

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



Welcome to our first newsletter in 2018. We are happy to share some news with you and hope that you continue to show strong energy in your daily commitment.

For us, our work has been progressing well, and we had the chance to welcome various people who supported us our efforts, namely Mr Bruno Dabout from the ATD International Leadership Team, Mr Martin Kalisa, from the African Regional Leadership Team, and friends from Kilimandjaro, Mbeya, Njombe and Dodoma, all of whom joined us in March. They participated strongly in our meetings and were a big support in helping us to achieve success in our actions.

As we announced in our last newsletter at the end of 2017, we concluded the project of Education For All by organizing a national seminar in March 2018, when families and different stakeholders came together and shared their experience of commitment in the project. The participants agreed a common conclusion on the importance of an equal partnership in order to ensure the success of children at school. In June, two fulltime volunteers and friends will attend an international seminar in Pierrelaye, in the headquarter of the International Movement, at which in sharing the testimonies on Education for All, we will hope to show what we have learned from the success of this project. The Dimensions of Poverty Research project is continuing and we have started to meet people outside of Dar es Salam, namely in Dodoma Region and in rural areas, especially Kondoa and Bahi Districts. This research showed us that, today, the human rights of poor people are still being violated. Sometimes, the poor environment makes things worse for them. We have been witnesses to the calamities caused by the last month's rains where houses were flooded, some people died, and many people are still suffering.

We intend to move forward by meeting people in Njombe in the nearly future.

In summary, these are the main actions on which the team have been focused during this period. We wish you all the best, and encourage all those who have been affected by the heavy rains to be able to overcome their struggles. All together we can help bring about positive changes!

Alexie Gasengayire
ATD Permanent Volunteer - Leadership Team



Discovering Rural Life in the area of Dodoma: the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Research Project at Bahi Village

In this our latest newsletter, we would like to share with you some news on our participatory research into the dimensions of poverty that we recently carried out in Bahi district, which is one of seven districts of Dodoma Region.

The economy of Bahi is dependent on agriculture (i.e. crops and livestock production). However, this district is characterized by a long dry season, where access to water often poses a big challenge.

Our outreach was conducted in Nkhome village, Ibugule ward, where we met men and women from different backgrounds, thanks to the great support of our friend, Peter Msasu. The people of the village are mainly from the Gogo ethnic group. We were struck by the strength and courage of the people there. Living in poverty together, they experience similar problems and face similar challenges. In response to this, they have succeeded in developing solidarity among themselves so as to help and support each other. For example, they all come together to help cultivate the land for one person, and then ensure that everyone in turn is similarly helped. This practical expression of solidarity means that no one misses the period for sowing seed and everyone is able to plant their crops in time.

From this example, and others that we saw, we learned that solidarity is a very important value for the people. It is a way to resist poverty and to strengthen unity in the community.

In our next newsletter, we will share more information about what we learned in this current phase of the dimensions of poverty research.

EDUCATION FOR ALL IN MARCH - DAR ES SALAM

On 6 March, we hosted a seminar on our project, *Education for All*. During the seminar, we shared the recommendations we received from the presentations we conducted in 14 different schools in and outside of Dar es Salam.

The objective of the seminar was to bring together the teachers, education officers and parents we met previously who made changes at their schools based on the recommendations we proposed. We thought that this seminar was particularly important as it enabled a range of individuals - teachers, education officers, parents, different organizations, and other stakeholders in the field of education – to be in one location and to be witnesses to this experience.

We had a number of positive results after ATD Fourth World met with parents and teachers at Mwereni Primary School in the Moshi Kilimanjaro region on 22 February 2018. Using our recommendations, parents started to participate in different activities at the school and attended school meetings. Compared to attendance rates prior to ATD's seminar, the number of parents attending the school meetings drastically increased. Parents also began to pay more attention to their children's schooling. The school noted that the academic progress of the students increased significantly, partially as a result of parents monitoring their children and ensuring that they attended school, worked hard, and completed their schoolwork.

Food for children at school,

During the presentation at the schools, many highlighted the importance of students being able to get lunch at the schools. It was recommended by the parents that the schools provide lunch services. These food services allow students to study effectively and to do well in their studies. So far, two schools outside Dar es Salaam have started to provide lunch for the students, namely Mwereni Primary School (in Kilimanjoro region) and Mkiu Primary School (in Njombe).

We see that parents and teachers are working together to ensure that children study well. As a result of the government's announcement of free education in primary and secondary schools, the Mwereni Primary School has created a special committee designed to manage food the school provides at lunch. This lunch is now available to all children, regardless of whether they are in day or boarding school. The children who come from families living in poverty and unable to provide food are helped by those who can contribute. This ensures that those who cannot contribute are not excluded from eating a lunch.

In addition, during the meeting at the school, the parents decided to start a "savings group" in order for all parents, whether they could afford to contribute or not, for lunch, as well as for extra lessons from different stakeholders. The parents' savings group received positive feedback from both stakeholders and different organizations that participated in the seminar. Many, in fact, said that other schools should copy this "savings group" initiative in order to improve education for their children, as if children are left hungry, then they cannot learn.

The head teacher from Tandale Primary School said, "Some parents in the past did not know the importance of education. After ATD organized this meeting with parents and teachers, which provided a platform to share information, parents and teachers started to recognize the importance of education. Now they take their children to school even though they themselves do not know how to read and write. ATD has started a literacy class at our school. Many parents participate in the class. This allows them to at least check the exercise books of their children. This was something that they weren't able to do previously, as it is difficult to check the exercise books of your children if you do not know how to read and write. After ATD finished their three-month program of literacy classes for adults, the management of Tandale Primary School decided to continue with the adult classes."



December 2017
YOUTH SEMINAR
"Facilitate the Street Library"
Mbagala, Dar es Salaam

Last year in December, ATD Fourth World prepared for the one-week youth seminar, held at the Center of Wamonaki Wabenedictine Wakamaldosi in Mbagala. The seminar brought together young ATD supporters from Dar es Salaam.

The aim of the seminar was to strengthen the community of ATD young people. These individuals are committed to facilitating various activities in communities and to discovering, from the individuals they interact with, what it means to be a friend of ATD. One of the things many of these young people mentioned was the importance of being committed and close to vulnerable people. It was great to see how these young individuals see themselves as having a big role to play as youth in their communities. At the same time, we must recognize that they are facing various challenges in the activities they do.

In particular, this seminar gave us an opportunity to understand the challenges they face when they facilitate street libraries. Street libraries are places where young ATD supporters meet with children and bringing various activities. For instance, in the neighborhood of Tandale, the aim of the street library is to bring children together and strengthen the relationships among them, and particularly with families. However, we learned that when the ATD youth are the only ones in charge, not everyone in the community is receptive or regards their actions in a positive way.

Shafii, one of the ATD young supporters, mentioned that facilitating a street library was not an easy task. You have to think about which children need more attention and how to encourage friendship among the children present. Bahati, another young supporter, emphasized that the group should be better organized in order to ensure that all children take part in the street library.

After learning about the life of ATD's founder, Khalfani said, "Joseph Wresinski committed to live where others failed. He didn't want people to have to accept endless assistance. He wanted people to stand up; not to be addicted to charity ... he did not want people to lose hope."

By participating in this seminar, the young people were able to understand better how to take on the challenges they face and move forward in a positive way. In addition, they came to see more clearly the overall goals of street libraries.

Finally, the seminar was designed to help young people understand more about ATD Fourth World's philosophy and the vision of its founder, Joseph Wresinski. Young people have a big role to play in contributing to the struggle against extreme poverty and they should consider themselves as having a significant part to play in this movement, regardless of their life circumstances.

Our rights are in our hands, it's
up to us to make them a
reality!

MacDonald

6th march, 2018, review of the day.

The "Access to Primary School Education for Children Living in Extreme Poverty" seminar, held at the French Alliance in Dar es Salam, gathered together parents, teachers, local authorities, and representatives of local, national and international organizations. After two years of research, meetings and dialogues, every stakeholder could listen and learn from the others. The possibility of creating a successful learning environment could be heard among conversations with parents, teachers, and all the education stakeholders. We learned about strategies to not leave behind any children when it comes to access to primary school and their learning. We shared how successful we are when we change our approach from a situation where everybody claims, "I make an effort" to the one where we can say together "We unite our efforts".



Meeting between Dar es Salam members of ATD Fourth World, Bruno Dabout from the ATD International Leadership team, Martin Kalisa, ATD Regional Delegate and delegates from the Mbeya, Moshi, Njombe and Dodoma districts the day before the seminar.



The day included an artistic element, thanks to the music and voices of Jitombue Group (Abdu Macha, Mary Mshana, Irene Erick).

Bibi Teddy (Rosi Ubwe), from Tandale, member of the *Education for All* coordination committee.



More than 80 participants shared their experience in implementing the *Education for All* recommendations and demonstrated the key conditions necessary for uniting to guarantee success in school.