able to get only four bodabodas which we started with in our project”.

“Having successfully started our bodaboda project, our fellow youth here in the village are eager to join us. We have inspired other youth. We truly thank AATz and KIYODI for opening our eyes to these opportunities,” added Rashid

Explaining their future goals, Rashid says their main goal for the future is to expand their business and buy a truck which they believe will help them to earn more income.

They also added that some of the challenges they face are inadequate knowledge on how to run businesses, limited security due to the type of work they do, etc.

“ActionAid and KIYODI have opened our eyes. We still need more education so that we can do better in our income-generating activities. We truly thank AATz and KIYODI for opening our eyes to these opportunities,” concluded Rashid.

Available statistic shows that beneficiaries of 10% loans for the last financial year 2019/2020 in Kilwa District is 1,095 people, 620 being youths, 420 women and 55 are people with disabilities.

ActionAid Tanzania has been working to empower women and youth to recognize the opportunities available in their areas and be able to take advantage of them.

AATZ Supports Construction of Pit Latrines at Matandu Primary School

In promoting better learning environment for schoolchildren, ActionAid Tanzania, through its Kilwa office, supported construction of six pit latrines at Matandu Primary School in Kilwa District.

The construction of the latrines was necessitated by lack of toilets at the school, which made it difficult for children to study comfortably.

The visibly elated pupils, soon after the handing over of the toilets, said that before the construction of the new toilet, the situation was worse as they had to queue before accessing the toilet.

“Lack of toilets was a huge problem to us. One pit was used by more than a hundred children. During breaktime everyone rushed to the toilet and the queues were unbearable.” explained Amina Ally, who is one of the pupils.

She added, “For us girls, the situation was worse. During our menses it was difficult to stay in school because we didn’t have a special room. Now we are happy because we have a good toilet and there is also a room for us to dress.”

Explaining about the construction of the toilet, Matandu Primary School Headteacher, Mwajuma Wakambi said that AATZ provided them with eight million(8m) Tsh for the construction of the toilet. In addition to the construction of the toilet, the organisation also trained children on their rights through their school clubs.

“We thank the organization (AATZ) for the support which contributes towards improving



Matandu primary girls celebrating their new toilet which was constructed with the support from AATZ

the learning and teaching environment for pupils and teachers respectively. It will also boost the morale of children in studying.”

The AATZ Kilwa Coordinator Steven Bernard said that they supported the construction of the toilet to help improve the learning environment for pupils.

“The presence of these toilets will give pupils more time to stay in school and study and reduce absenteeism,” explained Stephen. The schoolchildren thanked ActionAid for building toilets, but also called upon other stakeholders to help them with access to

water, because currently, it is still a big challenge.

They said that they are currently relying on water from ponds and rainwater during rainy season for drinking and toilet use. Sometimes they must carry gallons of water from home to school.

Mwaisala Mshamu, the School Management Committee Chairperson explained that their role is to identify challenges facing the school and find solutions. He said that their current priority is to ensure availability of water at the school. Matandu Primary School has a total of 893 pupils.



Matandu girls singing poem to appreciate AATZ for their support



Visitors inspecting the new toilet constructed by AATZ

Pictorial.....CSO Week

