

# ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER

December 2015



Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.  
- Joseph Wresinski (1917–1988) founder of ATD Fourth World -

## Editorial

### Unity and commitment



Dear friends,

We are pleased to share the recent news from our ATD Tanzania Movement from these last months. This period was rich in meetings and testimonies, on the occasion of the International Day for the

Eradication of Extreme Poverty, a day celebrated in three different places of the country: Njombe, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam.

Thousands and thousands of people around the world have once again demonstrated their unity and commitment for a world without poverty and respectful of rights for everyone (see last page the celebration in Central Africa Republic).

ATD Tanzania is involved in research with families and schools for education for all, so we choose to celebrate this day in connection with this theme.

Education for all is still a big challenge for families living in precarious situation, but its also a challenge for the whole society because the development of a society can not be accomplished if part of the population does not have access to education.

However, efforts are being made as an example to follow. This is the case for example in Njombe. The Kisangani Smith Group where the youth center offers professional training that enables young people to regain hope and be able to break the cycle of poverty by accessing knowledge and work. It also creates a chain of solidarity between those who finished their training and those who want to begin to learn.

We hope you enjoy this latest news and take this opportunity to send you our best wishes for the New Year, full of commitment to your community.

Friendship,  
Alexie Gassengayire  
Member of the ATD Tanzania Leadership Team

## Education For All: The voices of families

In the last Newsletter we introduced the Education for All research project. Through participatory research this project is seeking to understand what are the conditions that will allow the poorest children to start and finish their primary school education. During interviews, parents speak in depth about the efforts they make and the challenges they face to succeed in educating their children. In this Newsletter we will hear about some of those challenges and efforts. Maybe some will resonate with your own experiences.

This research project is led by a group of ATD members, including teachers and people living in poverty. In the last Newsletter Selemani introduced himself and his role in this project. Today we will hear from Mwalimu Benjamin, a Headmaster at a local primary school, and Mama Mkude, a mother living in Tandale. Both commit themselves in this cause of demonstrating the importance that all children can access primary school freely.

This year's International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty held in Dar es Salaam, parents, volunteers, professionals and students came together to discuss on the issue of education, specifically on the question. *"What are my responsibilities to ensure children succeed in starting and finishing primary school?"* We will hear some of the reactions to this question. One parent said after the event, *"This years 17 October was really a day for the poorest people to speak out. Everybody had a moment to speak, everybody's voice was heard, this is really the spirit of this day".*



Workshop with children animated by ATD Youth Group  
The International day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty (Dar Es Salaam)

## Commitment

### Education For All I

To accept compromise one must first understand the other person's point of view. Understanding each other has been one of the challenges and and greatest successes of the Education for All Research Group. The group, made up of twelve men and women from different social, economical and cultural backgrounds has worked together for over 12 months leading the project. Today we offer you the opportunity to listen to the experiences of two of the groups members, Mama Mkude and Mwalimu Benjamin.



**Mama Mkude** lives in Tandale. She has known ATD since 2003. She was proposed to join the research group of the Education for All project.

#### What do you understand about the project?

It is a project for those people living in a difficult situation, like myself, for all the children to get access to go to school. Also this project is aimed to know why the children of the poorest people cannot finish their studies or cannot go to school completely.

#### How are you involved in this project?

ATD thought they couldn't do this project by themselves and wanted to involve the poorest people like myself, because they understand we are affected with this challenge of children not going to school and we have experience. My involvement in this project is to be a researcher, to move around different places to find those people who are affected with this challenge. I got to know that I am not alone in struggling with this challenge although I see myself among the poorest. I got to know many things through this research. I remember I met a father who is stopping his wife from working so she could pay for her child to go to school, while himself he doesn't have work.

#### What experience did you get from the project?

Mainly to meet many people and to visit different places that I have never been, like UNESCO and Dodoma, which allowed me to get many friends. The big experience I got from this project through meeting people is not to be worried about anything. Before I was worried to meet people, I never cooperated with people, but now I do not have these worries, it makes me to be able to speak with local leaders or anybody who comes to ask me something, I can speak with people without any hesitation. The big thing that changed me is now I have confidence.

#### What did you gain personally?

When I went to give a presentation at UNESCO I had never before met with project managers. We sat together at the same table, the same chairs, with one aim, some people educated and some people not. This made me realise all people are equal.

#### What did you learn from families or the project?

I have learned many things, to know about the difficulties families face in different places. To see that I am not alone, for example to have a big family as I have here and to fail to pay and register the children at school, I saw I am not alone in this, other people face the same challenge. I also realise that the local leaders should think about those people living in difficult conditions, they should call meetings to understand the challenges the people have.



## Education For All II

### Learning by doing

In the last Newsletter, ATD Volunteers Hamisi and Salma spoke about their experience of the Education for All project, how it was something new and exciting for them, and how it allowed them to understand deeply about the barriers families face in sending their children to school. As the research continues hundreds of pages of interviews are being transcribed and analysed, it is a huge work for the research group. Here we would like to bring you a selection of some of the key points raised by people living in poverty and professionals who have been interviewed.

*"It is quite true and your question is fundamental, (...) let's even assume that Tanzania is not a school, the whole operating of the government system namely means they do not consider citizens' opinions, now when it comes to schools they are not sensitive to the thoughts of parents"*

*"Yes poverty affects a child's education, because these days when a child goes to school he must carry along the tuition fee worth 300/- per day, 500/- for porridge and for standard seven students on Thursdays they pay 1,500/-. When they do exams for closing school they carry 2,000/- and at every end of the month you must pay again. Now tell me for a poor person who does not have one 1,500/- to give his child, how will that child study? Because if the children go to school without money saying that their mother has no money to give, they are sent back home. As a parent you just have to tell your child to stay at home for a while. His fellow pupils continue learning, and your son misses classes. So poverty is a huge problem in children's education".*

*"The importance of sending children to school is first to obtain more knowledge than the parent or guardian. Education has a place in the community, education has a very strong position because life now is different from where we came from. Currently education is a very usable knowledge due to globalization. Now we are in the world of science and technology, the education a child gets in schools he benefits from it".*



Reading you can see that parents, teachers and local leaders each play their role of bring education into the lives of children. Also Tanzania's newly elected president is determined to bring about changes that ensure families living in poverty can access their basic rights, such as water, health and education. However, to ensure these rights be respected, it is not only good policies that are essential, it is people who are committed to ensuring those policies leave no one behind.



## Education For All III

Building a Sustainable Future...



What future are we building while society discriminates and excludes people? We heard before how one parent wanted to contribute in his child's primary education by participating in school meetings, but his opinions were not listened to. This father had something valuable to say, he knows the challenges his family are facing. While some people in society continue to ignore the thoughts of the poorest people we lose a chance to build a future with services that are accessible and sustainable for all.

The International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty was one such opportunity to listen to the thoughts of the poorest people this year. As part of the Education for All research project, a workshop was organised that brought together people living in poverty, teachers, professionals, volunteers and students. Seven discussion groups were facilitated by members of the Education for All Research Group, in total more than 90 people participated. The format of each group allowed each person to speak, listen and react to others in a non-judgemental and respectful way. The question taken by each group was, "What are my responsibilities to ensure the poorest children start and finish primary school?" Here are a few of the highlights of what people said.



## Education For All IV

*"To ensure my child is going to school as a parent I will fight in any case and I will be pleased to see my son going to school."*

*The first thing is to build a good foundation for the child, from the beginning to make follow ups if the child goes to school and if the child understands what he or she is taught in class, does the child understand what he is studying? What subjects are difficult for your child? A parent should be close to your child even if there is something that bothers him at school it becomes easy for him to tell you. Once you already know them, your role as a parent will be already realised."*

*"As a school committee member we normally have the statistics and know the the number of students to be registered in each year. For instance the number of students to be registered is 250, and you hear that a student has been returned because the number is full. We make some follow up to know if it is true. If for real there are 250 students already, there is nothing to do. But it is not true and there are some cheating issue, you can catch someone. Now in such a situation, a teacher depends on the committee and can not go on contrary. Now the challenge is that the committee members are not the commonly available people. So even if a parent goes to school, they will just end up meeting with the head teacher, which is a challenge of how to get assistance. That is an issue because in case there is a problem and a parent fails to get help about his or her child's right. So we normally insist that parents consult the committee members directly, but this information is not getting to all parents. If this information was reaching to all of them, it could help. If a parent comes to you a committee member, you do something to help that parent by making a follow up".*

*My name is S. A., I have only one child, this one. I am always struggling with all my effort to make sure the child goes to school even if I am not able, I will make any business even if through selling vegetables or nuts so as my child goes to school*

*"With our neighbours we help each other in encouraging our children, we do not discourage them although we know that they study but there are no employment opportunities. We tell them to continue striving for better performance. Education is the key of life. We are not educated but if we could get back to our school time, starting all over again, but we cannot do that now. So the children should study hard, and when they get lucky enough to be employed those will have their own lives, because the only inheritance you can give to a child today is education, nothing else".*



# **Tarehe 17 Oktoba Siku ya kuutokomeza umaskini uliokithiri duniani**

**POPOTE PALE WANAUME na  
KATIKA UMASKINI ULIOKITHI  
KUUNGANA pamoja ili KU  
ZINAHESHIWA ni JUKUMU**



**DODOMA**





**WanaWAKE WanapOHUKUMiWa KUiSHI  
i HAKI za BiNaDAMU zIMEVURUGWa.  
KIKiSHA KWAMBA HIZI HAKI  
LEtU SOtE.**

**JOSEPH WRESINSKI  
Mwanzilishi wa ATD Dunia ya Nne**



**ATD FOURTH WORLD  
TANZANIA**



**DAR ES SALAAM**



**NJOMBE**



## International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty - NJOMBE



### WHO IS REUBEN MTITU?

The day of 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty, members of the Kisangani Smith Group association and ATD Fourth World Tanzania got together in the Kisangani workshop. More than fifty people got together to remember the importance to be united and express our refusal of extreme poverty. In the form of a round table everyone could share his vision and commitment. The main concern was focused on issues of education and training.

Kisangani acts every day to train young people who did not have a chance at school and enable them to get skills that will enable them to find work. But besides learning there was a lot of talk about solidarity. Many former students of the association are finding ways to allow other youth to learn in their own workshops, to find training and their place in society. The fight against situations of exclusion is reinforced by the links between people. Reuben, founder of the association pointed out that what should contribute to overcome these situations is also and above all the family, and the support we must find in it to overcome difficult situations.

In this round table at Njombe, four members of ATD Fourth World Tanzania came from Dar es Salaam to participate. One of these delegates, Selemani, working at the Mogogoni Fish Market, shared about his life, a long struggle from childhood, finding on his way solidarity with others who supported him. He insisted on the importance to learn how to read and write even for adults who did not have the chance before. He presented the project "Education for All" in Dar Es Salaam. Halima, the second delegate, represented the October 17 Committee of Tanzania.

A time of friendship concluded this day.



**Reuben** is a friend of the Movement living in Njombe. He is someone who really fights against poverty through his skills. He tries to help young people who didn't get chance to go or to finish secondary school, to become self employed, through a technical training, with farming and working tools. Through him, the youth do not need anymore to leave the village for the town for a better life.

He also fights for his neighbourhood to get work, in agriculture and energy, improving the environment, cultivating avocado plants, potatoes, etc. The groups aim is to produce products which are needed by the people who have money but can not produce themselves.

A way of giving and receiving, helping and be helped, a sharing of energy and civic commitment.

Reuben is an example for all people who live in villages. About the ATD Movement, Reuben says that the movement means really solidarity and unity, because it brings people together. When you have solidarity you can fight extreme poverty.

From the last celebration of the 17 October, it brought people together which allows people to share their knowledge and experience. It helps people to change their life, especially through Education For All and literacy classes.



## International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty - DODOMA

### WHO IS PETER MSASU?

**The day of the International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty** in Dodoma, people from Bambala, Mkonze gathered in Bihawana, the village of Peter Msasu, where he organised with his friends the celebration of the day.

People from other villages had to walk a long way, sometimes more than eight kilometres to join the group, despite the heat and sun. This day gave a chance for them to sit together and to remind themselves about the importance of this day, to discuss all the challenges they are facing day to day like water, school, health care, etc.

Bihawana village and some of the surrounded villages are facing the same challenges. The lack of clean water remains a big problem, Many families struggle a lot to find water, and the water they are finding is not clean for people to use. The villagers decided to organise themselves to dig a well in order to get clean water.

People shared as well about hospitals and schools. Families have to walk for a long time to go to school or hospital, the availability of social health services is still a big problem. Some woman who were pregnant lost their life because of the long journey to hospital.

To work together everyone participates, shares, contributes, everyone is listened to. They organised themselves to cultivate together and be aware that everyone can take part even those who are very weak. In the region some people do not have a stable home or stable work, and have to go from village to village. The community of Peter welcomes them, sometimes at their homes, they find a little job in the farm, or producing and selling local alcohol. Even if life is still difficult they find solidarity and feel part of a group.

From the contribution of everyone people find solutions, they have the strong hope to collaborate with those who are given the authority to lead from voting. Its still a big challenge but people do not give up.



**Peter Msasu met with ATD Fourth World in 1999. Peter is a farmer. He studied to be a farmer, getting knowledge to develop culture.**

He shares his knowledge to support all his community to improve the skill of taking care of the land and getting better results.

A few years ago he organised for homeless youth to train as farmers, growing millet. His first contact with ATD was through the first ATD volunteer in Tanzania, Niek Tweushend.

When Niek discovered the commitment of Peter, he encouraged him to visit others villages, others communities to learn from him. Since then, Peter kept in contact with ATD, meeting other members, visiting Reuben in Njombe, participating in other 17 October events in Dar es Salaam. About this day Peter says, *"The 17 October is the day that allows us to be together, and for everyone to share the suffering we experience. Also its wonderful to see that us together, how we understand about this extreme poverty and how we can find a solution by cooperating and being together. This year we tried so everyone could contribute, always in this spirit to stay together."*

Through different events with ATD Peter discovered deeper and deeper the project of the ATD Fourth World Movement.

*"ATD is like a guide for the people living in extreme poverty and whom society think they are useless. ATD is focused on reaching those who live the most difficult situation, I was touched during time spent with volunteers, seeing them very concerned to know who were the poorest and how to meet them. ATD brings solidarity and brings people together."*



## International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty – DAR ES SALAAM



**On the International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty** members of the international movement ATD Fourth World came together to celebrate this day at Makumbusho Village, Dar es Salaam. The event gathered different group of people, teachers, friends of the Movement, parents with their children and young people from different places. The day was composed by different times, drama from the youth group, reading of testimony and working in small groups on a question linked with education, especially focused on primary school.

Every one was ready to participate in a different way. During the time of working together we had two times, first a time of listen to different testimony from different places (Tegeta, Tandale) and reading a letter from the ATD Fourth World Movement International Leadership Team. The testimonies were an opportunity for the voices of the poorest people to speak on this years theme. During another time all adults worked in small groups discussing on a question in connection with the project of Education For All. The question was "What are my responsibilities to ensure the poorest children start and finish primary school?". Also the Young Friends of ATD group were with the children to facilitate different games and activities and presented an impressive drama about education issues.

It was very interesting on this day to see teachers, young people and people living the most extreme difficulties together for a day to remember our commitment in fighting poverty. The organisation of the day ensured every person had his or her place and participated in a meaningful way.

The day finished with a time of friendship where all people had a lunch and drinks together followed by musical entertainment of traditional drummers and dancers.

Ps: For more information about the Education for All work see pages 2 to 5.



## Education For All I

(follow of page 2)

## Commitment



**Mr. Alloyce Benjamin Chija** is the school headmaster of Pwani Primary School in Kinondoni District.

### What is your role in this project?

I'm a member of the research group. The project involves different schools and people like teachers.

The aim is to understand the challenges and success that affect the children.

### What do you understand about this project?

The most important is to ensure all children have access of going to primary school in spite of the challenges they have in life, to ensure it is necessary for them to get education from the beginning up to the end of their studies.

### What is your involvement?

As a group, we had a time of training about the project. In this group there are people from different places, some with disabled children and some facing different challenges. My involvement is as a researcher to understand all these challenges and also to welcome other researchers to come at my school, to find those to be interviewed and to also encourage those who will be interviewed to speak freely and without hesitation. Also my involvement is to tell my seniors and education officers who I work with. My understanding of this project helped me to bring about some changes in my school. I saw the way the interviewers went to speak with the children was in a very open way, the children were free to speak as they wanted, this is something very important, and not to push the children to say something they don't want, like to say "no" when they really want to say "yes".

### What did you gain personally from this project?

I am a teacher but I can see behind me there are those who are supporting the field of education. I can see that ATD people are really ready to be involved in the education field and they never give up or become tired. They do something at a precise time which makes me learn I also have to do something on time. People from ATD have solidarity between themselves and they involve the people from the poorest families in what they do. ATD goes in places like Tandale, Ferry and Kunduchi to be with the poorest people. In Tandale other people think the population there has no interest in education, but ATD sees its not true and that is why ATD involves people from Tandale in this project.

Through this project with this research group it has motivated me to do my work efficiently at my school and ensure all the children get quality education. Also, for example when I talk about motivation, if I see some children who have stopped to come to school I go to find them even outside the time of working hours, to find those children who are missing by cooperating with the social police and the parents to make sure they come back to school. If I could have a voice to tell the municipal leaders to follow how ATD is doing I am sure it could bring a bring change in the community for those whose children are missing to come at school.

I have gained something, it was painful for myself and for families to be asked by teachers to pay contributions, or for the children to get punishment from the teachers, all these kind of things were painful for me. But thanks to our new president Dr. Magufuli has taken out all these things at the schools, like the contribution and punishment. Now the children can study in a peaceful way.

### What did you learn?

What I have learned through this project is to make known the importance of education. As a nation if you want to be successful you should give importance to education. I also got to know ATD is all over the world and their slogan of saying All Together in Dignity is true as we do things by involving other people. Another thing I have learned is that not everything you do you should be paid for, ATD's way of doing is a real commitment from yourself and not the benefit for yourself. It is to make sure the equality we are talking about is able to reach all in the community.



The Education For All research Project and this Newsletter is supported by UNESCO



## International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty – Central African Republic

On the International Day for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty in Bangui it was a very good day. No rain, no sun too strong, especially no problems that would have deterred people from attending, whereas they had heard a few guns shots in the previous days.

From several conversations, testimonies, a collective message was built. It says a lot of life and the hope of the people here.

After reading this testimony, then that of Senegal, the children rhymed by the verses of the Freedom song chorus regained, we split into three groups: Under the hut, people were invited to paint circles of paper. In the future, these drawings will be taken to decorate drums for the recovery of rainwater. It was great to see all quite different people, from different organisations all together.

It was a nice way to realise the collective sentence of a testimony: "The rich know things. But they do not know all things. We the poor, we also know things. But we do not know everything. We need to put this knowledge together, and it will work properly!"

The day was also connected to a small group of people of Liege, in Belgium. Within this group, a man had just been evicted from his home the night before. While Françoise Barbier, a Belgium ATD full time volunteer had suggested to postpone our discussion, he said "No, it is not because I have problems I think not to others! ". It is shocking one can be "thrown" like that.

The third workshop was to watch extracts of the video "poverty is violence" in the Sango language version.

A fourth workshop brought together some children: they were a few children because given the instability of the country, everyone preferred not to attend with their children in case of problems on the way. We just read some testimonies that ten children currently refugees of the ATD Courtyard had prepared and made a small workshop coloring the logo.

In the end, we ended up singing "Life is beautiful!", we could share a meal, and everyone left for home with a copy of the testimony of the Central African Republic under his arm.

In attendance there were several people from the inter-religious platform, human rights organizations members and other associations that we have known about from the displaced people sites. Also the old neighborhood leader and a reporter from the Central African Network of Journalists for Human Rights, who devoted an entire show, to the event.



2016

Happy New Year !

**Contact Us !**

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