

**Rafiki Mpendwa,**

Tunatumai wewe na familia yako ni wazima na wenye afya njema.

Ndani ya kijarida hiki, tutaongelea kuhusu matatizo, yanayozikuta baadhi ya familia zilizo masikini sana, katika uandikishaji wa vyeti vya kuzaliwa.

Hata hivyo, tutaanza na ujumbe uliotolewa na watoto waliokusanyika kwenye mkutano wa Dunia wa watoto, uliotayarishwa na ATD Dunia ya Nne huko Ouagadougou, mnamo tarehe 20 ya Novemba 2009, kwa ajili ya kuadhimisha miaka 20 tangu kupitishwa kwa azimio la Kimataifa la haki za watoto duniani. (Tanzania iliridhia mkataba huo mnamo mwaka 1991.)

**Dear friend,**

We hope you and your family are fine and that you are all in good health.

In this Newsletter, we are going to speak about the difficulties, in some very poor families, to register the children at birth.

However, we will start our Newsletter with the message prepared by children gathered in the Children's Forum, organised by ATD Fourth World in Ouagadougou, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (which was signed by Tanzania in 1991).

**Maombi ya dhati toka nyoyoni mwa watoto wa Africa**

*Sisi ni watoto wa Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast na Mali. Tunaishi na familia zetu, mitaani, Vituo vya kulelea watoto, katika miji na vijiji. Watoto wa Cameroon, Jamhuri ya Africa ya Kati, Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Congo na Senegal wametutumia Ujumbe wa kuwaelezea (...) kuwa, haki za mtoto zinamaana gani kwetu.*

Kwa pamoja tunatamani kuwaambia kuwa mahitaji yetu ni kukua vizuri:

(...) Wazazi wetu (...) wanaturithisha ujasiri wao kwetu sisi. Wanafanya kila jitihada kuhakikisha kwamba tunapata mahitaji yetu yote muhimu, lakini wakati mwingine wanapatwa na simanzi kwa kushindwa kuyatimiza. Ni kututia kwao moyo wa kishujaa kunakotuwzesha kuendelea na masomo na kuwa watoto wa taifa la sasa na kesho. (...)

**An appeal from the hearts of the children of Africa**

*We are the children of Benin, of Burkina Faso, of the Ivory Coast and of Mali. We live with our families, on the streets, in children's homes, in towns and in villages. The children of Cameroon, of the Central African Republic, of the Democratic*

*Republic of the Congo and of Senegal have also sent us messages to tell you (...) what the rights of the child really mean for us children.*

Together we wish to tell you what our needs are to grow up properly.

(...) Our parents (...) transmit their courage to us. They do all they possibly can to provide for our every need but sometimes they're sad



ATD Fourth World Movement - P.O. Box 61786 - Dar es Salaam  
 mail : [atd.tanzania@gmail.com](mailto:atd.tanzania@gmail.com) - tel : 022 - 276 17 17  
 English website : [www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Tanzania,549-.html](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Tanzania,549-.html)  
 Tovuti ya Kiswahili : [www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Kiswahili-.html](http://www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Kiswahili-.html)

Ni vyema watoto kwenda shule. Tunajua kwamba shule si njia pekee ya mafanikio, lakini inasaidia kujitayarisha kwa faida ya vizazi na taifa la kesho. Lengo letu hapo baadae ni kuutumikia ulimwengu tukimaanisha ulimwengu ambao utawapa fursa pia watoto wengine popote duniani kupata nafasi ya kulitumikia taifa lao la baadae na ulimwengu kwa ujumla wake. (...)

Sisi watoto tunajua ya kwamba ili tuweze kukuzwa katika maadili mema ni muhimu pia kukutana na marafiki, kucheza nao michezo mbalimbali, kama muziki wa dansi na tamaduni zetu kati yetu husaidia mahusiano ya karibu na maelewano zaidi kati yetu. Kwa mfano: Baadhi yetu tuliwaomba watu wazima wazazi wetu katika maeneo yetu kusaidia katika kujenga upya moja ya nyumba za marafiki zetu. Tunataka watoto wote wawe marafiki, kwa sababu urafiki husaidia kuweza kuishi maisha bora na yenye furaha, hata kama ni masikini, hata kama huna kitu, urafiki hushinda njaa.

Kwa pamoja tunataka kuwaambia kinachotuzuia kuishi katika mwenendo wa maadili mema.

Hatupendi wazazi wetu wanyanyasike kutokana na ufukara tulionao. Wale wanaowaheshimu wazazi wetu ndio marafiki zetu.

Wakati mwingine watoto hufanywa kama vituko kwa sababu viatu vyao vimechakaa na kuvaa nguo zilizo chakaa, hatupendi hali hii (...) tunaweza (...) tukawaambia wale wanao wafanyia vituko waache maramoja. Tunaweza kuwapa peremende watoto watukutu ili kuwatuliza. (...) Hatimae kucheza nao pamoja bila matatizo yoyote.

Baadhi yetu wale tunaishi mtaani tunakosa hata ile heshima ya undugu kati yetu na wadogo zetu. Matokeo yake ni kwamba kama unakazi tu ndipo unapoheshimika, na hayo ndio maisha yalivyo. Tunaishi tukiamini kwamba kama tutakuwa na kazi nzuri leo basi hata maisha yetu ya baadae tutaweza kuyamudu, na tutaweza kuwatunza wazazi wetu. (...)

Wakati mwingine ni vigumu hata kwenda shuleni (...) kwa sababu wazazi wetu hawawezi kulipa malipo ya ziada ambayo walimu wakati mwingine hututoza. (...) Tunafahamu pia ni kwanini wakati mwingine watoto hushindwa kwenda shule kwa vile mama zao wameshindwa kulipia (...) usajili wa vizazi na vifo ili kupata cheti cha kuzaliwa, ambapo huwezi kupokelewa shuleni bila cheti cha kuzaliwa.

Zaidi ya hayo, mtoto anahitaji kuwa na jina lake mwenyewe la sivyo ataishia kuitwa weee! ambapo sio vyema wala heshima ya utu wa mwanadamu.

Wakati mwingine tunalazimika kukuwa haraka kabla ya wakati kutokana na sababu mbalimbali zinazo tupata (...)

because they just can't make ends meet. It's their courage which pushes us to get on at school and to become the children of tomorrow. (...)

It's good for children to go to school. We know that school is not the only route to success, but it helps us to prepare for our future. Our future is to save the world. Saving the world means helping others to also have the chance to prepare for their own future. (...)

We children know that in order to grow up properly it's also important to have friends to meet, play, dance and talk with... Among ourselves, we children help each other out. For example, some of us asked the adults in their area to help rebuild the house of one of their friends. We want all children to be friends, because friendship helps you to live happily, even when you're poor, even when you don't have anything. Friendship is stronger than hunger.

Together, we want to tell you what stops us from growing up properly.

We don't want our parents to feel humiliated by their poverty. Those who respect our parents are our friends.

Sometimes children are made fun of because their shoes are falling apart or because they are badly dressed. We don't like that. (...) We can (...) ask those who are making fun of them to stop. We can give these bullied children sweets to calm them down (...). And then we can play together.

Those of us who live on the streets don't even enjoy the respect of their little brothers. If you have a job you are respected and that's life. We live in the hope that if we have a job today we will manage to have a better life tomorrow and to look after our parents. (...)

Sometimes it's also difficult to get to school (...) because our parents can't pay the extra fee that teachers sometimes charge. (...) We also know which children can't go to school because their mothers couldn't afford (...) to register their birth. And you can't go to school if you don't have a birth certificate!

What's more, a child needs to have a name. Otherwise he or she just gets called 'hey!' and that's not nice. (...)

Sometimes we are forced to grow up too quickly. (...)



## Kuwa na utambulisho...

Kama watoto kutoka Ouagadougou walivyotumbia, "mtoto anahitaji kuwa na jina" toka katika kifungu cha 7, katika mkutano wa kimataifa wa haki za mtoto "Mtoto anapaswa kuwa amesajiliwa mara baada ya kuzaliwa na anahaki ya kuwa na jina tangu kuzaliwa kwake pia haki ya kupata utaiifa (...)"

Bilashaka haki hizi zinapatikana katika sheria za Tanzania na sasa zipo katika sheria mpya zijulikanazo kama "Sheria ya watoto ya mwaka 2009", iliyopitishwa mwanzoni mwa mwezi Novemba.

Hataiyo, kama unavyojua, wakati mwingine ni vigumu kuwa zikitumika kwa kila mmoja kwani miezi kadhaa iliyopita, tulikumbana na familia nyingi ambazo watoto wao aidha wote au baadhi yao, hawaja sajiliwa baada ya kuzaliwa. Baadae baadhi ya akinamama walitumbia :

*Katika kikundi chetu cha wanawake cha Tandale, tuligundua kuwa wazazi wengi wana kutana na matatizo ya kutokuwa na vyeti vya kuzaliwa kwa mmoja au zaidi katika watoto wao.*

*Mama mmoja alisema kwamba alikuwa na cheti cha kuzaliwa cha binti yake, lakini alikipoteza alipohama.*

*Mwingine alieleza kuwa mwaka uliopita alianza kufuatilia cheti cha kuzaliwa cha mwanae akaacha : siku mbili zilizopita alikwenda Magomeni na sasa amekipata. Pia alitakiwa kufanya vivyohivyo kwa mtoto wake wa kike mdogo, lakini hakupata hata tangazo (baada ya kujifungua, aliondoka na kadi ya kiliniki na kuambiwa kurudi siku iliyofuata kwa ajili ya kupata tangazo, lakini kwa sababu kadhaa hakuweza kwenda).*

*Zipo sababu mbalimbali, lakini matokeo huwa ni sawa : Tunakosa vyeti vya kuzaliwa vya watoto wetu na huwa ni tatizo pale ambapo mtoto anapokuwa amefikia umri wa kwenda shule. Marazote mwalimu hupokea mtoto bila hata ya cheti cha kuzaliwa darasani kwake kama tunaweza tu kumpatia fedha, kwa mfano shilingi*



## Having an identity...

As the children from Ouagadougou told us "a child needs to have a name". In its article 7, the International Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms "The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality (...)"

Of course this right exists in the Tanzanian law and is now in the new law known as "the Law of the Child Act 2009", voted at the beginning of last November.

However, as you know, for some people it is sometimes difficult to have their rights respected. In the past few months, we met many families in which all the children, or some of them, were not registered at their birth. Recently, some mothers told us :

*In our women's group at Tandale, we discovered that we were many faced with the problem of not having the birth certificate for one or more of our children.*

*One mother said that she got the birth certificate of her child, but she lost it when she moved.*

*Another explained that last year she began the process to get her child's birth certificate and then she stopped : two days ago she returned to Magomeni and now she has got it. She has to do the same for her younger daughter as well, but she has not even got the announcement (after the birth, she left hospital just with the clinic card and was asked to come back the next day for the announcement, but for some reason she didn't).*

*The causes are different, but the result is the same : we miss the birth certificate of our child and it is a problem when he or she is of school going age. Usually the teacher accepts the child without a birth certificate if we are able to give him some money, 5.000 or 20.000 Tsh for example : that is why some of us thought that the birth certificate is not really necessary. But then, we have to pay again every year*

5,000 au 20,000, ndio maana baadhi yetu tunaona cheti hakina umuhimu. Lakini pia, nahitajika kulipia kila mwaka kwasababu mtoto wetu hajasajiliwa kisheria.

Zaidi ya hapo, ukosefu wa vyeti vya kuzaliwa si tatizo pekee kwa utotoni; huwa pia ni tatizo pale wanapokuwa watu wazima. Mama mmoja alituambia kuwa mpwa wake hakuweza kupata kazi ya upolisi kwa sababu hakuwa na cheti cha kuzaliwa : alipoelewa kuwa mtoto wake atahitaji cheti cha kuzaliwa hata baada ya kumaliza shule, alianza kuvifuatilia.

**Mwishoni tuligundua kuwa kwa kutokuwa na vyeti vya kuzaliwa vya watoto wetu, ni sawa na kuwatelekeza, tunawafungia nafasi ambazo wangezipata kwa maisha yao ya baadae.**

Ni wajibu wetu kwa watoto wetu na pia hata kwa watoto wengine tunaowajua, hii ni kwa sababu baadhi ya wazazi hawana ufahamu juu ya wajibu walionao. Tulidhani kwamba tungalikwenda katika kila nyumba kwa ajili ya kukutana na kila familia ili kuelezea jambo hili na kuwasaidia kama kuna umuhimu. Na kama wao watasema hawana fedha za kutosha. Je, ni kweli kwamba tuna kiasi kidogo cha fedha majumbani mwetu? Lakini tunatakiwa kukumbuka kuwa pindi panapokuwa na sherehe au misiba huwa tukipata fedha. Hebu tujaribu kubadili fikra zetu na kuelewa kwamba maisha ya baadae ya watoto wetu ni muhimu kama sherehe au misiba. Tutakapo fanikiwa kusajili watoto wote kwenye makazi yetu, tutaandaa sherehe ya upatikanaji wa vyeti vya kuzaliwa.

Inakuwaje unapokuwa na tatizo la cheti cha kuzaliwa hapo ulipo? Je, wazazi wana kumbana na matatizo hayohayo? Ni kwavipi unahisi unaweza kuwasaidia?

because our child is not officially registered.

Moreover, the lack of a birth certificate is not only a problem for the children, it is also a problem when they become adults. One mother tells us that her nephew could not get a job in the police because he had not got his birth certificate : when she understood that her children would need their birth certificates also after finishing school, she started the process of getting them.

**Finally we realised that by *not obtaining our children's birth certificates, we put them at a disadvantage and do not give them the best chance for their future.***

Some parents are not aware of the responsibility entrusted to them and as a result we should take on this responsibility, not only of our own children, but also of the children in our neighbourhood. We thought that we could go to every house in order to meet every family to explain the issue and to help them if necessary. But what if people say that they don't have enough money? It is true we have very little money in our neighbourhood, but we must remember that when there is a celebration or a funeral we manage to find the money. Let's try to change our minds and understand that our children's future is as important as celebrations and funerals. When we'll have succeeded in registering all the children of the neighbourhood, we should organise a birth certificate celebration!

What is it like where you are with this question of obtaining a birth certificate? Do the parents face the same difficulties? How do you think you could help them?

Tunafuraha kuweza kuwafahamisha kuwa tangu Oktoba mwaka huu ATD Dunia ya Nne imesajiliwa NGO katika Tanzania.

Tunakutakia furaha njema wewe na familia yako na marafiki zako katika mapumziko ya mwisho wa mwaka. Mara nyingine, baadhi watakuwa wapweke muda huo : hebu tujaribu kutowasahau na tujumuike nao katika mambo mbalimbali. Tuna matumaini kuwa mwaka 2010 utawapa nguvu na msukumo kwa ajili ya kuendeleza mapambano dhidi ya umasikini uliokithiri.

*Wako, Timu ya ATD Dunia ya Nne  
ya Dar es salaam.*

We are happy to be able to inform you that since October this year ATD Fourth World is registered as an NGO in Tanzania.

We wish you a very joyful time with your family and your friends at the occasion of the end of this year. As often, some will be alone at this time : let's try not to forget them... We hope that the year 2010 will bring you strength and courage in order to continue your fight against extreme poverty. Take care of yourselves.

*Your ATD Fourth World Team  
in Dar es Salaam*