

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 featured in our latest Newsletter, our ongoing multi-dimensional poverty research project has clearly shown, through meetings and discussions with people living in poverty and with other stakeholders, that the daily reality of extreme poverty can have different dimensions and expressions.

In July this year, children were the focus of the fieldwork for this project. In concrete terms, they shared with us how the denial of fundamental rights such as inadequate time to enjoy childhood and challenges with accessing and maintaining education can heighten the prospect of them not being able to realise their full potential and of experiencing many difficulties in later life as adults.

In June, a 4-person delegation from ATD Tanzania participated in an international seminar at ATD Fourth World International Centre in Pierrelaye, France which included participants from 14 countries. The aim of this seminar was to merge knowledge and to share stories of 'learning from success' so as to better understand the conditions necessary for a successful education for everyone, including for children living in extreme poverty. Discover how our delegates got on.

Stories of Change, an initiative of ATD's Stop Poverty Campaign in 2017, featured a story of one member of ATD Fourth World Tanzania, Reuben. His story, described here, explains how people coming together through a rural cooperative enabled a whole community to find its own pathway to successful development.

Again highlighting the importance of education, our Newsletter also features the adult literacy activity organized by ATD in the Tandale area of Dar es Salaam and how it enabled a group of learners to discover the gift of reading and writing. As a result, the learners today feel more confident and independent, having achieved an important personal milestone in overcoming a life of exclusion and leaving behind the fear of humiliation.

We hope you will enjoy reading our Newsletter.  
Laurent Ganau,  
ATD Fourth World Tanzania.

## Children speak for the multi-dimensional poverty research project at Kilimandjaro Region



Kilimandjaro region was the latest location for the research conducted by a group of ATD Fourth World members as part of ATD Fourth World's international Poverty Research Project. The research was implemented in partnership with the Moshi Municipality and the Hai Rural District, where the team met with children in Mwereni Primary School and Karama Primary School respectively. A total of 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) in each of the two schools met in a peer group discussion which was held over 3 days. The children were aged from 9 to 14 years.

The children spoke of what extreme poverty meant to them, often linking the topic to how their families, neighbours and classmates directly experienced poverty. They described poverty in different ways appropriate to them, such as having to travel long distances to school, lacking the means to attend and stay in school, coping with inadequate food stocks in the family household, and having torn clothes and not having a good pair of shoes to wear.

The children stressed the crucial importance of their family situations. Often parents are separated and the child has to live with relatives where daily life is a struggle and where the child can sometimes be mistreated. For example, he or she can be required to work to bring home money, or having to do regular housework or difficult work in the field, and then not having the strength or time to study or even to go to school. In such circumstances, some children can end up on the streets, homeless and vulnerable.

Such expressions of extreme poverty directly affect the rights of children as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. At its most basic level, children living in extreme poverty are denied their right to a full childhood and are more likely to experience poverty and exclusion as adults.

# Everything We Set Out to Do Can Be Possible

By Jean Venard

The International Movement ATD Fourth World website proposes stories that show that poverty is not inevitable and show that together, we can stop poverty. Jean Venard, full time volunteer and former Regional delegate for Africa told the story of Reuben, member of ATD Fourth World Tanzania.

<https://bit.ly/2vua0Nu>

In a village in the south east of Tanzania, Reuben, a member of ATD Fourth World, is a living example of development based on the knowledge of the inhabitants and their capacity to join forces.

Part of Reuben's strong will to fight poverty no doubt comes from his own personal experience. He remembers when he was young, all those people coming back from Dar es Salaam, the big coastal city, some twelve hours away from his village, who used to say that everything there was fantastic. He left for that big city too one day, and ended up working in very hard jobs as a labourer on building sites, earning three hundred Tanzania shillings a day, barely enough to pay for his evening meal.

He made up his mind to move on. He went without food every third day, so as to be able to purchase a lottery ticket. Would he be the winner of the million shilling main prize? Or maybe the second prize of half a million? Or even if it was only the third prize of two hundred and fifty thousand shillings....

Unfortunately, his three tickets were never winners! He was left in despair and kept wondering why he was never the lucky one. He watched that damn lottery machine which did not want him to be a winner. He kept his eyes on it so much that he ended up designing it in his head, making it real for himself. After some time, he took the design in his mind and built the actual machine—and it worked!

A policeman who found out about this was flabbergasted to find Reuben to be so clever, and decided to give him some money instead of giving him a penalty for organising illegal gambling activities! Reuben made some money with his lottery. But at the end of the day, he was not the happier for it. "I just didn't feel good to be making money on the backs of other people."

He had learnt one thing through his experience: he believed that for all those young people to come out of poverty, they needed one thing—some kind of training or skill. In his family they were all blacksmiths, so he decided to go back to that trade. He promoted a small association set up by his brother, the Kisangani Smith Group, and set up a place where the young people could be trained. They learned a trade there, making agricultural tools needed by the neighbouring farmers.

One of them, Damian, says: "I wanted to study and I asked Reuben if I could manage to do so. He encouraged me. I managed to go to school while working as a blacksmith to be able to pay for my studies. Knowledge is a mind-opener to other realities."

Visit the webpage

**STOP POVERTY**  
**Stories of Change**

<https://storiesofchange.atd-fourthworld.org/>

and discover many others stories from  
all over the world.





Reuben and his group have, since 1998, initiated a reforestation project with the aim of constituting their own supply of wood. The members of the Kisangani Smith Group work from experience acquired by observing others at work. That also helped them to look after a small stream that they managed to divert to create the natural irrigation system for a local nursery. In addition, without waiting for government help, which is always a very lengthy process, the members of the group decided to take matters into their own hands and set up a hydroelectric system.

This development project for the community started from a blacksmiths shop intended for the training of the young people. For Reuben, it was obvious that every person in the village was involved in this project and that each and every person would benefit from it. There are two important factors for such a success: the capacity to create something technically and to make use of a local knowledge, on the one hand; and at the same time, the capacity to join forces around the said project.

With Reuben being so aware of the importance of joining forces, he concludes: "With ATD Fourth World, I found the motivation and encouragement I needed. I came to understand that, thanks to solidarity and unity, everything we set out to do can be possible."

## International Seminar, June 2018: "Everyone Can Learn If..."

A delegation from ATD Tanzania participated in an international seminar organized by ATD Fourth World at its International Centre in Pierrelaye, France. The aim of the seminar was to share case studies of "learning from success" related to how children living in extreme poverty realised their fundamental right to access and attain education, thereby improving understanding of how this right can be made real for all children. Our delegation, comprising Pellagia Mdimi (Kunduchi Primary School), Aloyce Benjamin (Pwani Primary School), Hamisi Mpana and Laurent Ganau (both ATD Fourth World Tanzania full-time volunteers), shared stories of success linked with our education work. One such story was called "A Chance to Be Somebody" which was about the struggle of a mother to gain access to school for her children, while being supported by ATD Fourth World volunteers and teachers.

Delegates from a total of 14 countries from each continent shared their own stories of success in the seminar. In learning from successes in action for education, and by merging knowledge and experiences related to them, the seminar highlighted the importance of the role of parents in their children's education, and how crucial it is for parents, teachers and local educational authorities to work together as equal partners towards this goal.

Stand by for more information in our next Newsletter!

# Adult Literacy Class in Tandale

Being able to read and write remains a challenge for many people in Tanzania today. Basic literacy is not a privilege but a right that everyone should enjoy. So many parents are reluctant to share that they did not have this chance to learn and as a consequence, suffer humiliation in their neighborhoods and in their daily lives. If we want to see people succeed in their efforts to learn as adults, then their dignity must be respected.

In Tandale area of Dar es Salaam where ATD is present, a literacy course was organized from September to December 2017 for a group of adults who were willing to learn. The learners had to find the time to come three times a week at 4 pm when school classes were finished. Ten people commenced the class and 8 people completed the course.

One of the learners was a worker at a meal machine cleaning maize, another was a housewife taking care of her large family, while another was a vegetables seller at Tandale market - so many of the learners experienced a hard life. Yet despite their daily struggles, they attended and participated in the classes until the very end and improved significantly their ability to read and write. For example, one learner was pregnant, had two children to look after, got up at 4 am every morning, prepared her small business in cooking cassava, walked a long distance to sell her produce, and then came back home in the afternoon to feed her children and to make herself ready for the 4 pm class.

After the final class in December, the participants declared that they did not want to stop - "We need to go further", they said. This shows how everything is possible when different parts of the community come together to commit to supporting an action or a project with people experiencing a challenging life. The participants were very motivated and pushed themselves to go further. A strong solidarity was developed among them, with participants actively helping and supporting one another.

While ATD full time volunteers supported and organized the classes, without the commitment of local people in Tandale, nothing would have been possible. For example, Bibi Teddy and Ashruna, two mamas, got involved in meeting families to share information about the classes and to motivate people to participate in the course. They learned a lot themselves through this experience: "I am proud because we became real friends (with the learners) and (now) they share with me about their lives. Sometimes they come to visit me", said Bibi Teddy.

Ashruna said of one learner: "I have known her for a long time. I used to help her by signing documents on her behalf, but one time I was surprised to see her not asking for help. Finally, she was confident enough to sign the documents herself. I am so happy to see this change in her as a result of her participating in the classes".

The success of the literacy course was also made possible thanks to the strong commitment of staff from the Education Ministry. Mama Mtsingwa, who was in charge of the Adult Education Program in Kinondoni District, was very active in finding a teacher for the classes and schools for hosting the classes. Tandale Primary School happily opened its doors and did so much to help create a welcome environment for the learners. The local authorities were also very supportive in helping to organize the classes in Tandale.



Arising from this experience, Tandale School is now willing to organize a new course of adult literacy in the future. This would be an opportunity to both welcome new adult learners from the community and to involve the participants from the previous course, who have gained so much from it, in the organization of the new course.

**"I was wondering so much for myself, if will be possible for elder like me to learn (...) but now I can read and slowly writing myself I am so proud on it. My grand child helped me." - Bibi Arafati**