

ATD FOURTH WORLD TANZANIA

The First 2021 Newsletter

EDITORIAL



Dear ATD Fourth World friends,

We hope that you all are well, continuing with your daily social and economic struggles to ensure that we eradicate poverty.

We are happy to invite you to read our first newsletter for this 2021 year.

In this newsletter we will explain the effect of the corona pandemic in the poor communities around us and how we cooperated with these communities against the pandemic and the celebrations of October 17th. This year's theme was "Acting Together to achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All".

Also we will tell you about the welcome of two volunteers, Micol and Damien with their two children from Méry-sur-Oise, France who have come to join us and the farewell to Salma and Saleh who have moved to Njombe to continue with their duties in the struggle against poverty.

Lastly, the last page you will find adorned with pictures from various events. These are events which we witnessed and participated in, in 2020.

Let us come together to continue the fight against poverty affecting our communities.

Hamisi I. Matibu, an ATD Fourth World activist, Tanzania.



"If the government decides to prolong the lockdown the effect on children from poor families will be bad because they will forget all what they have learnt in school....!" Halima from Tegeta, early March 2020.

The corona pandemic has changed the world. The workings of governmental institutions have changed in accordance with the intensity of the pandemic in different countries. Many regions in the world are still under the attack of the pandemic.

The Tanzanian government like most countries had prepared to face the pandemic and when time came citizens were motivated to follow the necessary WHO health procedures. Citizens were well prepared physically, psychologically and spiritually, hence accepted the pandemic without fear comparing it with malaria and other diseases in the country.

In June 2020 Tanzania had returned to its ordinary life momentum. But there are long term negative effects on the economy and some other sectors such as the tourism and export of some commodities like as fresh flowers.

The strategic ambitions of ATD During the corona period directed us to think deeply thus **"not to leave anyone behind"** we came out with a plan to reach students from the poorest families. Our involvement and the pandemic itself completely affected our former strategies for the year even after the lifting of the lockdown rules. We found ourselves mostly involved in meetings and evaluations thus the after effect could not allow us to smoothly return to our planned schedules especially since the pandemic was still rampant in most countries.

On 13 August 2020, facilitators who had taken part during the corona pandemic were congratulated. Most interesting was the participation of parents both men and women who had volunteered in the distribution of the exercise materials to the children who were in dire need from both activity areas. This is proof of the commitment and participation resulting from ATD's work.

But the evaluation from both students and parents after June shows good progress of students who took part in the corona exercise. Thus those who could not be reached by the modern technologies, the internet and the smartphones were able to benefit. Our performance was triggered by the needs of the most forgotten ones. This for us came as another opportunity for discovery. We did what we could; we showed that it is possible, an opportunity to move on.



17th October 2020 cerebations

"Most important for people living in extreme poverty is recognition"

Since the beginning of August, the 17th October committee met several times to plan and to organize the cerebations. The committee kept in touch with members in Mbeya, Njombe and Dodoma.

When the theme of the day came out the planning became more organized focused. The committee managed to come out with a plan to involve people from the different walks of lives to sit together to share, discuss and come out with solutions to some challenges. The idea being to bring together actors from the relevant wards, officers from decision making and implementation levels to discuss together with residents in our action areas to reach comprehensive understanding regarding environmental and social justice challenges as highlighted from the discussions.

Different from year 2019, the day was shiny and clear. We gathered together people from different activity areas, friends and some government officials. We gathered at Turiani Secondary School hall, Magomeni area. We had invited a number of government civil servants from the relevant wards and our expectation was a rich debate from the different actors.

Year 2020 was election year for Tanzania. The political parties' campaigns had started in August and election had been scheduled on 28 October ten days after October 17. This had a negative impact on the attendance on the 17 October cerebations that most of the invited officials and friends could not join us. Since we had expected two hundred people the attendance on the day was around one hundred and thirty. Some of those who managed to attend had to leave during the program.

The theme of the day was introduced under the "Word of the Day" heading which included the explanation of the day, the meaning of the gathering, history and the content of the theme. Message from Isabelle Pypaert Perrin, director general of ATD Fourth World, was read. Then two testimonies related historically were presented. These were from Kunduchi and Boko areas. The third testimony came from Rajabu, a neighbor at ATD house in Mwananyamala. Overwhelmed by the events of the day he volunteered to give his testimony in a very touching manner that he brought tears to eyes of most of the people.

The theme **"ACTING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL"**, requires us to take participatory steps by involving people from all walks of life so as to achieve social and environmental justice for all. The committee when reflecting on the theme realized the importance of involving stake-holders in the discussion in order to understand it and to see its importance in the day to day life. Most important was how to ensure that the message is properly delivered to stakeholders. The committee therefore formulated three questions which would be discussed in small groups on the 17th of October. This we thought would help participants to reflect and think deeply about the theme, to devise involvement in improving their environments, but also to recognize their rights in their relevant society. Questions prepared were:

1. **What do we understand about social justice and environments?**
2. **What actions can we take to improve social and environmental justice in our relevant areas?**

3. **What are the effects facing the society in understanding their social and environmental justice?**

The summary of the given questions were put together in the **"collective summary of the discussion"** given in the 17th October report 2020. The cerebations were opened by prayers from both Christian and Moslem religions. Then the introduction of the day was given explaining the meaning of the day, the history and the theme and its content. The message from the DGs (from Isabelle Pypaert Perrin) was read followed by two prepared testimonies. The third testimony was given by our neighbor at Mwananyamala ATD house. The first two testimonies based their content in the history of the Kunduchi and Boko quarry but revealing how those who struggle can be exploited for the benefit of those who have, after using their strength when they are no longer needed, they are thrown away like useless garbage without any benefit or life security. The last testimony captured our feelings to the humiliations and mistreatments from close family members, a testimony which brought tears to most of the participants. (ThEveryone who came to participate in the cerebation took part in the cerebations. We danced to the music system, then to the rhythm of the drum beatings from the entertaining cultural group invited for the occasion. But we also reminded ourselves of those who are still locked down and their plight. We remembered them as we discussed the theme and through the reflections we felt that we were putting our voices together with them to be heard.

is will be recorded for documentation). Results

After three days the committee met for evaluation. The committee members agreed that:

1. On this day, participants especially those experiencing difficult life, enjoyed themselves and everyone was happy.
2. Participants had come to participated in the cerebations, they were not observers.
3. After discussions, participants were able to understand the theme and they took time to reflect on how to live it in their relevant social groups.
4. The feedback from the activity areas proved that the 2020 gathering was a success.
5. The fact that some of the points given during the discussion had been taken by some officials proved that our voices had been heard.
6. One friend decided to support Rajabu to start a small business at his home.

CEREBRATIONS IN OTHER PLACES

MBEYA

The desire to celebrate the 17th October for our friends in Mbeya had been visible since the beginning of the year. For some time they had been seeking our cooperation in the preparation. The corona plight had distorted our former plans. Since we understood the need of introducing the Movement to the Mbeya people, we had decided to celebrate with them a week after the 17th October. On the 17th October, we received some pictures sent through Whatsap showing that they were also celebrating. During evaluation we decided that we will send a delegation which will have the task of introducing ATD Movement to our partners in Mbeya.

NJOMBE

We were in contact with Njombe for the preparations and organization of the day. Unlucky on the 17th October Reuben, the organizer lost his two grandchildren. Therefore members instead, met for consoling Mr. Reuben.

DODOMA

Under the organization of Peter Msasu, Our partners in Bihawana, Dodoma managed to organize the day whereby they had a discussion regarding the theme of 2020.

The Discernment Process

The process started early 2020. In mid-2020 it gained momentum. In Tanzania ATD members met on 2nd and 3rd of July to share, gain experience and to have a deeper peek into the movement. This for the members was an opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the movement.

Other news

The street library and family visiting continued to link us with families helping us to continue discovering and learn. Families are the core of our actions. From them we learn and together we device actions.

Internationally we continued to take part in various Skype, Zoom and video meetings. Locally we attended meetings organized by TENMET. Venance Magombera participated in the Annual TENMET meeting on 30 November and 1st December.

Bereavements

End of December two ATD members lost their beloved ones. Selemeni Yasin's wife passed away just before Christmas and Elizabeth Makata lost her lifelong close friend, her grandmother. Members of ATD participated to show solidarity with the families.

Welcome Damien and Micol, Farewell Salehe and Salma.

November 2020, the Tanzanian team received two permanent volunteer corps members from Méry-sur-Oise, France, with their two children.

At the same time Saleh and Salma moved to Njombe to support to a long term friend, Reuben, who since the time he knew the movement he has been walking in the philosophy of the founder of the movement, Fr. Joseph Wresinski. The couple will support him, to cement the corroboration between ATD and this energetic man. They are still with the Tanzania team only that they have been allocated to another action area.





SOME PEOPLE SPOKE ON THE DAY.



BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION ALSO TOOK PLACE



SOME ARTISTS FROM JITAMBUE GROUP AND ATD YOUTH GROUP ENTERTAINED DURING CELEBRATIONS

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