

# TANZANIA NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

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ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER 4

## The approach: Learning from Success

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She said from the onset: "Everyone has some success in life. (...) We know that you work together, but we will ask each of you: 'What did you do?' ... You will say for example: 'I invited the children', I will ask you: 'How did you invite them?' ... With our questions we want to get the knowledge out of each one of you... The knowledge that comes from experience".

In this way, the focus was on what a person actually did, rather than on intentions or justifications. From this knowledge, the group then tried to formulate "Principles of Action". These ranged from very practical sentences (e.g. 'Adapt the setting of the action to the reality of the children') to very deep comments: (e.g. 'Fight discrimination, Build peace between people').



Orna Shemer

## What I learned? Learning from Success creates a positive mindset

In the Knowledge Action Commitment Team at the International Centre of ATD Fourth World based in France, we ask ourselves daily the question: How can the members of the Movement get the help they need to deepen their knowledge of the people they are involved with and to improve their action, so that it can be liberating and reach those who are still trapped in poverty. When we got to know Orna and her work with Learning from Success, we discovered the positive mindset it created. With the African Regional Team we invited her to share this approach in the Youth Seminar in Dar es Salaam.

Coming to Africa for the first time and experiencing a new way of learning together with young people from different African countries, different ways of life, different backgrounds and experiences, was for Orna and myself an exciting endeavour.

All throughout the seminar, we discovered how each person is trying "To be friends with the friendless" through sharing time, skills, creativity and affection. The strict assignment by Orna to only ask for things "one can visualise" helped us see with our mind's eye Orna singing songs with the children and making more songs from children's messages; we could "see" how Christian prepares and facilitates a weekly radio program with Tapani children which is listened to by children, parents and teachers, and sometimes politicians.

We could "see" Shaif lead his friends to stop some criminals from stealing and beating up women in the neighbourhood. We "watched" Aty guide a child's hesitant hand to draw. We followed Plad carrying water to the house of an old couple, saw him sit with the old man asking questions, and the man share things from a distant past that the young man does not know.

All these and many more stories showed the best of each participant, but also the price they pay for their commitment in their daily lives: Believe in your commitment even when you are all on your own, as did Biza, who today is surrounded by a group of 15 other youths; face mockery like Pazi when helping others without asking for money: "Leave no one behind".

Everyone, including the group of facilitators, has learnt many things that can inspire our action. Thanks to all the dynamic, intelligent, resourceful, courageous and committed young people, there is reason to look to the future with hope.



Romy Hoffmann  
ATD International

Coming soon...

- Education For All: Research report and dissemination meeting
- Soon to be announced the new ATD International Leadership Team
- Opening of the Facebook page of the Young Friends of ATD

Contact Us!

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ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER April 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 Wresnaiski (1917-1988) founder of ATD Fourth World -



## Editorial

### Learning and committing together to be better friends to the friendless

We hope you are OK and doing fine, we are very happy and encouraged to let you know what exactly happened recently in our daily actions from ATD Fourth World Tanzania.



In March ATD organized a big youth gathering with different young people coming from Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia, which took place in Dar es Salaam for one week. Among us not everybody is strong, if we turn our backs on those who are weak, how could they go forward without us.

The meeting was to strengthen the young friends of ATD who are already committed themselves doing different activities in their societies in a way of being together with the people who are considered having no friends in our communities.

I had the chance to learn from the participants how they commit themselves and their involvement brings changes and positive impact in their communities, such as unity and thinking with each other. It enables them to create a platform in the society for everyone to contribute their ideas in a sense to overcome the problems as one.

They arrange their time because most of the young friends of ATD are students and some have already personal activities, but they are still in contact to offer their time to other people who are always suffering. Through their actions they strengthen their long-term relationship among the neighbourhood. I saw how the young people are ready to be with extremely poor people over many months and years to develop trust and go forward step by step with them.

Hemed (ATD volunteer)



Fabienne (African Region Team)

From 20 to 25 March 2016, thirty young people from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo met in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. We were happy to celebrate the first international ATD Fourth World event held in Tanzania since the Movement was born here.

Our Movement finds its strength in the commitment of each of us and bringing us together to share our beliefs, our doubts and enthusiasms is essential to endure...

The main objective was to strengthen the commitments young people are taking within their community and to enhance the enthusiasm of an active youth that carries with it the force to make proposals.

As one of the youth said: "Any success or development of the world is in our hands as young people: a world where there will be no discrimination, a world without poverty. But we can only do that if we remain united. If we were not united, this meeting here in Dar es Salaam could not succeed. I learned to feel concerned by the problems of the other, that the problem of the other, this is my problem, and I have the right to help him get by: it is from this that becomes friend of the friendless."

(continued...)

*Being a friend to friendless is not an individual responsibility but an obligation. The most enduring value as a youth you will ever be able to give the community is your commitment. Try as much as you can to be friendly to the marginalised, they don't need your money but acceptance as human beings. Patrick*

[FULL TEXT Tanzania ATD Newsletter April 2016](https://www.atd-fourthworld.org/tanzania-newsletter-april-2016)

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