

### **"Don't hesitate to learn! That way we can overcome ignorance..." (a learner)**

From July to November 2016 nearly twenty people attended a class regularly to learn how to read and write Swahili. The place to learn was in the heart of the Fish Market, in the meeting room of the board of administration. Thanks to their support, three afternoons a week, two teachers from Ilala Education District facilitated the class. The learners experienced a new method called "Ndiyo Ninaweza" (Yes I Can), based on the experience for teaching adults. The group was composed of adults and young people having in common no chance as a child to follow primary school education. They accepted to learn as if a child again, with their minds open to learn and to leave behind the shame that some can feel, they showed strength and courage. The class, implemented close to their place of living and working showed that with good conditions to learn, people can succeed, whatever the conditions of life.

Learners said the first motivation of learning is to improve their life, to find better work but they added, finally, "It's a question of dignity, I can be recognised as a human being as anyone else, I can know better my rights". What they experienced together went beyond a simple class. They really lived a common story where they learned to know each other. People were happy to join together every week, some preparing and participating themselves in the implementation of the class, arrange the seats, preparing the folders, the teaching tools, etc.

One of the youngest learners said: *"We feel as a family, really. We meet together, we exchange, we support the neighbor besides. If someone misses one day we try to show him. We try to progress together"*.

## **ATD Adult Literacy Class 2016 has finished!**

Jenifer spoke on behalf of the group at the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty, here is an extract of her testimony.

*"When I was a child I didn't have the chance to go to school. Life was very hard. When I decided to join the class, one challenge was to face the look of people around me. Their words – their laughing at me going to a class, leaving my job (Jenifer is selling chapati). But I was determined. I felt a lot of joy to be part of the group. I see I need to make a lot of effort to improve. And we helped each other, we paid attention that nobody be lost. Even myself I have a chance to find support with my children, even if before they used to laugh about me in my first lessons. But they are proud of me because now I know how to read and write. Now we take time to read together."*

*Today I manage to buy at the best prices, I can read the package, I can check my change and count my money when I have to buy things. I stop losing money in my small business. Before it was like I felt disabled, it was difficult to communicate, so I used to stay silent. Now I feel much better in my life in general. I never thought I could have this chance one day. I would tell those who didn't have the chance to go to school they shouldn't hesitate to go, don't hesitate to learn – that way we can overcome ignorance".*



The group of Fish Market learners with teachers and Ilala Education District Officers

#### **One learner:**

*"Today I can read the news, today I can share with my fellow what's going on in the world, now I feel really part of the community with no exclusion. The shame is gone, I feel stronger".*

## **The new Facebook Page is opened! Join us!**

- You can be a follower and support our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/atd.duniayanne>
- See on ATD Fourth World Website, article about Education For All: [www.atd-fourthworld.org](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org)

### **Contact Us!**

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## **ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER**

December 2016



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

## **Editorial**



Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of the year 2016, let us reflect on the following statement: "Poverty was not brought by God, it is caused by human beings because those who have are not ready to share with those who haven't". This

statement was given by mother Teresa of Calcutta. Greediness and selfishness leading to wealth accumulation can result into wars, violence, environmental degradation and worse, the catastrophe of extreme poverty which is a violation of human rights.

We ATD members in solidarity with other stakeholders, take the responsibility to ensure that these rights are solemnly restored, that is to regain humanity and dignity so that people are able to stand up, take a step forward and be able to bring changes in their personal lives and their societies at large. Our unity, involvement and commitment is so important because we local members remain in our localities when permanent volunteers keep changing. It is our responsibility to ensure that we build a self confident society ready to take charge and get involved in development.

2016 has been a successful year. We involved ourselves into different activities and researches hence expanding our public relationships. This was well reflected in the 17th October celebrations in Dar es Salaam, Njombe and Dodoma whereby people from different walks of lives, academicians, government officials and representatives from NGOs participated.

Internationally, we are in preparations for the special events of 2017: 100 years of the birth of Joseph Wresinski, 60 years since the start of ATD and 30 years of celebrations of 17th of October, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. These are responsibilities which needs our total commitment.

Wishing you all a happy New Year 2017!

Constantine S. Munema  
Member of International ATD Board of Directors



**Mama Kaijage (Chasimba) shares about the challenge for families to get Birth Certificate. October 15<sup>th</sup> in Makembusho, Dar es Salaam**

Next year will be an important celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. This years celebrations on 15<sup>th</sup> October brought together hundreds of people. Particular attention was given this year to the participation of all in order to put an end to poverty in all its forms, to ensure that people living in extreme poverty are the first partners in all actions, decisions and projects.

This year, the 17<sup>th</sup> October committee wished to give feedback to the members of ATD, families and friends who often said, "In fact, we don't really know what the Movement is doing in the country all along the year". In Dar es Salaam, at the Makembusho Village, families from different places, friends, officials from Education Offices and full time volunteers shared stories, challenges and successes based on the main actions of the Movement in Tanzania.

For each action the testimonies focused on the process of participation of those who do not have words and what can enable people to participate. Either actions are determined by a call from people living extreme poverty, or some projects are launched in partnership with institutions and in that case the Movement guarantees attention is paid to those who experience every day exclusion to be the first partners.

**Birth Certificate project (1):** For Mama Kaijage getting a Birth Certificate for each person is a right to be recognised that allows each person to be fully part of the community. The importance is how to involve people, especially those who are left behind to get the knowledge of working with administration offices, how people who experienced this can share with others, sharing knowledge and supporting each other. Everyone can have a role to play.

(...)

(1) Supported by UNESCO and AFD





**The Rope of Solidarity with participants  
World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty 2016, Dar es Salaam**

Mr. Gabriel Chacha is a Social Scientist having over ten years work experience with international and local organisations in social and economic programs. He has also been engaged in different research works. He joined the research team that leads the research that will redefine our understanding of what is extreme poverty and its dimensions. With ATD Fourth World's approach he has learned a new way to think with and give priority to the knowledge and participation of people living in extreme poverty. His team introduced the project during the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty in Dar es Salaam, he shared with us what does this mean to him.

#### **What is the main difference with your previous mission?**

What caught my attention is the deep culture of the preoccupation for the respect of dignity and human rights, especially for people living extreme poverty. In the Movement we don't work for, but with people, in a collective and participatory way. In my previous commitment, organisations simply listen, investigate but finally imagine by themselves which solutions should be done, which change we should make to eradicate difficult situations of life. In ATD Fourth World, everything starts from the experience, the contribution of those who live daily exclusion.

#### **Personally what is the main challenge ?**

It is a challenge to make concrete this ambition of equal participation. After some weeks I understand more strongly that participation is not only listening to people but involving them in every step from the beginning to the end, from the design, elaboration, planning, implementation, analysis and conclusions. I expect something crucial, something really new from all what we learn before. It will renew completely the traditional visions of institutions and help decision makers take the right decisions reflecting the reality of people's life.

**The mobilization of friends for  
The World Day for Overcoming Extreme  
Poverty in Njombe and Dodoma**

We prepared the event of 17<sup>th</sup> October at the Kisangani Smith Group in Njombe Region; we gave the message about ATD to our friends and explained to them concerning this international day of the eradication of poverty.

Friends from different areas attended, people from Mbeya, a blacksmith group from Makambako District, a farmer's group from Ludewa Village, vegetable farmers, media representatives came and presented the event on the radio in Njombe. A group of security guards from a milk factory and a friend who is a German citizen also participated. More than sixty participants attended the event of commemorating the 17<sup>th</sup> October this year.

#### **The message of this year was working together in solidarity to eradicate poverty.**

Participants were very interested and they felt comforted by the group, people were able to speak about some weakness when they saw that when we are together we can move forward together. The problem of poverty is not only a question of money, but also exclusion and not being able to share your thoughts. To have your thoughts excluded leads to not being able to learn from each other. People need to be together in all essential activities, upper class people and lower class people so that the opportunity of learning from each other can be accessible.

Njombe, Reuben Mtitu

In the capital city of Tanzania, Dodoma, Peter Msasu, a friend of the movement who lives in Bihawana village led an event of celebration of the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. This year along with his friends they joined with new friends from the next village and invited other members from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bihawana, Khome, and went to Mbabara (B) village to commemorate this day together. In total forty four people gathered in Mbabara Village.

#### **The message of the day was to eradicate ignorance, let us send our children to school.**

People spoke a lot about solidarity, collaboration and unity as a motor of success. People were very connected and new participants were very inspired about the day.

### **More than 260 events were organized in 54 countries in 2016**

See <http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/17-october-2016-reports>

**Education For All (2):** The team who presented the Education For All research project (see August 2016 newsletter) this 15<sup>th</sup> October in Dar es Salaam insisted on the strength of the group composed of people coming from marginalised areas, teachers and ATD full time volunteers. All the research was managed by this group, from the design, the interviews, to working on analysis and writing recommendations. People living in poverty could bring their knowledge and guarantee very concrete conclusions based on the reality and preoccupations of parents and children to ensure they can access primary education.

**Literacy Class (3):** People from Magogoni Fish Market were demanding the start of a Literacy Class. Through the participation of friends of the Movement who work there, the class was launched and welcomed about twenty people. The group of learners attend the 15<sup>th</sup> October event with teachers and representative of the Ilala Education Department. After the class, learners said how to read and write is a step to be part of the community and be active in any project (see last page).

**Determining the Dimensions of Poverty (4):** Is a research project to understand what poverty is, its dimensions and how to measure them. It is an opportunity to engage the intelligence of people trapped in poverty and to rethink with them what is poverty and how to measure it together with other participants like academics, policy makers or social workers. The Merging of Knowledge method will be employed in which people facing extreme poverty and social exclusion will be empowered to exchange ideas with other participants and be recognised as co-researchers, on an equal footing (read Gabriel's experience).

(2) Supported by UNESCO and AFD  
(3) Supported by Hille for Africa and AFD  
(4) Supported by AFD