

# ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER

August 2017

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



*"We must all work together to advance the rights of those living in extreme poverty and ensure that their voices are heard and their dignity respected".* Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.

By standing up and speaking out, be it in a local community meeting or at the United Nations, each and every member of ATD Fourth World takes a stand alongside the poorest people. This stand takes courage.

Father Joseph, founder of ATD Fourth World, said about the first friends of ATD, *"These personalities (...) probably initially thought they were getting involved in some ordinary program. Actually, they soon found that they were risking their credibility. Not only were they defending an indefensible population, but also, through their initiatives, they were offending existing charitable organizations (...) They were concerned about the outcome of risking their credibility in this way in the eyes of their own people"*.

In this Newsletter we will hear about the advocacy initiative of the ATD Education for All recommendations. The Education for All team has met over 1,000 education stakeholders – parents, teachers, local street government leaders – and facilitated discussion between these stakeholders. Members of ATD have also met a representative of the Ilala District Education Officer who accepted the recommendations to add to their work.

The Dimensions of Poverty research was officially launched. We hear from Mr Kasian, member of the National Research Committee, who are leading the project. And finally, Pelagie, new friend of the Movement, shares her thoughts on discovering ATD.

Every person in this Newsletter is ready to defend the rights of people living in extreme poverty, to speak out against injustice, to take risks in front of their own friends and community. To make a stand for social change. Through each initiative they are building our movement.

Hamisi Mpana  
ATD Permanent Volunteer

**"It is important for teachers and parents to meet regularly and communicate about our children" - one parent.**

After the study by the ATD Fourth World Education Team consisting of the research and completion of the report detailing the results of the study, the team met and considered what would be the next step of the project.

Consensus was found to promote the research findings by reaching different groups through meetings. These meetings would include policy makers, education officials, local government leaders and open public meetings that gather teachers, parents and local government officials in districts within the region of Dar es Salaam and beyond. To organise these meetings it was necessary to follow procedures and obtain permits.

The aim is to raise awareness among parents, teachers and other academic stakeholders, local government leaders and other institutions on the importance of basic education including other stakeholders to discuss and protect the rights of each child in primary education.

Once the correct permits were obtained from District Municipal Directors and education department officials, the Education for All team organised four meetings at different schools in Dar es Salaam. This included three schools where the research was carried out in Kinondoni District. The first of these schools was Pwani Primary School at which over 250 people attended including teachers, parents and ten-house leaders. The next was Tandale Primary School where the number of participants was over 600 including parents, teachers and leaders from the local street government office. A meeting was held in the new district of Ubungo at Milenia ya Tatu Primary School near Kimara, where the total number of participants involved was 640 again with parents, teachers, local government officials and a district official.

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The next step was to take the project outside of Dar es Salaam and test the research findings in other regions. A presentation was given in Mbeya at Ikulu Primary School where the number of people participating was over 375 including parents, teachers and school committee representatives.

The research recommendations were well received and brought about great debate among parents, teachers and local government officials and ward councillors who directly supported the proposed research recommendations. All these discussions were guided by members of ATD, teachers, people living in extreme poverty and permanent ATD volunteers.

There was also great importance for people living in extreme poverty in facilitating these meetings as it led to increased confidence, and recognition of their efforts in managing and defending the rights of children living in poverty to start and complete basic education.

Many parents and teachers found interesting the issues of communication and the relationships between parents and teachers, and school meetings. There was much comment on these matters as detailed in recommendations 11, 12 and 14.

**Recommendation 11.** Clear and adapted lines of communication must exist between parents and teachers. They can communicate through meetings, telephone calls, letters, visits, etc.

**Recommendation 12.** To create trust and improve relationships, all education stakeholders should develop mutual recognition about each others situation.

**Recommendation 14.** School meetings should be prepared by the head teacher and parent representatives. The meetings should provide a space for parents and teachers to share their experiences and the challenges they face while focusing on the well-being of the children's education. It is vital that parents' views are listened to.

Comments from parents and teachers include:

*"School meetings will help solve some challenges facing the children's education and will also improve the relationship between parents and teachers", a Head Teacher*

One parent also added to the proposal, *"It is important for teachers and parents to meet regularly and communicate about on our child's problems, progress and development."*

***"Education is a concept of development and sustainable development is what people are doing together. To recognise that I am educated is to understand I can share with others what I have, and in doing so will be a good way to achieve progress."***

In Dar es Salaam members of the Education for All team met with a representative of the Ilala district education officer in his office to present the research, he had this to say about the recommendations:

*"Education is a concept of development and sustainable development is what people are doing together. To recognise that I am educated is to understand I can share with others what I have, and in doing so will be a good way to achieve progress. These research findings are another concept that can be added to our work in all aspects in the field of the education sector, we will be able to focus on these recommendations".*

In raising awareness on the proposals and protecting children's rights in extreme poverty, the ATD team conducted an interview with one parent from Tegeta, who is also the chairman of a school committee.

He said parents and teachers received the findings of the research with happiness in our community, which opened the mind and understanding of many things like improving the relationship between teachers and parents and making significant changes in parents' responses to participating in different school and previous meetings. They have introduced suggestions as a concept of conducting meetings to create the best and a solid foundation for our children's education. For example suggestions such as practical punishments that do not cause children to be scared when a teacher enters the classroom with a stick, as we saw in the recommendation number 10 in the report.

**Recommendation 10.** Physical punishment and use of harsh words towards children must be stopped in schools. Parents and teachers should agree which non-physical discipline is acceptable

In promoting the results of the research, the Education for All team will continue this work throughout this year with the prospect of holding two further meetings outside Dar es Salaam in Moshi and Njombe. Other meetings will be organised with the Head Teachers of Primary Schools in Kinondoni District, further primary schools in Dar es Salaam, and with the Temeke District Education Officer.

ATD Fourth World Tanzania is involved in an international research on the dimensions of poverty and how to measure them. This research is jointly conducted by ATD Fourth World and Oxford University (United Kingdom). Seven countries are concerned by the project: Tanzania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, USA, France, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. It will continue for the next two years until the final outcome.

The purpose is to build a common definition of poverty, its various dimensions and the relationships between them. This is a long process which involves different people of various backgrounds and experiences: people with a direct experience of poverty, and people with an knowledge of poverty, including academics, practitioners, and policy makers.

The project is coordinated and designed by a mixed team: people with a direct experience of poverty, academics, practitioners and ATD full-time volunteers. By the Merging of Knowledge (MoK) process the people with a direct experience of poverty are recognised as co-researchers, on an equal footing with others.

It is an amazing experience! We seek to reach different people: Old people, people of working age, young, children, and special groups of people in order to get various experiences of life.

By working in peer groups they build up different kinds of knowledge: At the end, dimensions of poverty are identified, defined and ranked according to their relative importance.

We intend to reach groups of people in ten regions of Tanzania. We have started by Dar Es Salaam, in Kinondoni and Ilala District. The outreach has been successful with the strong involvement of activists. They introduced us to the local authorities, help us to identify and recruit people for the outreach, and to facilitate the peer groups meetings.

This project is a strong experience of co-responsibility of the Movement in Tanzania.

## Dimensions of Poverty Research in Tanzania is officially launched!



Dimensions of Poverty Research team at Mbagala (Dar es Salaam) during a training session to prepare the action



Mr. Kasiani, member of Dimensions of Poverty National Research Committee

This project gives me chance to learn more and see things differently. My particular role is to support the facilitator in the animation in the peer groups as elder group, adults etc.

I think the project will change a lot of things, it will change the behavior of the people because people they are used to think about their own situation, not the situation of others. This project will help to understand what is the real meaning of poverty and work together to identify what are the challenges.

I believe people will stay united because, when people meet as a group and discuss together it helps to build a stronger unity than as an individual. This project will help to bring people closer as a group.

In the past, I have faced so many challenges, because I used to commit in different things in my community like support people in the adult literacy class. I can say that some of the neighbours used to laugh about me, thinking I was losing my time but today they start to change because sometimes they are coming to see me and ask questions to join us in ATD.

In these three days of peer groups in Kunduchi (Mr. Kasiani was in the elders group) at the beginning we started from our own point of view and then we shared our experience in order to produce a common understanding.

I think this project will continue going stronger, because we got training for the project and we use what we learn from training with others, but training is never enough.

### 2017 Call to Action Campaign

Sign and join the thousands of people who already signed!



<http://urlz.fr/5r2k>

Give your voice, leave your testimony. Ask around to other ATD Fourth World members, share with your family, friends, neighbors to join the Call.

**STOP  
POVERTY**  
ALL TOGETHER IN DIGNITY



**"I see if we continue to be together it is a hope, a hope for the future."**

**All** along the fight led by ATD Fourth World members, we have a chance to meet and find strength, welcome new friends, new faces who are discovering the spirit of commitment and finding a way corresponding to an aspiration:

Pelagie comes from Rwanda, she has been living with her family in Dar es Salaam since 2009. One year ago she discovered the ATD Fourth World Movement. Quickly she got involved in the Street Library in Tandale and sometimes supports the team for some requests like translation. Today she is strongly involved in the new Dimensions of Poverty research project.

*"Something made me to be attracted by ATD. I have known ATD since last year in June, but before I have never seen an organisation where people living in poverty are respected and given the right to think and plan with people that live in poverty. What I found in ATD is really unique, special. People living in poverty are really respected, ATD members try to give the maximum dignity to people living in poverty. That really touched my heart, so I said, why not me to join those people to give my contribution in promoting human dignity. Because people living in poverty they are human beings like others, so they should be respected and benefit all human rights.*

*I began participating with enthusiasm in the Street Library activities because it gives hope for me that the future of those children will be good. When I see them coming and then share something together, reading books together, listening to the story, I see if we continue to be together it is a hope, a hope for the future".*

Pelagie shares often her hope to see this respect in all dimensions of society given on any person, especially those who are facing extreme poverty.

She says, "ATD members attitudes towards people living in poverty should be a good example to many other organisations involved in poverty.



*I saw that there is nothing better than sitting down with people in poverty and helping them to think and plan for themselves, creating situations where they are involved in planning for their own development.*

*I think many actions fail because of the lack of consulting people to see what are really their needs. In the project of Poverty Indicators (see page 3), when I listen to people living in poverty sharing their ideas, it makes me to believe that people living in poverty understand well what is poverty and what should be done to overcome it.*

*Even after one year I see there is something huge in ATD which is not easy to understand, there is a vision and I still have to understand this, to discover. So, I am ready to do my best to understand ATD in order to bring my contribution".*