

ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA NEWSLETTER

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

Editorial

Understand to act and change

Participatory research on poverty indicators



Dear friends,

We are happy to send you some news from ATD Fourth World members. Since our last news, we had the chance to experience different events that permit us to strengthen our links with each other. Besides our daily fight alongside people living in poverty, we are now engaged in two long-term challenges. Their common points: the will to understand deeply the life and struggle of people facing extreme poverty; and gathering people from every part of society while reserving the heart of the project for those who know deeply what it is to face exclusion.

ATD volunteers, ATD friends living in poverty or not are engaged to listen and understand what people living in poverty share. Then they will propose to policy makers, international or national, professionals and citizens a way to take into account the experiences of those who themselves face extreme difficulties.

Achieving **Education for All** is a major challenge. As announced in the last newsletter, we are working on this important issue. A committee composed of ATD members from various backgrounds from Tegeta, Tandale and the Dar es Salaam Fish Market is leading this work. Our friend Selemani will speak more about this on the following page.

The second challenge is to identify **new indicators of poverty** in a worldwide research project. In partnership with Oxford University a proposal is being prepared for the World Bank to fund this ambitious project. Such projects too often exclude people who have first hand experience of what is extreme poverty. It will be a chance for us, in Tanzania, to develop new policies and find new ways to understand the situations of exclusion through the experiences of those who are living it.

We are just at the beginning. Everyone can take part to the effort, you are welcome!

Salehe Seif
Team Leader

ATD Fourth World in collaboration with Oxford University, started a new project which will associate many people's knowledge, understanding of poverty and awareness on finding new poverty indicators, in five countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Canada, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

Poverty Indicators are tools for the understanding and measurement of poverty. The project aims to redefine existing indicators by engaging with people with direct experience of poverty, practitioners and academics, by using a methodology known as the Merging of Knowledge, rooted in the understanding that significant bodies of knowledge exist amongst individuals living in poverty and amongst those whose role it is to respond to poverty.

New indicators, new understanding, new policies....

It is widely recognised that poverty is multidimensional, the product of the multiple consequences of a lack of resources sufficient to meet needs that are simultaneously experienced by people affected. It is also acknowledged that these dimensions are not well specified, that certain dimensions may previously have gone unrecognised or been under appreciated, and that the ways in which the dimensions interact to shape the experience of poverty are not well understood. The proposed research sheds light on all these issues by capturing the knowledge of people who experience poverty directly and those who work alongside them.



Education For All

Understand to act and change

The Education for All research has now reached the mid term of its plan. As we told you in the last newsletter, this participatory research study aims to understand what are the conditions that allow children living in extreme poverty to start and finish their primary school education. A committee of ATD members are working on the coordination. Salma and Hamisi, two young ATD Tanzanian volunteers and contributors share with us about their experience.

What do they do

One of their responsibilities is to facilitate the research committee, a group composed of people having and not having an experience of poverty. This committee thinks, decides and acts together. They are also present in the field, *"I am there to support the one conducting the interviews"*. The research is designed in order to allow people living in poverty to be the actors of the project, Hamisi and Salma support and work with the committee in various aspects of the project. Together they visit people living in poverty to introduce the project and to conduct interviews. Salma said, *"I am interested in the committee because we work in a cooperative way, we listen to each other and help each other"*.

Learning by doing

"First it is something big for me that I have never done before, because it makes me learn many things. At the beginning it was difficult because usually research is done by academicians, by universities, but for me, through people in the team, working together it gave me a picture on how to do research", says Hamisi. Through the project Salma gained strength: *"Now I am confident to talk to many people"*. Hamisi explains that he has noticed through his experience working with families living in hard situations how they are concerned with education issues. He tells us what is unique about this project, *"Before we had the project of Access to School, we visited families and helped their children to be able to attend school, but it was not as this research where we go in depth to understand the barriers those families face sending their children to school, here we go further"*.

Salma and Hamisi would be happy to share with you more about their experience, you are welcome to ask them questions.



Selemani met ATD Fourth in 2003. At this time he worked at the Fish Market of Dar Es Salaam, fishing and selling fish with his friends. As a father of a young boy, his life is a long struggle but he managed finally to get a place to sell fish on his own. Selemani attended the 2009 Adult Literacy Class run by ATD for people working at the Fish Market and succeeded in learning how to

read and write Swahili. As a person with his own experiences of life, he is someone very concerned with questions of solidarity, access to rights for everyone and supporting people in his community.

When he was proposed to take part in the Education For All research, he said he was proud to get involved in such a project and quickly told us: *"We need to focus on primary education because there are a lot of challenges that prevent people to continue their education. Later, if we have more resources, we can focus on secondary level."* For Selemani it was important to include people in this research in the neighbourhood where he lives as well as people he knows at his workplace.

"Before I met ATD, I didn't believe in myself, today I understand better the way to fight every day and to better myself. That's why when I feel there is something that concerns other people I don't hesitate because it reminds me of my life before and I don't want the same for others."

It is not so obvious to get involved in regular meetings, spending many hours thinking, exchanging ideas with very different people. *"Despite the differences, people stay as one"*. It's a good opportunity to gain training as a researcher. *"This practice gave me a good experience on how to conduct an interview"* said Selemani after the second step: going to visit and interview people.

According to him, *"The following steps will define the challenges faced by families about the ways to support their children"*.

For Selemani it is clear, *"Access to education is the key way to overcome poverty. If we find a way to solve difficulties, families could consider education as a gift"*.

AGENDA

**We invite you to keep in mind the next International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17th October 2015
You can join us to prepare this day.**