A highlight of best case practices registered in 2013/2014 by Civil Society Organisations supported by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)
This publication is specially meant to highlight the best case practices registered in the year 2013/2014 by Civil Society Organisations that have been supported by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

The FCS is an independent Tanzanian not-for-profit company that provides grants and other capacity building services to civil society organisations in Tanzania. The FCS was registered as a legal entity in September 2002 and started its operations as an independent organisation in January 2003. Since its inception the Foundation for Civil Society has strived to enhance the effectiveness of CSOs engagement in development processes and poverty reduction initiatives. The FCS envisages that through the effectiveness of CSOs, citizens will be empowered to realise their social justice and engage responsibly in change processes that enhance their quality of life.

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PREFACE
This Success Stories publication briefly portrays the best case practices registered between the year 2013 and 2014 by some Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that received funds from the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) to implement various projects. The CSOs helped to bring about positive changes in the Tanzanian communities by facilitating an improved quality of life.

The publication however puts forward some of the success stories that have been registered in Policy Engagement, Governance & Accountability and Civil Society Capacity Strengthening. The stated period has continued to be coloured by encouraging achievements in all our target areas. This speaks volumes on our grant-making role that brings about positive changes in the communities, apart from strengthening the Civil Society Organisations.

Efforts of our grantees have almost one thing in common. They enable citizens to engage in policy issues and various development processes.

When reading the successes registered by our grantees, one will note a number of cases in which some communities have been inspired to behave differently after undergoing awareness sensitization of various national policies and laws. Results of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) conducted in areas of health, infrastructural improvement, education and agriculture have also depicted great strides in the monitoring of development projects at local level.

For us at the Foundation, these successes are a good sign, which indicate that we are forging ahead towards attainment of both our Mission and Vision – as more and more citizens are increasingly empowered to realize their social justice and engage responsibly in change processes that enhance their quality of life.
PART ONE

POLICY ENGAGEMENT STORIES
Mzeituni Foundation promotes access to quality primary health care

Mzeituni Foundation
Email address: mzeitunifoundation@ymail.com
Phone number: 0767 691180
Project: Strengthening quality of primary health care delivery in Ukerewe and Magu districts.
Grant Amount: TZS: 134,999,000/= Region: Mwanza

Mzeituni Foundation has been in the forefront of mainstreaming information sharing on how to advocate for improved primary health care service delivery.

The CSO had succeeded through conducting sensitization workshops, dialogues, roundtable meetings, social marketing, brainstorming sessions, face-to-face meetings as well as drama competitions. All this was done in accordance with the National Health Policy and Comprehensive Council Health Plans (CCHP).

The project aims at contributing to the reduction of infant and child mortality rates, improved maternal health and inclusion of user fee, except for elders, so as to ensure access to quality primary healthcare services.

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The Iringa Mercy Organisation (IMO) has enabled people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) to feel that they are part and parcel of society and can fully participate in redefining their own destiny. The organisation has reached out to over 150 PLHIV in the busy small township of Ilula. This is a place where most truck drivers tend to make stopovers for their long journeys ahead.

The sensitisation campaign waged by the organisation has increased participation of PLHIV and communities in the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Act No. 28 of April 2008. A beneficiary of the project who lives at Nyalumbu, Ms. Rehema Msola, says: “We are now fully aware of the National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Act. I accept that I have an obligation to halt the spread the virus; protect others from infection and fight stigmatisation arising from one’s actual, perceived or suspected HIV/AIDS status.

“I know that I have an equal right to access medical care, get education like any other person and be employed without being barred because of my actual, perceived or suspected HIV/AIDS status” said Rehema.

Also singled out as an impact of sensitisation work undertaken by IMO, Rehema was proud to say that she could now stand on her own feet and offer her contribution to the society by taking part in income-generation activities.

“We really thank the support that we get through this organisation. We have re-defined our lives, we can even own properties and even know where to access legal aid,” says Rehema.

However, despite the sensitisation work and training offered to the community in Ilula, Dr. Wilson Mwakibete, who is the IMO medical practitioner on outreach programmes, says: “We are proud to say that, due to our intervention, nearly 90 per cent of the PLHIV who were once bedridden are now up and running. Individuals’ closure rate on HIV/AIDS status has gone up, after clinging on to fight against stigma, and more interesting is the fact that most of the PLHIV are now taking part in socio-economic activities.”

In spite the exposure and mingling with track drivers along the highway, Dr. Mwakibete believes that high HIV prevalence rate in Ilula was a result of high consumption of local liquor, known as Ulanzi.
Makete NGO helps end gender harassment, HIV/AIDS

Makete Support for People Living With HIV/AIDS
E-mail: masuphango@yahoo.co.uk
Phone number: 0754084240
Project: To increase awareness of the Makete Community on the 2000 National Strategy for Gender and Development and its relationship with HIV/AIDS
Region: Njombe
Grant Amount: TZS 44,000,000/= with the enlightenment of their own families," says Chengula.

Chengula says that through the scheme, they have been able to reduce the number of family disputes that are lodged with the ward reconciliation councils from seven cases per month to two cases for the same period.

For their part, the youths who had conducted the training in the villages, expressed their joy because the project had widened their scope of understanding of gender issues—which are a new feature altogether in the villages—as it has also equipped them to build their own good and enlightened families in the coming future.

"The society has changed to a large extent. In our ward, there was a habit of aged women having relationships with the young ones. This habit was condemned, awareness has been provided and the people have embraced it," says Neema Sanga, a facilitator from Ukwama Ward.

Frojensia Sage, a facilitator from the village, says that female circumcision is now regarded as bad as poison in his ward. Nobody is willing to hear about genital mutilation, which used to be popular in the past.

"We began by educating the elders, who are much respected in our society, so that it would become easier for them to ban the practice of this tradition. We also utilized the good offices of religious leaders, who are held in esteem by the people."
Psychosocial project gives new hope to vulnerable children in Kilimanjaro

White Orange Youth Organisation
E-mail: whiteorangeyouth@gmail.com
Mobile Number: 0786350645
Project title: Psychosocial Support
Region: Kilimanjaro
Grant Amount: TZS 44,000,000/=–

Deo Frank (15) lost his father when he was too young. For him life has been so harsh. Born in a poor household in Moshi Rural District, Deo is one of few children who have started seeing light at the end of the tunnel; thanks to the efforts made by White Orange Youth (WOY), a CSO based in Moshi Rural District, with its tailored psychosocial programme.

Deo who is a Form One student at Mji Mpya Secondary School, says for him getting education was a nightmare, taking into account that even attending Primary School was a hectic obligation. Even since I was in primary school and now in secondary school, they have been assisting me in different ways. They have made me understand who I am. With my colleagues, we

Through the project, needy children were linked to other stakeholders who paid their school fees. Currently, there are about 21 school children who have received the assistance.

Through the psychosocial programme, children like me have learnt a big lesson: there is no need to despair in life.

Through the psychosocial programme, children like me have been trained how to make beads by using locally available materials, says a 15-year-old boy.

Psychosocial problems remain a serious challenge that needs to be addressed. "It is important to build children with good psychological minds, so that we have good citizens at the end of the day," Kessy says.

"We had a team of experts, whom we trained, through the use of drawings. They drew pictures in their memory books. It is easier to understand child psychological problems through drawings alone," he says.

Kessy says the project has empowered the children to develop self-esteem. They can speak in public without fear, contrary to the situation that existed in the past.

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CSO motivates the people to join credit schemes so as to support their children

Mlangali Development Association
E-mail: mladex_ng@yahoo.com
Phone number: 0753104709
Project: Enhancement of the rights of children living in vulnerable conditions
Region: Iringa
Grant amount: TZS 45,000,000/= 

After going through the training conducted by the Mlangali Development Association (MLADEA), which is located in Mlangali ward, Ludewa District, the people have been motivated to support their children’s education through local credit societies.

“Right now, funds for children’s education are set aside in each society, a situation that did not use to exist. The village government appreciates the move which is supported by all the people,” says John Kanyanya, the Mawengi ward executive officer. He says that the initiative is widely discussed during village meetings, in contrast to past scenarios, as the people are invited to air their views on ways to support the children—who are part and parcel of the society.

The project accountant, Julius Saria, says that the project officially commenced on November 2013, and was implemented in ten villages, which are located in Mawengi Ward.

“The training was given to government leaders, members of non-governmental organisations, teachers and religious authorities. The facilitator was an official from the Ludewa District Council,” Saria said.

He said that children living in vulnerable conditions received donations of small animals by some institutions and individuals to help them support themselves.

“The October-December 2013 Quarterly Report reveals that there were some 1,483 children living in vulnerable conditions in Mawengi Ward. Some 243 among them received the much needed support,” he says.

For his part, the IYDYC representative in Ludewa District, Alfred Chawe, says that due to the sensitization awareness that he had received, he was able to coach two groups, whose membership totaled 63 people on matters related to the 1996 National Policy on Child Development.

“I have also been reminding members of children support committees to remain active by frequently going through their register and updating it after every six months so as to have correct data,” Chawe says.

The training has helped bring about a close relationship between CSOs located in Ludewa. These have combined forces so as to impart the message to the whole district.

Moreover, the project has motivated both parents and school committees to realize the full significance of fully supporting the vulnerable children in matters of education.

“Parents have made significant contributions of education materials so as to bridge the gap between vulnerable children and the other pupils,” says Dominicus Mbilinyi, headteacher of Mawengi Primary School.

By the time the project is completed, the CSO shall have printed some 2000 copies of the national plan of action for vulnerable children. The contents shall be in simple language that can be easily understood by the whole community.

Some Ludewa district residents engage attentively in one of the training sessions on the rights of vulnerable children offered by MLANDA.
SWAA inspires community to contribute for girls’ hostel

Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA)
Email address: swaamoro@yahoo.com
Phone number: 0753491755
Project title: Protection of young girls and children in Mvomero District against sexual abuse through awareness on the 2009 Child Protection Act No. 21.
Region: Morogoro
Grant Amount: TZS 44,947,650/==

In the course of raising awareness on the 2009 Child Protection Act No. 21 in Mvomero District, the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA), has managed to establish and enhance school committees run by parents. These have pushed for the construction of a girls’ hostel at the remote Kambala area.

The SWAA chairperson, Hellen Mbezi, says after conducting the awareness campaign, members of the school committee and parents in Kambala willingly came up with a project to build a girls’ hostel that would accommodate about 60 pupils who live far away. The plan aims at protecting the minors from possible sexual assaults and early pregnancies.

Hellen says the earlier consultative meetings conducted at Kambala village revealed that pupils from the pastoral community used to walk long distances from home to school. As a result, truancy and early pregnancies were treated as simple problems.

A baseline survey conducted in late 2012 showed that Kambala Primary School was one of the worst performing schools in the district. The neighbouring secondary schools of Mlongola and Mascat were also not spared. The former had a total of 80 absconding students, 52 of them being girls. The latter (Mascat secondary school) recorded about eight students’ pregnancy cases, something that pushed SWAA to have a word with the Kambala Maasai community to do something about the matter.

In collaboration with ward councillors and district attorneys, the organisation developed a draft framework to introduce an education trust fund. This was aimed at enforcing the protection of schooling girls and even prosecuting those found guilty of sexually assaulting them.

For his part, the Kambala village chair, Kasho Moleto confesses that through the joint deliberations with SWAA, they were inspired to come up with their own project of building a girls’ hostel at the village school.

“We have already started collecting contributions - TZS 10,000 from each family. Each household is willing to donate a cow towards the hostel project”

“We have already started collecting contributions - TZS 10,000 from each family. Each household is willing to donate a cow towards the hostel project,” says Kambala school committee chair, Issaya Rijiwa.

For his part, the Mvomero District Commissioner insists that the district council will work closely with the organisation to ensure its success.
Tithe offerings inspire Old Nguvumali to care for elders

Old Nguvumali Women Centre
Email Address: ongwece@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 0784 303059
Project title: Public Involvement in Deliberate Processes in relation to the 2003 Tanzania National Ageing Policy.
Region: Tanga
Grant Amount: TZS 90,000,000/=-

Apart from being supported by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) to work on improved friendly psycho-social and legal support for the elderly, members of Old Nguvumali Women Centre in Tanga Region are contributing one tenth of their annual produce to guarantee sustainability of their project activities.

Recalling their humble beginnings, executive secretary of Old Nguvumali Women Centre, Devina Kibaja, says the organisation started in 2004 through a religious campaign, in the spirit of giving offerings to the needy. The aim was to provide home-based care and counseling to people living with HIV/AIDS, before embarking on gender issues through which elders issues arose.

“Apart from the FCS support we have all along been contributing something from our own resources so as to help the needy much more effectively. Todate, each one of us, apart from dedicated our time, is contributing TZS 1,000 alongside the tithes,” says Devina.

I got an opportunity to defend Sect. 47 of the draft document which recognises the elderly as a special group, alongside women and youth,” says Kibaya. Jeke Kwamchimba, another elderly person, says: “I feel much more valued since I vied for membership in the district forum that discussed the draft constitution. My name sailed through. I got an opportunity to defend Sect. 47 of the draft document which recognises the elderly as a special group, alongside women and youth,” says Devina.

The Tanga city council social welfare officer, Walter Kayombo, admits that through the Old Nguvumali Women Centre, the city council was motivated to conduct a baseline survey. They have already registered a total of 4,516 elderly people in the locality, while making special arrangements to provide them with free medical services.

Kayombo says through collaboration with the CSO, the chief medical officer’s office has agreed in principle to provide Community Health Fund (CHF) cards to the elderly of Tanga Region.

Ali Kibaya (84), who a project beneficiary, says: “Prior to the intervention, we were not given any recognition by the community. We thus felt so inferior. The project has enabled us get some recognition whenever we go for treatment at health centres, plus better treatment than was previously the case.”

“If I feel much more valued since I vied for membership in the district forum that discussed the draft constitution. My name sailed through. I feel much more empowered to train other elderly people on how to care for people living with HIV/AIDS. These days, it is us the elderly people who shoulder the burden of caring for sick children.”

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At tithe, or one tenth of each member’s annual earnings, reﬂects what is formerly regarded as an income percentage donated for the support of the Church. According to Devina, the organisation has already conducted dialogues for various stakeholders, including ward councilors, and trained over 40 trainers to spread awareness on the 2003 Ageing Policy, alongside the dissemination of its popular version.

The organisation has also supported formation of a taskforce in eight wards of Tanga so as to mainstream the issues related with elders. This resulted into the elders’ homes being provided with basic needs such as water and electricity, which had previously been disconnected for lack of money.

Through the organisation’s efforts, some 180 nurses have been trained to master issues on elderly people and improve their service special groups who need attendace in the hospitals.

Apart from being supported by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) to work on improved friendly psycho-social and legal support for the elderly, members of Old Nguvumali Women Centre in Tanga Region are contributing one tenth of their annual produce to guarantee sustainability of their project activities. Scientiﬁcally humble beginnings, executive secretary of Old Nguvumali Women Centre, Devina Kibaja, says the organisation started in 2004 through a religious campaign, in the spirit of giving offerings to the needy. The aim was to provide home-based care and counseling to people living with HIV/AIDS, before embarking on gender issues through which elders issues arose.

“At tithe, or one tenth of each member’s annual earnings, reflects what is formerly regarded as an income percentage donated for the support of the Church. According to Devina, the organisation has already conducted dialogues for various stakeholders, including ward councilors, and trained over 40 trainers to spread awareness on the 2003 Ageing Policy, alongside the dissemination of its popular version.

The organisation has also supported formation of a taskforce in eight wards of Tanga so as to mainstream the issues related with elders. This resulted into the elders’ homes being provided with basic needs such as water and electricity, which had previously been disconnected for lack of money.

Through the organisation’s efforts, some 180 nurses have been trained to master issues on elderly people and improve their service special groups who need attendace in the hospitals.

The Tanga city council social welfare officer, Walter Kayombo, admits that through the Old Nguvumali Women Centre, the city council was motivated to conduct a baseline survey. They have already registered a total of 4,516 elderly people in the locality, while making special arrangements to provide them with free medical services.

Kayombo says through collaboration with the CSO, the chief medical officer’s office has agreed in principle to provide Community Health Fund (CHF) cards to the elderly of Tanga Region.

Ali Kibaya (84), who a project beneficiary, says: “Prior to the intervention, we were not given any recognition by the community. We thus felt so inferior. The project has enabled us get some recognition whenever we go for treatment at health centres, plus better treatment than was previously the case.”

“I feel much more valued since I vied for membership in the district forum that discussed the draft constitution. My name sailed through.

I got an opportunity to defend Sect. 47 of the draft document which recognises the elderly as a special group, alongside women and youth,” says Kibaya. Jeke Kwamchimba, another elderly person, who hails from Msambani ward, says: “Through the training, I’m much more empowered to train other elderly people on how to care for people living with HIV/AIDS. These days, it is us the elderly people who shoulder the burden of caring for sick children.”
NGO empowers the disabled to form entrepreneur groups

Kigoma Disabled Survival Group
E-mail: kigomadisabledsurvivalgroup@yahoo.com
Phone: 0752521013
Project: To increase awareness of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010
Region: Kigoma
Grant sum: TZS 134,000,000/=+

Persons with disabilities in Kigoma District have formed entrepreneur groups, these being part of their efforts to liberate themselves from the abyss of poverty, thus be able to afford paying for their basic needs.

The coordinator of the Kigoma Disabled Survival Group, Gasper Ntabaye, says that since the conducting of a seminar on the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010, people with disabilities from various villages have formed some entrepreneurship groups. He says that for quite a long time, handicapped people had been working each on their own. However, following the training that they attended, they saw the need to form such groups so that it would be easier for them to meet loan conditions of financial institutions. He adds that until now, persons with disabilities, who live in Kidawhe and Pamila villages of Matendo Ward in Kigoma District, have formed some entrepreneur groups which have 20 and 40 members respectively. These have already opened some bank accounts as part of formalization activities.

He says that another group of people with disabilities living in Ujiji, Kigoma Municipality, are on the way to form another such group in Kalinzi Ward. The procedures will be concluded soon.

“Handicapped people from these groups now qualify for loans so that the money can help them boost their income,” Ntabaye said.

Zainab Kasiome, chairperson of the Kigoma Disabled Group, says the formation of groups has helped the handicapped to become formally recognized from street up to regional level. Kasiome says they are now invited to attend government meetings and also do some work.

She says they are sharing knowledge and supporting each other from within their group. This has freed some of them from the dependency syndrome, which compelled them either to depend on the support of relatives or become beggars.

He says that government leaders are giving priority to people with disabilities, apart from attending to their needs. He adds that they are now involved in decision making at various levels. For his part, the ward executive at Ilagala, Uvinza District, says the seminar on the 2010 Persons with Disabilities Act has empowered him to know his responsibilities, especially in serving people with disabilities. He says that ever since he knew what the policy stipulated about people the handicapped, he had been in the forefront of implementing the policy at official level.
CSO supports women’s land ownership in Pemba

The Environmental Conservation Association (VECA) has served as a bulwark of liberating women from restrictions on land ownership in Pemba Island.

"As I talk to you, I have already restored my land rights, which were part of family property. I am now planting maize," said Mauwa Khamis Saateni of Vitongoji. Mauwa has now proceeded to claim the right to own a house, which belongs to her by inheritance. She says she gathered the courage to take such action after undergoing the training that was offered by VECA.

Mauwa said she had been ignorant of the existence of her title deed, which was possessed by her step mother. Things changed when she underwent a sensitization awareness course that was conducted by VECA in Chakechake District. The course content majored on sensitization and advocacy for women’s rights, which include the right to own property.

"After undergoing a court process and the meting out of judgement, I now own a plot whose size is close to four acres," she said.

The local magistrate, Salim Hassan Bakari, says that cases lodged by women alone amounted to 93—with some 43 cases, all of which are on land issues—being concluded. Some 17 women won their cases, including Mauwa Khamis Saateni, and now all of them have been presented with title deeds by court officials.

Some 120 individuals benefitted from the initial training, which was followed by a gathering composed of religious leaders and the shehas of the Eastern zone shehas plus other participants from special groups.
CSO inspires tremendous outcomes in reproductive health

Mategemeo Group Mlalo
Email Address: mategemeoenenet@gmail.com
Phone contact: 0787 204120
Project title: Reproductive health education to women and youths.
Region: Tanga
Grant Amount: TZS 34,989,200/=  

Mategemeo Group Mlalo in Lushoto district has managed to increase the number of pregnant women who attend clinic at the nearby health centre. These used to be attended by traditional healers. There has thus been an increase in the number of pregnant women giving birth at the health centre, as opposed to the ones delivering at their homes.

Outlining the key achievements registered by the organisation following the awareness campaign on reproductive health in Mlalo division since year 2011, Mategemeo Group executive director, Samuel Kerefu, says there is now a decline in the rate of maternal and infant mortality, as well as an increase in the number of men who escort their pregnant wives to the health centre. On the other hand, HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the area is reported to have declined. The unforgettable past in Mlalo Division had been traumatised by high death rates, and trends of social and cultural imbalances that were largely associated with lack of knowledge on reproductive health.

Kerefu attributed all these changes to a project that was supported by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), through which a total of 291 people were trained against bad practices associated with some chronic cultural aspects. Beneficiaries included men and women, local government leaders, traditional healers and

“I used to send my wife to traditional healers and midwives during her first three pregnancies. Now that I have been enlightened on the ‘pros and cons’ of doing it, I’m glad that I was the first one to take my wife to the clinic when she got her fourth pregnancy”

These are some of the beneficiaries of a reproductive health project conducted by the Mategemea Group Mlalo. It includes midwives, traditional healers, the local government leaders, nurses and medical doctors.
midwives, nurses and medical doctors.

The changes thus occurred after an odd experience of a bitter past.

Mategemo Group Project Coordinator, Pascal Irungu, says before the project had started, the organisation had conducted a baseline survey by administering 2,000 questionnaires so as to uncover underlying challenges, most of which were related to reproductive health.

Irungu, says: “We decided to put our baseline survey findings on a scale of 10s for the sake of making the convey the results easier.”

Through the baseline survey, he says, the organisation found out that only four out of ten women used to attend clinic at the nearby health centre. Seven out of ten women were related to reproductive health.

According to Georgina, the data collected in 2011 reveals that only 473 pregnant women attended clinic at the health centre, some 204 were delivered at the health centre and other 249 delivered at home. But come 2012, the figures had improved.

Some 509 pregnant women attended clinic, other 363 women delivered at the health centre, and which was part of seven infants died at birth while there is not even a pregnant woman who lost her life while giving birth.

On the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, Georgina says according to statistics from the local health centre things have improved drastically. In 2011, at the Mlalo Health Centre, some 11 people were diagnosed as HIV positive. In 2012 the number dropped to six, while in 2013 up to June, three new HIV cases were reported.

Georgina, and Mlalo primary school teacher Grace Abdallah, attribute the remarkable changes to the training offered by Mategemo Group.

“We have been trained to refuse any sort of gifts offered by men that may entice us into early pregnancies. We have spread the good news to our school colleagues,” says a standard six primary pupil at Bungoi, Witness Yohana (13).

Georgina also says from January up to June 2013 alone, some 183 pregnant women have attended clinic, other 148 pregnant women have delivered at the health centre, as opposed to only 42 who delivered at their homes, while 92 men accompanied their pregnant wives to the clinic.

“I used to send my wife to traditional healers and midwives during her first three pregnancies. Now that I have been enlightened on the ‘pros and cons’ of doing it. I’m glad that I was the first one to take my wife to the clinic when she got her fourth pregnancy,” reveals Yona Mugaati, a resident of Mlalo.

However, on maternal and infant mortality, Georgina says according to the data availed in 2011, a total of seven infants and one pregnant woman died while giving birth. In 2012, a some four infants died; and there was no pregnant woman who died while giving birth. In 2013,

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Dialogue motivates Kasulu citizens to demand customary land certificates

Kasulu Network of NGOs
E-mail Address: kanon2002@gmail.com
Mobile: 0765142516
Project title: Dialogue on Land Law
Region: Kigoma
Grant Amount: TZS 89,000,000/=+

Lack of title deeds in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region, is said to have forced a big number of people to lose their plots of land to investors without getting proper compensation.

However, following the intervention of the Kasulu Non-Government Organisation (KANON) through conducting public policy dialogues related to the 1999 Land Act, more people in the district have now woken up and started claiming their customary land certificates. Thobias Mhanuzi, a beneficiary of the dialogues, says during the courses that were conducted through funds availed by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), they understood the importance of legal ownership of land through possession of customary land certificates, hence became aware of their roles in matters related to land ownership, a development that has a huge potential of decreasing the high number of land conflicts.

He says: “We were previously unaware of the 1999 Land Act No. 4 and 5, but following the awareness raised by the dialogues, more citizens have now woken up and are following different issues related to their land rights.”

Another beneficiary, Neema Maulid says: “You may that find we, as citizens of this country, own the land; but later on, investors come in and we eventually vacate the land while receiving inadequate compensations. This disappoints us a lot. We appreciate the fact the authorities provide us with customary land certificates so as to avoid such problems.”

Executive secretary of KANON, Mr Gerald Nkona says the dialogues in Kasulu and Buhigwe District were aimed at empowering local people to become aware of their responsibility in land matters.

He says more than 1000 people have benefited from the program, which has made the higher authorities, through the ward councils, to recognize the importance of issuing customary land certificates.

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Lindi women helped to acquire land for economic use

Over 40 women in Lindi Rural District have been enabled to acquire land ownership rights following an awareness campaign on the 1999 Land Act No. 4 and 5, which was conducted by the Lindi Support Agency for Social Welfare (LISAWE) through funds donated by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS). It is assumed that the newly acquired plots will be used to facilitate the women’s access to loan facilities--as a means of improving their welfare through entrepreneurship.

Giving an account of the project, the executive secretary of LISAWE, Prisca Unga, says following their intervention in the years between 2012 and 2014, a total of 109 women were inspired to apply for land ownership documents and 40 among had already acquired their land certificates. According to Prisca, their project has injected something tangible by helping the women transform their livelihoods through land ownership.

She says: “We have always told the women that their possession of land certificates is a means to guarantee them access to loan facilities. The message has sunk. However, we are yet to establish the exact monetary figures accrued as a result of their land ownership.”

Following the awareness campaign targeting district council officials, the project has also inspired the construction of four new land registries in villages of Mkwajuni, Nyangao, Likwaya and Mputwa. Ms. Prisca says the registries have eventually become pivotal in the documentation of all land related documents, hence easing the process of accountability in land ownership processes.

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PART two
GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY STORIES
PPADA improves the Ilala health sector through PETS

Pugu Poverty Alleviation and Development Agency (PPADA):
E-mail: ppada_poverty@yahoo.com
Phone number: 0713230248
Project: PETS in the health sector
Region: Dar es Salaam
Grant Amount: TZS 135,000,000=

“The Pugu Poverty Alleviation and Development Agency (PPADA) has instigated changes in the health sector. It has empowered the people to take part in health sector improvement initiatives. The NGO has also helped the municipal authorities to realize the depth of staff shortages in dispensaries and health centres, which are located in the periphery areas.”

These are the utterances of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ilala Municipality in Dar es Salaam, Dr Willy Sango, when commenting on achievements registered by the NGO since it officially came into existence on February 18, 2003.

The organization has executed the project in the eight wards of the Ilala Municipality, which are: Pugu, Kitunda, Gongola Mboto, Chanika, Majobe, and Majohe.

“This is a typical health centre that can be more improved if PETS exercises like the one conducted by PPADA, does take place.

“The people, through the PPADA are now contributing to health projects due to the transparency over the way public funds are utilized. These people have revived the people’s confidence in the authorities such that the execution of our functions has become much more easier.”
Msongola, Kivule and Ukonga.

Dr. Sangu says that the non-governmental organization has improved transparency and social involvement at every stage. “The people, through the PPADA are now contributing to health projects due to the transparency over the way public funds are utilized. These people have revived the people's confidence in the authorities such that the execution of our functions has become much more easier.”

“We have worked hand in hand with PPADA for two years now. During the period, we have upgraded the provision of services at dispensaries located in all areas they had been to. We have also been able to recruit some staff.”

“Prior to the commencement of the PETS project, the doctor at a dispensary also served as both an accountant, pharmacist and also wrote the relevant reports, an aspect which we discovered as an avenue for misappropriation of funds,” says Dr. Sangu. He is grateful for their work, adding that those who fund that particular institution are both helping the people and the government to support the society and also plug any loopholes for theft of public funds.

“Prior to the commencement of the PETS project, the doctor at a dispensary also served as both an accountant, pharmacist and also wrote the relevant reports, an aspect which we discovered as an avenue for misappropriation of funds.”

He says that after completion of the PPADA project in Pugu Ward, the municipality has already promoted the Pugu Kajiungeni Health Centre to hospital level.

“Our strategy has started with the Pugu Health Centre being transformed into a hospital. The admission of patients is now underway. We are in the final stages of constructing a mortuary and the theater.”

According to Dr. Sangu, the existence of Pugu Hospital has reduced the influx of patients from the periphery areas to the District Hospital of Amana, thus saving the lives of patients who died on the way after failing to receive emergency treatment.

The director displays a letter of commendation which was written by former district medical officer Dr. Asha Mahita, who now serves as the Tanga regional medical officer. The letter appreciates the performance of the organization.

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He says that financial transparency has gone up, while the number of dispensary staff has increased. He adds that the people have woken up to the duty of monitoring the use of their money.

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TANGA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (TAYODEA) has brought together youths in Tanga region under the umbrella of a youth parliament. The youth organ shall address their problems and find possible solutions by sensitizing and encouraging the youths to participate in social economic development activities. The iconic youth parliament is composed of youths from different parts of Tanga.

A youth MP for Ngamiani South Ward, who also doubles as the deputy speaker of the youth parliament, Nasorrat Muzuriki, justifies his keen ambition for the youth agenda. Muzuriki says: “Various people used to look down upon us. But with the passage of time and in the course of our work, time came when even the municipal council officials understood our mission and cooperated closely with us.”

The Tanga Youth Development Association (TAYODEA) explains a point in one of the youth gatherings in the region.

Demand for the 5 percent quota allocation for youth development activities from the district revenue has been well-articulated by the Youth Parliament.

TANGA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (TAYODEA) Email: tayodea@yahoo.com Phone Number: 0713 244967 Project title: Establishing youth forums in the District of Tanga. Region: Tanga Grant Amount: TZS 103,379,250=
Through the youth parliament, young people have managed to come together and elect representatives from each district and advance their issues of concern. He says the youth have also effectively become more instrumental in making Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) interventions, talking face to face with the local authorities on what they perceived as right or wrong.

Chenyegheya says a demand for the 5 percent quota allocation for youth development activities from the district revenue has been well-articulated by the Youth Parliament. He says through their intervention and constant follow-up with the regional authorities, the Lushoto District Youth Development Fund got established. However, the youths through their parliament, have decried the lack of representation in District Development Fund meetings, where out of the 13 elected members, there is no single youth. “How can our agenda be articulated?” wonders a female youth MP from Lushoto, Martha Mkamwa.

“By and large, the youth engagement initiative seeks to empower the youth economically through loan provision. The initiative is undertaken in partnership with Tanga Youth Network, another youth organisation. The youth development funds are meant to be revolving funds for the youth in the area. Of particular mention, according to Chenyegheya, is the fact the youths through the FCS supported youth parliament have reoriented the structures of fund distribution and even monitored the repayment so as to minimize the defaults.”

TAYODEA’s move on the public resource accountability can be termed as an iconic achievement - much as many district councils in the country are said to be less and less compliant with the 5 percent allocation of their revenues for the youth development matters, whereas the other 5 percent goes to women.

“TAYODEA’s move on the public resource accountability can be termed as an iconic achievement - much as many district councils in the country are said to be less and less compliant with the 5 percent allocation of their revenues for the youth development matters, whereas the other 5 percent goes to women.”

The project also focuses on PETS - such that the fund is tracked, so as to make sure that responsible authorities release it - and now that the people (through the youths) are monitoring these public funds,” says Chenyegheya.

For his part, the speaker of the youth parliament in Lushoto District, Frank Shempemba, says: “We want to ensure sustainability of these revolving funds through our groups since we have seen that at times they go to unintended groups, such as adults.”

On the other hand, a youth MP for Ngamiani South ward who also serves as the deputy speaker of the youth parliament in Tanga, Nasorom Mazuriki, speaks highly of the youth engagement initiative such that at ward level, he was able to overturn the chronic tendency of waste collection points not being attended to by responsible authorities.

“I used to fear approaching my council leaders, as if they were supernatural beings. But now through empowerment of the youth parliament, I have constantly approached our council leaders. As we speak, garbage collection in my area has improved tremendously. It is now done on weekly basis,” says Mazuriki.

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POCUSO promotes efficient distribution of farming inputs in Mkuranga

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Policy Curiosity Society (POCUSO) has empowered community members to make close follow up on implementation of various development reports, including ensuring a transparent distribution of farming inputs for improved agriculture.

After receiving training on how to undertake effective Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS), the Mkuranga farmers have also got a better understanding on the 1997 Agricultural and Livestock Policy. They are now better empowered to realize their rights and fully participate in the implementation of agricultural plans at village and district level. This has motivated them to implement the policy in a more comprehensive manner.

POCUSO organised some PETS training involving local government leaders at district, ward and village level. A total of five wards comprising 43 villages were covered, with over 118 peasants now making close monitoring on agricultural inputs, as well as government plans to improve agricultural production.

The project coordinator, John Tengeni, says the awareness sensitization project dwelt on dissemination of education on development information, adding that the people have now woken up and were utilizing various opportunities of development plans.

Tengeni says the government has always availed opportunities for the loaning of farm inputs, but some executives at ward and village level had been making it difficult for the people to access relevant information on those opportunities.

After organizing several meetings with civil servants at district, ward and village level, the officials admitted their weakness and began releasing information on various existing opportunities once.

Tengeni says that extension officers were now paying frequent visits to the farmers and providing expert advise right on the field rather than continue locking themselves inside their offices as previously was the case.
Saidia Jamii Kuishi (SAJAKU) has enhanced the relationship between local citizens and their leaders, as well as instilling a culture of transparency and accountability of village and ward officials when designing, implementing and monitoring the development projects in Mtwara Region.

The Executive Secretary of SAJAKU, Nashir Pontia, says through public dialogues held in five wards of Nanyamba Division in Mtwara Rural District, local leaders and the people have started playing their proper roles. The local leaders have now woken up to fulfilling their roles of calling village meetings in time as well as posting public information on the notice boards.

He also says that people of Nanyamba have improved their attendance at village meetings. Following the conduction of public dialogues, the people’s attendance in 10 villages has moved from an average of 236 participants to over 1,057 people in between the end of the year 2013 to June 2014.

“We had advised the village authorities to convene village meetings at convenient times, thus strictly avoiding the time when most villagers are attending their cashew farms or have gone fishing. That way, the meetings attained the proper quorum,” says Pontia. He also says: “Through increased attendance of village meetings in Nanyamba, the citizens had queried the alleged disappearance of an actual milling machine worth TSh 450,000. The local leaders were tasked to recover it, and there was mutual agreement on the proposed exercise.”

“I used to fear approaching my council leaders, as if they were supernatural beings. But now through empowerment of the youth parliament, I have constantly approached our council leaders. As we speak, garbage collection in my area has improved tremendously. It is now done on weekly basis”

A beneficiary of a series of public dialogues held at Nanyamba Division in Mtwara rural, Hassan Irsal, gives his testimony on how SAJAKU has inspired accountability in his village.
Better Life promotes transparency at Dodoma vine project

The PETs project has empowered the residents of Chihanga Ward in Dodoma Region to identify various shortcomings, which the government is now addressing. The Better Life project had aimed to enlighten community members to collectively realize their rights, thus be able to question improper public expenditure as well as violation of publicly agreed processes.

The Better Life coordinator, Asia Suleiman, says that the attained achievements are so big such that they are quite proud that the project was implemented in Chihanga. Suleiman says that the project had focused on the Education and Health sectors following the findings of an evaluation exercise, which revealed that the two sectors had serious shortcomings. She says that after imparting of public expenditure tracking knowledge to residents of Chihanga, Nzzaa and Gawaye villages, the area has become a model place in Dodoma Municipality as the people are now able to shout and query.

“We had a difficult time at the beginning due to the fact that the people were quite ignorant. They did not have the courage to query their leaders on anything. Things have now changed as leaders are taken to task and becoming answerable,” Suleima says.

She gives the example of alleged rampant misappropriation of public funds at Gawaye Vineyard, saying that the introduction of the PETs project had led to close public expenditure monitoring that exposed gross misappropriation of funds. The exposure led to the transfer of some officials.

On the benefits of the project, she says: “The training was quite good. We formed some committees, which are functioning up to this moment. The people are enlightened and now our leaders are posting on public notice boards which we had made.”

She reveals some of the challenges which existed prior to the introduction of the project, among them the public fear to reveal information, lack of courage to demand their rights and threatening statements which were normally uttered by leaders.

She says that Better Life is now appreciated and has already been allocated an eight-acre investment area along Njedengwa Street in Dodoma. She attributes the attaining of this particular achievement to the support, which was provided by The Foundation for Civil Society.

Nevertheless, she is unhappy with the trend of simply transferring irresponsible leaders from one area to another. She suggests that they have to be made answerable so as to serve as a lesson to others.
JIDA fights for practical implementation of good governance concept

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Project: Monitoring of subsidy funds allocated by the government for improvement of education sector
Region: Morogoro
Grant Amount: TZS 44,044,600/= 

One cannot discuss the development of Morogoro Rural District, especially Matombo Division, without discussing the role of Jikwamue Development Association (JIDA).

The NGO, which was formed in 2010 and registered in 2011, has played a prominent role in the monitoring of expenditure of funds allocated for improvement of the education sector. The chairman of the organization, Mengi Hariri, says that JIDA has contributed a lot to the development of that particular sector, especially through sensitizing the communities to become familiar with the concepts of accountability and good governance, setting the target of 2015 as a year when practical implementation of the concepts shall have taken root.

“JIDA is proud of its role of motivating the people to know their rights and starting to demand them in a transparent manner. We have succeeded to enlighten the society on rights and basis of good governance, built their capacity to press for their rights and take part in various development plans”, he says.

Hariri says that the CSO, which is based at Tambou Village, Lundi Ward, Matombo Division in Morogoro Rural District, has, during 2013/2014, succeeded to track public expenditure at village level, leading to the suspension of a village leader in that ward who was allegedly unfaithful.

“Our vision is to ensure that the concept of good governance is practically implemented in various departments by 2015. We are grateful to the society for understanding our goal and remaining steadfast,” he says.

He adds that the chairman of Mtumbez Village was suspended on suspicion of misuse of power and bad leadership. “He remains suspended to pave way for investigations. This is the result of our work,” he says.

Hariri says that his organization has also sensitized the people to query doubtful expenditure. “They recently rejected a school expenditure report at Kisemu Village. They also resolved to volunteer for the construction of a dam at Serambala Village,” he says. He says the existence of the organization is seen as a threat by some leaders, who don’t provide sufficient cooperation. “For us, this is a challenge,” Hariri says.
LUSCO dialogues bring MPs, authorities, closer to the people

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Project Title: Strengthening effective relationship and accountability of members of parliament and citizens at constituency level
Region: Tanga
Grant Amount: TZS 87,756,750/= 

As a result of the dialogues conducted by the Lushoto Civil Society Coalition (LUSCO), the MP for Lushoto constituency, Henry Daffa Shekifu, has heeded the people’s call and, immediately after returning from the 2013/2014 national budget session in Dodoma, he convened a meeting to share with his electorate on the amount allocated for their constituency in the fiscal year.

Lushoto Civil Society Coalition (LUSCO) project coordinator Rodgers Shelukindo says: “Nowadays, due to the impact of public dialogues, leaders of Civil Society Organisations are invited to attend various meetings by Lushoto district authorities so that they can take part in addressing issues of mutual concern.”

Women’s participation has also been articulated through the dialogues. According to Damaris Mviyombo, who represents the Nuru Women Development Group, which is a member organisation to LUSCO, the dialogues have stimulated women’s participation on various issues and inspired them to work on income generation activities such as handicrafts.

“We are glad that the local authorities have realised the value of involving women in all decisions and matters that concern us. This is because we have been empowered through dialogues and are also ready to participate in social economic issues rather than waiting for men to do so,” says Damaris, who is a teacher by profession.

She gives the example of dialogues organised by LUSCO on environmental protection, during which more women have joined forces to pass on knowledge to the young ones. Already, some tree nurseries have been established to transform the Lukozi semi desert area into a more productive hill.

However, regarding citizens’ quest for more accountability in their area, it is said the public dialogues have also invoked public outcry on the way offices built for use by their MPs are increasingly seen to have been abandoned.

Following the holding of public dialogues in Mlalo, the people raised their concern over the alleged underutilization of their MPs’ office. According to them, the office remained idle for most of the time without being inhabited by their elected representatives, much as they were built with their tax money.

“So the citizens at village level have presented a formal petition to reclaim the MPs’ office for other village purposes,” says Shelukindo.

A pastor at the Pentecost Church, Yohana Mtaji, speaks highly of the LUSCO dialogues – saying they have helped to reinstate religious leaders’ value to the community. “We were well involved in the constitutional dialogues and were therefore able to articulate our views. It is on record that even our district council councilors now value us more,” says Pastor Mtaji.

On the other hand, Athumani Ngoda, who is an executive secretary to a self-organised initiative known as Lushoto District Education Fund, says the LUSCO dialogues have also enabled the wananchi, through their village leaders, to have an influence on the selection and identification of the children in need, so that they can get school fees and also be provided with relevant educational items.

“We took advantage of the directive that every district council has to create an education fund. The district council gives us about TZS 2 million each year, even the people have been inspired to follow-up on its performance,” says Ngoda.

Ahmed Gendo, who is an executive secretary to a home-based care organisation for People living with HIV (FAHALU) says: “Being a member to LUSCO, we have benefited a lot in the area of unity and cooperation. We previously lacked confidence but through LUSCO, our voice has become one.”

LUSCO, a civil society umbrella organisation in Lushoto, boasts of 40 member organisations. The organisation was able to conduct public dialogues in Lushoto township, Bumbuli and Mlalo. Over 250 people citizens were reached directly.

Ms. Damaris Mviyombo, who represents the Nuru Women Development Group, which is a member to LUSCO, showcases some of their designing products borne as a result of winning under the umbrella of LUSCO in Lushoto district.
TALISDA unites schools, community for improved education

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Project title: Strengthening community participation in planning, implementing and monitoring of primary education projects in Mombo.
Region: Tanga
Grant Amount: TZS 87,373,000/= thereafter. Gradually, the community started contributing resources towards solving one problem after another. The head teacher of Shekelei Primary School, Ramadhani Shekivuli, says following community’s contribution towards provision of food to pupils, building of latrines, painting of blackboards and other teaching facilities at his school, the attendance of both teachers and pupils has increased. He says as a result, the average pass mark has even shot up from 35 to 85 per cent in only a span of about one year. TALISDA’s Executive Director, Adolph Noya, says a mini survey conducted by his organisation in the district has indicated that on the average, out of 32 schools in six wards of Mombo Division, it was only 40 per cent of teachers who used to attend classes on regular basis. The people of Mombo in Korogwe District have now realised that it is their responsibility to contribute to the education sector rather than only sit back and wait for the government to overstretch itself within its meagre resources. 

Based in Korogwe District, Tanga Region, the Tanzania Livelihood Skills Development Advocacy Foundation (TALISDA), has shown an example on how best a local community can be inspired to work together so as to bring about improved learning environment in primary schools. Through a sensitization campaign, the organisation has strengthened community participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of primary school projects in Mombo division of the district - covering six wards with 32 primary schools. Through the organization of village meetings, people were able to demand new school latrines, desks, availability of food for the pupils, among others. School committees were formed in collaboration with ward councillors, teachers and other education stakeholders, TALISDA has also used arts and theatre groups to sensitize communities on educational development matters in a more sustainable way.

Some members and beneficiaries of TALISDA gather in one of the moves to strengthen community participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of primary education development in Mombo division.
PETS inspires refurbishment of 11 rural roads in Lindi

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Project title: Community Capacity building on PETs specifically for Road infrastructure
Region: Lindi
Grant Amount: TZS 44,878,000/= 

Maloya says all the reality checks and follow ups under PETS exercise were facilitated following improved relations that the organisation had built through dialogues and regular contacts with citizens, legislators and the local authority.

Giving some examples – through pictorial illustrations - indicating the situation before and after the PETS exercise, Mr. Maloya says as a result their intervention, the Liwale to Mbaya Road, Mavuji to Mchakama Road as well as Lokongwele culverts had been renovated, while the Mbaya to Mtalango Road has already been earmarked for refurbishment between October 2014 and February 2015.

He also says as a result of the PETS exercise conducted with the aim of ultimately improving the quality of roads and infrastructure in Lindi, a new science laboratory, eight cubic pit latrines, one water tank and two teachers’ houses have already been constructed at Mbaya Secondary school.

A Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) conducted by the Lindi Regional Association (LANGO) is said to have inspired the refurbishment of a total of 11 rural roads. Giving an account of the project, the Executive Secretary of LANGO, Sharrif Maloya, says through organised reality checks on the roads –made by the citizenry, councilors and village officials - the local authority eventually heeded their call and worked to improve the neglected roads until they became passable throughout the year.

He says: “We first started to train the citizens, local councilors and village leaders on their roles and responsibilities in monitoring public funds. We later organised field visits to inspect the earmarked roads based on the information that was gathered from the local authority. Our reality checks revealed that some roads were actually not refurbished as stated, while in other places there was poor implementation of projects.”
Njombe District Non-Governmental Organisation
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Project: Public Expenditure Tracking
Region: Njombe
Grant Amount: TZS 45,000,000/=  

The Njombe District Non-Governmental Organisation (NJODINGO) has successfully enhanced the efficient distribution of farm inputs by facilitating the removal of irresponsible agents and strengthening the proper expenditure of cooperatives. Among the tasks of the organisation is the formation of a monitoring and district farm inputs committee through the organisation of three-day courses. The relevant committee tracked the budget expenditure on agriculture at district council level and organized public meetings so as to get a feedback for relaying to the district farm inputs committee. The project coordinator, Richard Chogiske, apart from relaying the true picture on the state

“Not always possible for government executives to reach all the areas. The existence of such organizations helps a lot to alert the leaders about any areas that had been overlooked.”

“...to see that old people and widows were failing to get farm inputs while vibrant youths and other young people whom we were strangers to us getting the inputs. We had nowhere to voice our concerns, but now we can.”

Citizens in Njombe district pictured in one of the training sessions coordinated by NJODINGO on PETS in agricultural inputs.
In the beginning, the price of farm inputs were not clear because each agent came with his own prices. The people were confused and unable to pay. Tenders were being awarded on friendly basis.

At the moment, everything is moving timely, the people’s views on what kind of fertilizer and seeds they want are taken into account and implementation is done,” he says.

Agatha Msingwa of Ngalanga Street says that in the beginning, it was almost impossible to see a list of those eligible to get farm inputs being pasted on the notice board. “Everything is now transparent and there are no favours,” she says.

“It was quite painful to see that old people and widows were failing to get farm inputs while vibrant youths and other young people whom we were strangers to us getting the inputs. We had nowhere to voice our concerns, but now we can,” Agatha says.

It is also said that in the beginning, the price of farm inputs were not clear because each agent came with his own prices. The people were confused and unable to pay.

Tenders were being awarded on friendly basis. "During their visits, the NGO people usually talk of the significance of extension officers. We are glad that this requirement has been attended to. We are now able to access expert advice,” says Mpiiluka Onesto.

The government had begun distributing farm inputs like fertilizer, agricultural inputs and pesticides through agents who issued vouchers that helped the people to buy inputs at subsidized prices. However, the voucher distribution system had a lot of shortcomings as they were distributed through favourism to a few individuals. Lists of people who were supposed to get the vouchers were not made public, a situation that led to corruption in securing the vouchers.

Seeds were being distributed without taking into account that they were fit for the weather and the type of soil in the area. This led to decline in productivity and loss of quality of farming land.

“During their visits, the NGO people usually talk of the significance of extension officers. We are glad that this requirement has been attended to. We are now able to access expert advice,” says Mpiiluka Onesto.

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KINGONET motivates the people, leaders to know their rights

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Project: Constitutional Debate
Region: Kigoma
Grant Amount: TZS 89,000,000/=—

The Kibondo NGO Network (KINGONET) has helped residents of Kibondo and Kakonko Districts in Kigoma Region to fully realize the responsibility of elected leaders in strengthening the relationship between the people, councilors and Members of Parliament.

Through taking part in public dialogues organized by KINGONET, several persons have said that they were now able to know their civic responsibilities such that they were able to air their views on the Draft Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.

A participant from Kakonko, Joram Semzigwa, says that he had noted a surge in the communication between the people and their leaders. “The leaders, especially those who are elected, had the defect of being far from the people. This situation brought a lot of difficulties to the people whenever they wanted to have their grievances forwarded to government leaders by their representatives. This scenario has now changed,” says Semzigwa.

KINGONET coordinator John Tutuba says that through the project, the people have been able to improve their capacity to relate with elected leaders such that they were even able to air their views on the proposed constitution.

Juma Maganga, chairman of Kakonko District Council, who also serves as councilor for Kakonko Ward, says that as a leader, such dialogues have helped him to know the people’s needs. He says that he has directed his fellow leaders, especially the councilors who did not have the privilege to attend the training, to build good relationship with the people so as to make the task of leadership easier.

One of the dialogue participants delivering a presentation with regard to the New Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.
**TAS in Korogwe spearheads albinos’ engagement in constitutional making**

It seems that prior to the albinos in Korogwe being funded by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) to engage in the country’s new constitutional making process, the special group had largely been left struggling on its own. Meek and humble they were, only waiting for others to determine the fate of the nation as well as theirs. “We had been marginalised,” says the chair of the Tanzania Albino Society (TAS) in Korogwe District, David Kuambaza.

He is referring to the beginning of a long-awaited journey towards albinos’ active engagement in the country’s constitutional making process. Kuambaza says: “During the initial opinion collection exercise, not even one of the albinos hailing from this district was reached. However, through FCS support, we were able to have our views on the new constitution articulated and submitted to the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC).”

A member of the albino society in Korogwe, Abdallah Yahaya, says through the funding, they were also able to hold a dialogue pertaining to their issues of concern both with other members of the public and the district council management, something that had never happened before. “During the process, we were able to articulate key challenging issues that confront us such as health, education as well as security,” says Yahaya.

The project is thus aimed at increasing the capacity of people with albinism in addressing issues related to the national constitution, hence empowering them to participate effectively in the new constitution-making process. “We have seen changes in our own domain. We see ourselves as more valued by the community than we did before,” says Kuambaza.

According to the Korogwe district social welfare officer, Charles Mtali, there are about 109 people with albinism. Out of these, 46 are members of the albino society in the district.
NGO proud of catalyst role for the handicapped in Ulanga

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Project: Lobbying and advocacy in building the capacity of airing constitutional views
Region: Morogoro
Grant Amount: TZS 45,000,000/=*

The Tanzania League of the Blind is proud of being a catalyst of development for handicapped people. It reveals that it has been enticing parents of children with disabilities to take them to school. It has also succeeded in changing the society’s attitude on development and the state of disability.

The coordinator, Ansgar Joseph Kwanja, says they have been able to take some children with disabilities to school as well as convince people with disabilities to take part in the constitutional review process.

‘We have been motivating parents of children with disabilities to send them to school, a matter that was difficult to accomplish in the past. We have largely succeeded in this resolve’

‘One of our projects deals with building the capacity of people with disabilities to know their rights as well as the policy of involvement. We have been giving short courses to people with disabilities and also discussing with government leaders about the implementation of government policy on provision of free education for handicapped children,’ he says.

‘We have been motivating parents of children with disabilities to send them to school, a matter that was difficult to accomplish in the past. We have largely succeeded in this resolve,’ he says.

He says that once the children are in school, the organization purchases school uniforms for them. Kwanja also reveals that they are still consulting the leadership of the district council so that the council can foot the school fees bill. Right now we have 14 children who are studying at Viziwi Buguruni and two who are studying at Mtivila Primary School.

Kwanja says that the organization has also been motivating the people of the surrounding community to volunteer for development work.

We have also been persuading villages in Makanga area to volunteer for dormitory construction. The dormitory is earmarked for children with disabilities. ‘We are also enticing the people on the issue of constitutional reform,’ he says.
HANGO empowers the voiceless in Constitutional making process

Hai NGO Network
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Project Title: Review of the second draft of the proposed constitution by people of Hai District.
Region: Kilimanjaro
Grant Amount: TZS 6,000,000/=-

Spora Zakaria Mwasha is among common individuals who were empowered to participate in nationwide forums aimed at discussing the second draft of the New Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, with the facilitation of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

She was able to raise a number of issues that need to be incorporated in the new constitution. Being a mother of five, Spora proposed the constitution to discourage cultures and traditions that contribute towards violation of women's rights, saying there are traditions that advocate genital mutilation (FGM), early marriages as well as inheritance of widows.

“This is a challenge that needs to be addressed. The New Constitution is the only tool that can do that,” she says.

“There are number of challenges facing people with disabilities, which we wanted to be addressed by the constitution...” says Joyce Mosha, who was one of the participants at the forum in Hai.

Joyce cited some of the challenges as the right to employment in both the public and private sector.

For her part, Saumu who is the HANGO secretary, said the two-day forum provided a room for people to express their views on what they wanted to be included in the forthcoming constitution.

She cited issues which emerged at the forum as land ownership, saying: “Some of the participants were of the view that land needs to be regarded as a natural resource has to be protested.”

One of the voiceless citizens is enabled to air her views during a dialogue organised by HANGO on the New Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.
The National Youth Information Center has been able to boost the participation of youths in planning development projects at village level in Kigoma District. This has made it possible for the priorities they had identified to be included in the official plans as well as their implementation.

The chairman of the organization, Pius Ngereza, says that right now, there is a big change in youth participation and involvement. This has led to the strengthening of good governance in the villages, thus enhancing the accountability of both leaders and the people, as young people press for monitoring of plan implementation.

He says that leaders of development committees are from the five wards of Mwandianga, Kasongo, Uvinza, Ilagala and Sunuka, all of Kigoma District. He says that right now, several government reports are pasted on open notice boards in areas where people usually gather so that they can read them. Youth participation is on the rise as they are bold enough to articulate them.

‘Youths are being involved in development planning. They are invited to attend meetings. They state what they want. Better still, they eventually realize that their proposals have been accepted. They thus actively take part in the implementation process.’

Some of Kigoma youths engage in a good governance seminar coordinated by the National Youth Information Center (NYIC) at Sinuka Village in Uvinza district.
Longido NGO Network (LONGONET) has enabled Maasai women to actively participate in the dialogues and air their views on what their leaders are supposed to do. This has been done through organised public dialogues that are meant to strengthen the relationship between citizens, parliamentarians and other representatives. Justinian Ngemela is the chairman of the LONGONET. He says: “It was a taboo for Maasai women to speak in the presence of men. This has practice has existed for years. However, during the forum, women from this indigenous group were able to speak out on their plight.”

“It was hard to break through such unyielding traditions that deny women to speak before men, as they always feel superior to their spouses,” Ngemela says, noting that before getting into the forum, LONGONET carried out a series of trainings, which were meant to empower them in a number of areas. Ngemela who is based in Longido Township, which is close to Namanga border post, nearly 110 kilometers from Arusha Township says: “Things are now changing for better as Maasai women speak and conduct business, which was a taboo in the past.”

According to a LONGONET official, Maasai women and men actively participated in the debates and aired their views on what their leaders were supposed to do, taking into account that most of them were ‘far away from wananchi’. Petro Akham, one of the facilitators, describes the forum as one of the important tools towards building people’s confidence. “It provides avenue for marginalized groups in the country to raise their voices,” he says.
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING STORIES
Kigoma NGO Network builds capacity of district CSOs

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Project: Building institutional capacity and members network
Region: Kigoma
Grant sum: TZS 7,500,000/= 

NGO networks in Kigoma Region are now utilizing their formal networks following some special training for both leaders and members by the Kigoma Regional Non-Government Organization (KIRENGONET) umbrella organization. The KIRENGONET, Benedict Mosha, says that the NGO networks in the region had benefitted a lot from the workshop. He says their capacity has been enhanced as far as operations are concerned.

He says the aim goal of the project was to build the capacity of NGO networks in observing their constitutions and putting in place leadership structures that include having strategic plans, financial and employment policies.

He says that such of the NGO networks have put in place such structures and are already utilizing them. He says that KIRENGONET has already prepared its five-year strategic plan, while the Kigoma District’s KINGONET and the farmers CONSORTIUM have completed their strategic plans by now. He revealed that the Kasulu District NGO network, KANON, and KINGONET, its Kibondo counterpart, are in the final stages of doing the same thing.

KINGONET coordinator John Tutuba says that as a result of the training, his organization has succeeded to overhaul its financial structure as well as employing a qualified accountant.

The chairperson of the Kasulu CONSORTIUM, Bertha Baleke, says that the availability of such templates have made work easier as each worker is aware of his network responsibilities. Likewise, the member organizations are following the same path.

The aim goal of the project was to build the capacity of NGO networks in observing their constitutions and putting in place leadership structures that include having strategic plans, financial and employment policies.
AT times it is rather difficult to find out why many Community Based Organizations (CBOs) underperform and eventually collapse, but the Gomani Development Association (GODA) in Zanzibar provides the answer.

It has been proven that through capacity building, organizations can deliver up to the expectation of its members and the general public. GODA has successfully organized a number of capacity building workshops, and trained its members to make a drastic change in their performance. The members are now happy with the outcomes of capacity building workshops. The aim of the workshop was to build the capacity of its members, to make them reflect on their leadership approaches, successes and failures; and enable them work effectively so as to ultimately influence decision making by policy makers. The target was 28 members. Some participants were drawn from various community groups in the small district of Tumbatu, north of Unguja Island.

The beneficiaries, including local leaders known as Shehas, say that the capacity building training has helped equip members of the CBOs in terms of skills and knowledge sharing, which would help them improve their activities.

“After the training, GODA members are now good players in the development of the district. They regularly provide a voice for the poor and marginal groups in planning and budgeting,” said Ussi Khamis Nyange, a community leader (Sheha) for Tumbatu Gomani area.

“The impact is now visible in the village. The youths who attended the training have been active in promoting good planning, proper budgeting, and accountability,” he says. He says once members of the civil societies possessed sufficient skills, they could also effectively influence policy-making.

“After attending the capacity building course, GODA members are now important players in the development of the district. They regularly provide a voice for the poor and marginal groups when planning and budgeting,” says Ussi Khamis Nyange, a community leader (Sheha) for Tumbatu Gomani.

According to the Secretary of GODA Mr Makame Ponda Khamis said the training was about proper spending and management of funds, project management, leadership, good governance, transparency, project assessment, and workable strategies of the CBOs.
Strategic plan helps YOEFO tackle environmental issues effectively

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Project: Formulation of Organisational Strategic Plan
Region: Singida
Grant Amount: TZS 7,487,000/=  

The Youth Extended Foundation, based in Singida Region, runs projects on Environmental conservation. The organisation is now successfully implementing its project after leaders and members of the organisation had attended an institutional capacity building seminar funded by The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

Martha Joseph, the director of YOEFO, says that through the capacity building seminar, leaders and members of the organisation are now able to implement projects, while being guarded by a three-year strategic plan that they prepared after attending the seminar. YOEFO is given special recognition by the local government because of the strength of its institutional capacity, which has been built after the training. This organisation is now involved in varied community projects. It is normally represented at village meetings due to its contribution to community activities.

YOEFO has been able to collaborate with Misuna primary school in an environmental conservation project by planting 20 trees in the school compound jointly with both the pupils and their teachers.

Nahson Mtali, accountant of YOEFO says, “The capacity building seminar has enabled them to set a well-organized administrative structure and distribute roles accordingly. Every member of the organisation is getting involved in project implementation as stated in the strategic plan.”

A beneficiary of the capacity building training, Maua Kitundu, says, “I have now fully realized my roles as a member of the organization. I am now confident enough to stand before a crowd and mobilize other members of the community to protect and conserve the environment because I am aware of my position in the society.”

“We have now fully realized my roles as a member of the organization. I am now confident enough to stand before a crowd and mobilize other members of the community to protect and conserve the environment because I am aware of my position in the society.”

Some of Misuna Primary School teachers and pupils in Singida region engage in planting trees as part of implementing the environmental conservation project coordinated by YOEFO.
Strategic plan guides PCCR involvement in environmental protection

The Planning and Coordinating Community Resources (PCCR) in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, is now a good testimony on the improvement of its organisational affairs through guidance of a strategic plan that has been developed.

The PCCR chairman, Hussein Ponda, says the training facilitated by the FCS has enabled them to develop a three-year strategic plan, which guides them on proper management of the organisation in terms of money use, controls and task execution. The PCCR secretary, Gumbo Majubwa, says the project has established a smooth flow of division of labour among the organisation leaders and members. He says gone are the days of simmering conflicts among members, when all decisions were regarded as the work of one leader.

“The project has also resulted into close cooperation with local government leaders and members of the general public,” adds Gumbo. He also says that the organisation has benefited from the finance management and expenditure course. We are now more transparent on fund expenditure, he says.

PCCR is involved in environmental protection of natural resources. Some citizens of Bagamoyo together with members of the Planning and Coordinating Resources (PCCR) devote their time for an exercise meant to restore mangroves along the shorelines of Indian Ocean in line with the 2004 Environmental Management Act and the CSO’s strategic plan.
IRDO inspires project-designing capacity among CBOs

The Integrated Rural Development Organisation (IRDO), based in Ileje district, has inspired improvement in the capacity of local organisations to devise their own development projects.

Explaining the outcomes of their work in Ileje, the IRDO project coordinator, Patrick Mwalukisa, says his organisation has already trained a total of 42 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) on social accountability monitoring as well as project administration.

He says through their trainings, one of the CBOs, namely Mkombozi Group, has managed to mobilise the local community resources at Mswima Village and came up with village road projects.

Mwalukisa says through the use of drama as a sensitizing mechanism, culverts at Mswima Village in Ileje have been built, and the villagers are now able to transport crops to the market places as well as sick people/pregnant women to the nearby village dispensary, which is located about 10km away.

“The capacity building of such CBOs, the community has also woken up to manage their own projects,” says Simon Mwang’onda, the Executive Director of IRDO.

IRDO has inspired capacity among CBOs.
CSO transforms village arbitration councils

Sakale Development Foundation (SADEF)
Email: sadef100@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 0717 475914
Project: Capacity building of arbitration councils at village level in Muheza District
Region: Tanga
Grant Amount: TZS 43,815,870/=  

“We discovered that the village council and tribunal members were not adhering to arbitration procedures, including giving proper notices and summons to the people,” says Mbwilo. He goes on: “There was also no proper filing, such that most cases in the village tribunals were on land ownership and child abandonment. These were handled without the use of proper records. So when matters were referred for district arbitration, they were bound to fail due to lack of evidence.”

He says the village tribunals had mostly been handling land conflicts and child abandonment cases. These are deemed to be more rampant in the area.

Mbwilo says his organisation has trained the arbitration council members to adhere to proper summons procedures, recording proceedings and how to make rulings in accordance with the Arbitration Act number 7 of 1985.

Gloria Steven, who is a member of the organization, says: “Before this intervention, people used to avoid our services. But after having gained confidence in us, we are helping the police a great deal to settle a good number of cases, except those which are criminal in nature.”

For his part, the chairperson of the organization, Richard Masumbuko says: “Having restored confidence in the village tribunals, we conducted dialogues so that the people could use the tribunals for all matters that are not criminal, rather than continue flocking to the police stations.”

Masumbuko says their organisation is proud to have increased the number of dispute settlements from five to 20 per week.
CSO strategic plan helps redefine environmental conservation for tourism

Serengeti Cultural Centre
Email Address: serengeticulturalc@gmail.com
Phone number: 0784 402 113
Project Title: Strategic Plan development towards effective environmental conservation and tourism
Region: Mara
Grant Amount: TZS 7,200,000=

The people of Serengeti bear witness that capacity building training supported by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) donations does not just end at the level of an organization, but also spills over to the entire community.

Through the Serengeti Cultural Centre (SCC) strategic plan course, a development facilitated by the FCS, more and more citizens of Mugumu Township, in Serengeti District are set to benefit from an organized environmental conservation and tourism project that aims at boosting cultural tourism and environmental conservation. Serengeti is one of the famous Tanzania’s wildlife-rich districts. The move seeks to unveil key economic and tourism opportunities that can be

“Our aim is to help the communities realize their potential to make good use of available resources while conserving the environment”

Some members of Serengeti Cultural Centre posing for a group photo soon after completing one of their key strategic meetings.
tapped by low-income earners in a bid to uplift their living standards.

“Our aim is to help the communities realize their potential to make good use of available resources while conserving the environment,” says Mr. Joshua Nyansiry, the Executive Director of SCC, on the sidelines of a training workshop held in early March 2014. He says about 36 participants from various villages of Serengeti have benefited from the project and are looking forward to share the acquired skills.

“FCS has become our first partners in this awareness drive. We expect to have some revived art of sustainable conservation,” says Nyansiry, who is a resident of Serengeti District.

Lameck Nyasagati, from the Tobora Water Users’ Association in Serengeti, welcomed the capacity building training. He described it as a significant step towards development of the tourism sector in the district.

The largest portion of Serengeti is a game-protected area, which includes the world famous Serengeti National Park (SENAPA).

“You can’t have sustainable tourism without having good environment in place. This workshop has set a good example on what should be done in our district,” the 53-year-old man said shortly after attending the workshop.

Nyasagati is one of the Serengeti villagers who have been in the frontline of sensitizing his fellow villagers to engage in conservation activities and stopping human activities that cause environmental threats.

For her part, Esther Maswi (48), says she now stands a better chance of doing something for the development of cultural tourism in the area after attending the workshop.

“I am already an entrepreneur. With the training that I have received, I will help many other women to establish small scale economic projects that are friendly to the environment,” says Esther, who is a mother of nine. She lives in Nyamoko village, just a few kilometers away from Mugumu township.

Government environmental experts are also optimistic that the training shall boost the environmental conservation campaign in the district.

“This is a wakeup call for stakeholders to participate in conservation and tourism activities,” says Mr John Landoyan, a senior official at the Serengeti District Council Natural Resources and Tourism Department.

Mr. Landoyan, who took part in facilitating the training, says the organisation will also use the opportunity to set up a strategic plan aimed at boosting environmental conservation and tourism in the area.

SCC plans to extend the programme to other parts of Serengeti District, depending on the availability of resources, according to Nyansiry. “This is just the beginning. Our target is to reach the entire district of Serengeti,” says Nyansiry.

SCC is a Civil Society Organisation that was registered in 2011. Since then, it has been striving to boost environmental conservation and cultural tourism in Serengeti. The district has unbeatable large plains blessed with a variety of beautiful flora and fauna, including the great migration of wildbeasts.


Morogoro CSO forge ahead after strategic management training

Save Family Tanzania Charity (SFTC)
Phone Number: 0713621212
Email Address: sftc.tz@gmail.com
Region: Morogoro
Grant Amount: TZS 7,500,000/= enabled the organisation to buy office facilities. “We now have a computer, which is useful in keeping records as well as facilitating proper accounting documentation,” he says.

Members and leaders of Save Family Tanzania Charity (SFTC) have benefited from attending capacity building training on strategic planning, management and effective monitoring of their project results. Based in Morogoro Region, the organisation deals with reproduction health and family planning.

The chairperson of SFTC, Rehema Mwabwala, says 20 members of the organisation have been trained to manage and control its finances. “We now have prepared our financial manuals. We have proper control of the organisation’s finances. We also account for each cent spent on the organisation. We share the financial report with all members of the organisation,” she says.

The SFTC accountant, Rajabu Mjema, says with the financial manual, they have been able to manage the organisation’s finances properly, being the result of the finance and management expenditure course offered to them by the FCS.

He also says that FCS funds have enabled the organisation to buy office facilities. “We now have a computer, which is useful in keeping records as well as facilitating proper accounting documentation,” he says.

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Some of the leaders and members of the Save Family Tanzania Charity (SFTC) pictured in one of their capacity building session.