

2nd Edition
October 2023

AMPLIFYING VOICES IN TANZANIA





Connecting the Marginalized in Tanzania.

Voice is an innovative grant facility that supports the most marginalised and discriminated rightsholders in Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Voice is an initiative by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is executed by a consortium between Oxfam Novib and Hivos.

Voice aims to amplify and connect thus far unheard voices in efforts to leave no one behind to exert influence in accessing productive and social services and political participation.

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) Tanzania is a Pan-African networking organization strategically linking law and development in order to improve and safeguard the lives of women and children in Tanzania and beyond. WiLDAF through the generous support from Hivos is implementing a VOICE(s) Connected & Amplified! Project as a Tanzania Linking and Learning facilitator.

The project aims to boost collaboration, connectedness, sharing, listening, learning, innovation and application of new knowledge as well as to produce evidence, learning and innovative solutions to catalyze transformative change for the most marginalized and discriminated groups.

As a facilitator, WiLDAF has been tasked not only to create and organize linking and learning activities and platforms e.g. creating space for public debate but also to leverage on her rich experience to document learnings, success stories and project results. Through this booklet, WiLDAF has compiled stories of change covering four Voice grantees namely DSDO, ICCAO, JUWAZA and YEMCO to showcase the impact of community-led interventions that were funded by Voice.

The project aims to boost collaboration, learning, innovation and application of new knowledge and produce evidence.

ANACLETH MENAS MWENDA

From Maize to Avocado Dreams:

Anacleth's Inspiring Journey of Change

In a tranquil village known as Ukumbi, nestled among the undulating hills of Njombe in Tanzania's Southern Highlands Zone, a remarkable transformation was unfolding. This was not just a story of avocado farming; it was a testament to the indomitable spirit of Anacleth Menas Mwenda, a person with hearing impairment, and the power of perseverance, support, and dreams.

Anacleth Menas Mwenda embarked on his journey in the world of traditional maize farming, battling relentless challenges with unwavering determination. But his life was destined for profound change when he discovered the DSDO (Deaf Support Development Organization) and their transformative work in his community. He reached out to them, seeking help, and thus, his path to change was set in motion.

Through DSDO, Anacleth and his fellow villagers received invaluable training in avocado cultivation. These training sessions, as Anacleth puts it, "opened our eyes to a world of possibilities." With funding from Voice Tanzania and the facilitation of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), these sessions went beyond teaching mere farming techniques; they instilled a vision of a brighter future. The first training, held in 2021, exposed them to the potential benefits of avocado farming, not only in terms of personal income but also in empowering their entire community.

The second training, conducted in 2022, took them to the fields, where they, in Anacleth's words, "got our hands dirty and truly grasped the essence of avocado farming." Anacleth was filled with gratitude for

the opportunities provided by Voice and DSDO, organizations with a shared mission of "championing the rights of the hearing-impaired and enabling their empowerment."

From 2016 to the present, DSDO has successfully completed two significant projects, with Voice playing a pivotal role in supporting initiatives designed to improve the lives of differently-abled individuals. As Rahimu Zebedayo Mwajombe, DSDO director, eloquently states, "Our initial endeavor revolved around leveraging technology for the

*These training sessions,
as Anacleth puts it,
"opened our eyes to
a world of possibilities."*

benefit of differently-abled individuals in Njombe." In 2021, a new project was initiated, with the noble goal of "empowering persons with disabilities, especially in fruit farming."





With newfound knowledge and a burning determination, Anacleth and his fellow trainees redirected their focus towards avocado farming, a sector experiencing a burgeoning demand. They recognized that individuals with disabilities, as Anacleth passionately believes, “can be active contributors in this agricultural domain.” Avocado cultivation held the promise of “long-term returns,” and Anacleth’s confidence soared as he envisioned a future where his hard work would benefit not just himself but generations to come.

Anacleth’s daily routine was a testament to his commitment. In his own words, “In the morning, I go to the farm, I do some cleaning, rest

others with disabilities. He aspires to earn between 6 to 9 million Tshs per year when he begins harvesting, and he envisions this income as a consistent annual source of support.

Anacleth had not only transformed his own life but had also become a mentor. He “taught budding techniques to about 20 people and showed them the grafted seedlings as an example.” His message was clear and resonant: “Don’t let disability hold you back. There are other persons with disabilities doing various activities and supporting their families well.”

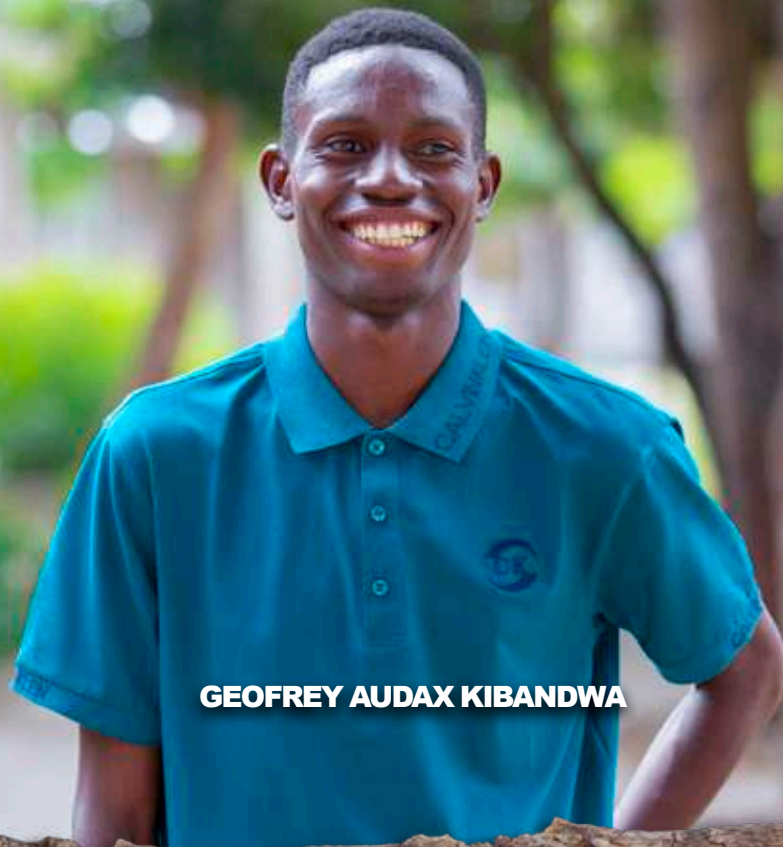
The impact of this transformation extended far beyond Anacleth’s personal success. The project supported by Voice and implemented by DSDO spanned two Tanzanian regions, benefiting not only the deaf but also the blind, physically disabled individuals, and families with disabled members. These initiatives, as Rahimu passionately asserted, “contribute to the national income and personal development.” They also fostered connections with businesspeople and provided a platform for advocating for “disability-friendly laws.”

Anacleth’s aspirations for the future were as bright as his smile. He planned to “educate children and expand my farming.” His happiness was infectious, and he harbored a strong desire to see more individuals with disabilities achieve their dreams. As he gazed into the future, Anacleth envisioned a world where “people with disabilities participate in various projects,” and where dreams became tangible realities.

In heartfelt words, Anacleth and his fellow farmers made a plea to Voice: “Extend the project if possible.” For their journey of change had just begun, and the potential for impact was boundless, even though time was ticking away.

The project supported by Voice and implemented by DSDO spanned two Tanzanian regions.

a little around noon, then move on to my vegetable farm.” Juggling both ventures with precision, he would return home in the evening to rest, and then, in the spirit of community and shared experiences, he would join his fellow young farmers to exchange stories and dreams. His journey from traditional maize farming to becoming an aspiring, successful avocado farmer served as a beacon of hope for many



GEOFFREY AUDAX KIBANDWA

From Dreams to Reality

Empowering Youth and Entrepreneurship in Dar es Salaam

In the bustling neighborhood of Yombo Machimbo in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, there lived a determined and ambitious young man named Geoffrey Audax Kibandwa. He had a dream, and he was willing to pursue it with unwavering determination.

Geoffrey's entrepreneurship journey began on November 1, 2022, when he decided to start his own business. The foundation for his venture was small, but his spirit was indomitable. He was armed with the knowledge and techniques he had acquired through rigorous training and guidance provided by the ICCAO organization.

Maria Mrindoko, the projects manager from ICCAO, spoke highly of their organization's projects, including "Maslahi Yetu Kwanza" (Our Interests First), which had been initiated in 2019 and was set to conclude in August 2023. This project was funded by Voice Tanzania and is being facilitated by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF). ICCAO works with various development stakeholders to implement projects that focuses on economic empowerment, gender equality, and social services, particularly in the areas of health and education.

The foundation for his venture was small, but his spirit was indomitable.

He had made a bold decision to start exactly where he was, with the belief that he would gather the necessary resources as he progressed in his business. Geoffrey had faith in his abilities and in the idea that every day brought new opportunities for his business to grow.

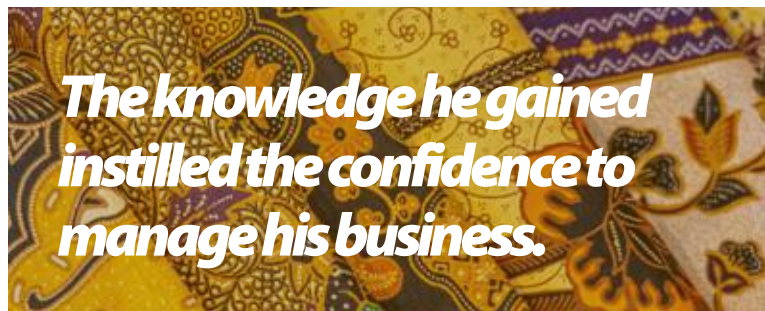


Geoffrey had been fortunate enough to receive training from the ICCAO organization, and within just three months of that valuable training, he transformed his aspirations into reality. He combined three small businesses into one: a stationary shop, a mobile phone accessories shop, and an electronics shop. Geoffrey was not content with just running his business; he also became the chairperson of the “Responses Group,” a youth group registered in the Temeke municipality.

The “Responses Group” was established with the clear mission of unlocking the potential of young people for both economic and social progress. ICCAO conducted comprehensive training sessions, extending their reach to include 30 youth groups from the Dar es Salaam and Pwani regions, among which were the members of the Responses Group. These training sessions were designed to equip youth group leaders with the essential skills and knowledge required to make a tangible impact in their respective communities.

Geoffrey's life took a pivotal turn when ICCAO introduced the Responses Group to a youth development program, with a primary focus on economic and leadership education. The knowledge he gained through this program was nothing short of transformative. It instilled in him the confidence and expertise necessary to successfully manage his business. Geoffrey came to realize that starting a business didn't necessitate vast resources – it all commenced with a brilliant idea and a meticulously crafted plan.

ICCAO's commitment to communities and to the youth was unwavering. They knew that by empowering young people with knowledge, skills, and opportunities, they could become leaders and change-makers in



their own right. Through projects like “Maslahi Yetu Kwanza,” ICCAO aimed to witness a profound impact. They aspired to see more youth groups transition from having no projects or businesses to owning thriving enterprises.

ICCAO's ultimate goal was to witness a societal transformation driven by the trained youths, proving that young people were more than capable of becoming leaders and catalysts for change. The ICCAO organization, along with partners like Voice, played a crucial role in this journey. Geoffrey and his group were proud to be associated with such organizations that believed in their potential.

As time passed, Geoffrey's business continued to flourish, but his true success lay not just in his thriving shops but in the lives he had touched and the positive changes he had initiated. Through hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to the youth, Geoffrey Audax Kibandwa had become an inspiring beacon of hope in Yombo Machimbo, proving that with determination and the right support, dreams could indeed become a reality.



SULEMANI MTUMWA VUWAHI

Empowering Zanzibar's Elderly:

JUWAZA's Remarkable Efforts Supported by Voice and WiLDAF

Amidst the picturesque landscapes of Zanzibar, where the beauty of the islands harmonizes with the challenges of aging, the Zanzibar Association for Retirees and Older People (JUWAZA) is leaving a profound impact. With generous funding from Voice Tanzania and facilitation by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), JUWAZA is effecting a transformation in the lives of the elderly population on this idyllic archipelago.

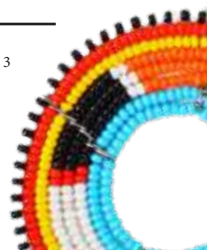


Sulemani Mtumwa Vuwahi, an 81-year-old JUWAZA member, candidly shared his sentiments, remarking, "I am currently at an age where I feel weary of reaching this stage." His sentiments resonate deeply with many elderly individuals in Zanzibar who confront unique challenges related to aging.

Vuwahi, who is also an active member of JUWAZA, went on to discuss his role in coordinating efforts on behalf of the elderly and lauded the exceptional quality of services provided.

In Zanzibar, the elderly population is now finding solace and support through the concerted efforts of organizations like JUWAZA and dedicated healthcare professionals who prioritize their well-being.

JUWAZA, working closely in collaboration with healthcare professionals across Zanzibar, has played an instrumental role in elevating the quality of healthcare services available at local health centers. This has been achieved through a multifaceted approach, including comprehensive training programs that empower the elderly by enhancing their understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Fatma Mussa Makame, a medical officer at the Bwejuu Health Center,





HALIMA MOHAMMED ALI

emphasized the impact of JUWAZA-facilitated training sessions, which are geared towards imparting health knowledge to the elderly. These sessions have been pivotal in encouraging more elderly individuals to seek medical care and support. Importantly, the training has instigated a shift in perspectives on elderly care, underscoring the necessity of prioritizing elderly individuals during their visits to health centers.

Halima Mohammed Ali, a nurse at the Jambiani Health Center in Zanzibar, reiterated their unwavering commitment to elderly care, affirming, “Our health center places a particular emphasis on providing care for the elderly.” She also highlighted key infrastructure enhancements at health centers, including the introduction of inclined pavements designed to facilitate easier access for the elderly.

Abdallah Haji Suleiman, an elderly citizen hailing from Jambiani, Zanzibar, praised healthcare workers for their steadfast dedication in ensuring that elderly individuals receive consistently high-quality care. JUWAZA has also taken strides in training community health workers, such as Hayeshi Fadhili Rajab, to offer vital support to the elderly. Hayeshi emphasized the expanded role of health workers in caring

for the elderly, encompassing crucial topics such as nutrition, health maintenance, and caregiving.

Fatima Haroub Mtungo, an elderly citizen, expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the holistic care approach, saying, “Community health care workers not only visit our homes but also inquire about our well-being and health concerns.”

Kombo Bakar Kombo, a monitoring and evaluation personnel at JUWAZA, outlined the collective efforts to create a healthcare environment that caters to the specific needs of the elderly. A noteworthy catalyst in this endeavor has been the Voice program, which has played a pivotal role in influencing policies concerning the elderly in Zanzibar. Kombo conveyed gratitude to Voice for their unwavering support and highlighted the demonstrable positive impact of the Voice program on elderly care in Zanzibar.

These proactive initiatives have resulted in heightened awareness and engagement among the Elderly Councils, which are now actively championing the rights and entitlements of the elderly population. This advocacy has even led to recent meetings with the President of Zanzibar to address the concerns of the elderly.

Jakub Abdul Issa, a retired district health administrator, underscored the significance of training and the importance of embracing the aging process.

In Zanzibar, the elderly population is discovering renewed hope and support, thanks to the unwavering dedication of organizations like JUWAZA, the vital funding from Voice, and the facilitation provided by WILDAF. Together, these entities are paving the way for a more dignified and empowered aging experience in this breathtaking paradise.

“I am currently at an age where I feel weary of reaching this stage.”

PASCHALINA JUMANNE MANYAMA

YEMCO's Transformative Impact:

Empowering Women in Tanzania

In a world where opportunities often seem out of reach, the stories of Paschalina Jumanne Manyama and Jaida Selemani Mohammedi shine as beacons of hope and inspiration. These two remarkable women, hailing from different corners of Tanzania, have had their lives transformed thanks to the incredible efforts of Youth Empowerment and Mindset Change Organisation (YEMCO), a grassroots organization committed to empowering women, youth, and individuals with disabilities through skills development and entrepreneurship. This transformative journey was made possible through the generous funding from Voice Tanzania and the facilitation by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF).

Paschalina's journey is a testament to the power of education and skills training. Before her association with YEMCO, she engaged in the limited and seasonal business of selling potatoes and fried cassava. Her income was restricted, and her prospects seemed constrained. However, the turning point in her life came when she discovered YEMCO's initiative, which opened doors to the world of batik art.

With YEMCO's guidance and support, Paschalina embarked on her journey in batik artistry, forming a group and accessing credit opportunities through YEMCO's VICOPA (Village Community Banking).

This shift away from her previous ventures brought her newfound financial stability and self-sufficiency. Today, she can create up to 30 batik pieces daily, earning a substantial income that has changed her life. Moreover, she now dreams of establishing a manufacturing facility to support single mothers, a testament to her determination to create positive change in her community.

Jaida's story, too, paints a picture of remarkable transformation. Before joining YEMCO, she was confined to domestic duties, despite her sewing skills. However, with YEMCO's support and encouragement,

*Paschalina's journey
is a testament to skills
training.*



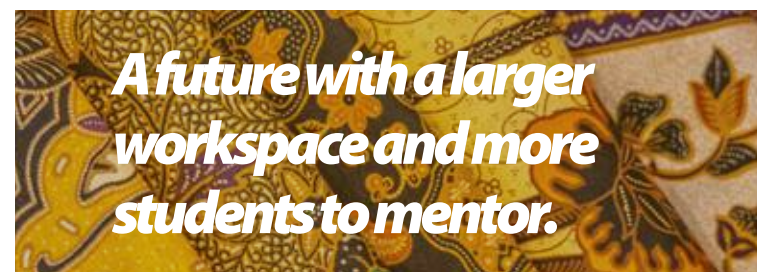


JAIDA SELEMANI MOHAMMED

she realized the potential of her talents and embarked on a journey of entrepreneurship by starting a sewing business. Her dedication and newfound business knowledge enabled her to secure loans, purchase land, and initiate construction on her home. Jaida's success not only boosted her confidence but also her income, and she now envisions a future with a larger workspace and more students to mentor.

These stories of Paschalina and Jaida are not isolated incidents but a testament to YEMCO's unwavering commitment to capacity-building and economic empowerment. Mohamed Idd Bassanga, the Director of YEMCO, highlights the organization's core mission of empowering youth, women, and individuals with disabilities to enhance their economic standing by harnessing their talents and entrepreneurial skills. He explains that Voice Tanzania played a pivotal role in this transformation, providing vital training and support that profoundly impacted the lives of many.

The collaborative efforts of YEMCO, Voice Tanzania, and WiLDAF have not only improved the professional aptitude of these women but have also empowered them to break free from traditional gender roles. As women like Paschalina and Jaida rise to their full potential, they challenge societal norms and contribute to broader changes in their communities. "The vision is clear: a Tanzania free from poverty and gender inequality," Mohamed said.



MOHAMED IDD BASSANGA

While YEMCO has made significant progress, they aim for even greater impact, with a vision to expand their reach across the entire country. The positive changes witnessed in Paschalina and Jaida's lives are a testament to the transformative potential of such initiatives. By reaching more individuals and communities, YEMCO and its partners hope to usher in a future where empowerment and economic self-sufficiency become the norm.

Mohamed added, "the stories of Paschalina and Jaida remind us that with the right opportunities, support, and determination, anyone can overcome challenges and create a brighter future." YEMCO's dedication to empowering women in Tanzania serves as a beacon of hope, lighting the path towards a more equitable and prosperous society. Through continued collaboration and support, we can look forward to witnessing many more success stories like these, where individuals rise above adversity to realize their full potential and contribute to the greater good.



Kuunganisha jamii za pembezoni nchini Tanzania.

Voice ni mpango wa utoaji ruzuku unaosaidia wananchi wanaoishi katika mazingira magumu au pembezoni katika nchi za Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, na Philippines. Voice ni mpango ulioanzishwa na Wizara ya Mambo ya Nje ya Uholanzi na utekelezaji wake unafanywa kwa ushirikiano kati ya Oxfam Novib na Hivos.

Lengo la Voice ni kuunganisha na kupaza sauti ambazo hadi sasa hazijasikika, ili kuhakikisha kila mtu ananufaika na huduma mbalimbali zikiwemo za uzalishaji mali, huduma za kijamii, na ushiriki wa kisiasa na hakuna mtu anayeachwa nyuma.

Shirika la Wanawake katika Sheria na Maendeleo Barani Afrika (WiLDAF) Tanzania ni shirika linalounganisha sheria na maendeleo kimkakati ili kuboresha na kulinda maisha ya wanawake na watoto nchini Tanzania na maeneo mengine. Shirika la WiLDAF kwa ufadhili kutoka Hivos linatekeleza mradi wa "VOICE(s) Connected & Amplified!" likiwa kama mratibu wa Mafunzo na Uunganishaji nchini Tanzania. Mradi huo una lengo la kuimarisha ushirikiano, umoja, usikilizwaji na mafunzo, pamoja na kuchagiza ubunifu na matumizi ya maarifa mapya na kutengeneza ushahidi ili kuchochea mabadiliko chanya katika jamii hasa makundi yaliyo pembezoni. 4

Pamoja na majukumu mengine yakiwemo kuandaa mijadala ya umma, kutengeneza mifumo na taratibu mbalimbali za mafunzo na ushirikiano, WiLDAF imepewa jukumu la kuandaa taarifa za matokeo ya miradi ikiwemo mafanikio. Kupitia kitabu hiki, WiLDAF imeandaa taarifa za mafanikio yaliyotokana na miradi inayosimamiwa na taasisi nne zilizofadhiliwa na Voice ambazo ni DSDO, ICCAO, JUWAZA na YEMCO.

**Mradi una lengo la
kuimarisha ushirikiano,
usikilizwaji na mafunzo,
na kutengeneza ushahidi**





ANACLETH MENAS MWENDA

Kutoka kuwa mkulima wa mahindi hadi kutimiza ndoto ya kuwa mkulima wa maparachichi

Simulizi ya kulisimua ya Anacleth ambaye ni kiziwi

Katika kijiji kinachojulikana kama Ukumbi, wilayani Kilolo mkoa wa Iringa, Nyanda za Juu Kusini mwa Tanzania, mabadiliko ya kiuchumi na kimaisha yanatokea kutokana na kilimo cha maparachichi.

Hii ni simulizi ya kilimo cha zao la parachichi ambalo limekuwa maarufu eneo hilo pamoja na eneo la Njombe, kupitia ushuhuda wa kijana mpambanaji ambaye ana ulemavu wa kusikia 'kiziwi', Anacleth Menas Mwenda.

Licha ya ulemavu aliokuwa nao, hakuona sababu ya kuwa tegemezi na badala yake ameamua kuwa kinara wa kusimamia ndoto zake za mafanikio ambapo alianza safari yake ya kujishughulisha katika kilimo kwa kuanza na kilimo cha mahindi akikumbana na changamoto lukuki.

Maisha yake yalibadilika aliposikia kuhusu Shirika la Maendeleo ya Wasioona linalojulikana kama Deaf Support Development Organization (DSDO) na kazi yao ya kubadilisha jamii ambapo baada ya kuwasiliana nao ndipo safari yake ya mabadiliko ilipoanzia.

Kupitia DSDO, Anacleth na wanakijiji wenzake walipata mafunzo muhimu katika kilimo cha maparachichi.

Mafunzo haya, kama alivyosema Anacleth, yaliwafungua macho kwa ulimwengu wa fursa, kupitia ufadhili kutoka Voice Tanzania na kwa uratibu wa Shirika la Wanawake na Maendeleo Afrika (WILDAF).

Anasema mafunzo hayo yalienda mbali zaidi ya kufundisha njia za kilimo na kuwa yaliongeza hamasa kwa washiriki juu ya mustakabali wenye mwanga kwa maisha yao.

Anasema mafunzo ya kwanza, yaliyofanyika mwaka 2021, yaliwaelimisha juu ya faida za kilimo cha maparachichi, na jinsi ambavyo kilimo hicho kinaweza kuibadilisha jamii nzima sambamba na kuongeza kipato cha mtu mmoja mmoja.

Mafunzo ya pili, yaliyofanyika mwaka 2022, yaliwapeleka mashambani, na kwa mujibu wa Anacleth, alisema walijifunza kwa vitendo na kuelewa kwa dhati maana ya kilimo cha maparachichi.

Anacleth na wanakijiji wenzake walipata mafunzo muhimu katika kilimo cha maparachichi

Huku akishukuru kwa fursa zilizotolewa na Voice Tanzania na DSDO, yenye malengo ya pamoja katika kutetea haki za watu wenye ulemavu na kuwawezesha kiuchumi.

Mkurugenzi wa DSDO, Rahimu Zebedayo Mwajombe, anasema



kuanzia mwaka 2016 hadi sasa, wamefanikiwa kukamilisha miradi miwili ambayo yote ilifadhiliwa na Voice.

“Jithada zetu za awali zilijikita katika mradi uliolenga kuwawezesha watu wenye ulemavu mkoani Njombe kwa kutumia teknolojia za kisasa kwa maendeleo yao. Mwaka 2021, mradi mwingine mpya ulianzishwa, ukiwa na lengo la kuwajengea uwezo watu wenye ulemavu katika kilimo cha matunda.” alisema

Baada ya mafunzo hayo Anacleth na wenzake waliutekeleza mradi huo kwa umakini hasa ikizingatiwa kilimo cha maparachichi ni moja ya sekta inayokua kwa kasi kubwa na walitambua kwamba watu wenye ulemavu, kama Anacleth anavyoamini wanaweza kutoa mchango mkubwa katika shughuli za kilimo.

Kilimo cha maparachichi kinatoa fursa za kupata mazao kwa kipindi cha muda mrefu. Hali hiyo imemuongezea Anacleth shauku ya kupambana huku akiamini kwamba mafanikio kwenye zao hilo lingemnufaisha yeye pamoja na vizazi vijavyo.

“Asubuhi, naenda kwenye shamba langu la maparachichi, nafanya usafi, napumzika kidogo mchana, kisha ninaenda kwenye shamba langu la mboga mboga.” Anacleth anasimulia ratiba yake ya kila siku katika kupambana kutafuta kipato chake.

Anasema hufanya majukumu ya kuhudumia mashamba yake yote mawili kwa ustadi mkubwa kisha hurudi nyumbani kupumzika kabla ya kwenda kijiweni kubadilishana mawazo na vijana wenzake.

Safari yake kutoka kilimo cha mahindi cha mazoea hadi kuwa mkulima anayetamani kuwa na mafanikio ilikuwa kama mwanga wa matumaini kwa wengine wengi wenye ulemavu.

Anasema kilimo cha parachichi kina faida kubwa na mavuno yake ni ya muda mrefu ambapo anatarajia kupata kati ya Sh milioni 6 hadi 9 kwa mwaka anapoanza kuvuna na kuwa kwa sasa mche mmoja wa parachichi unaweza kutoa kilo kati ya 20 hadi 30 na kuwa kilo moja inauzwa Sh 2,500.

Anacleth hakuwa amebadilisha maisha yake tu, bali alikuwa pia

anawafundisha vijana wengine na kuwa hadi sasa ameshafundisha watu wapatao 20.

“Usiruhusu ulemavu kuwa kizuizi. Kuna watu wengine wenye ulemavu wanafanya shughuli mbalimbali na kuwasaidia familia zao vizuri.” anasema.

Mradi huo uliofadhiliwa na Voice na kutekelezwa na shirika la DSDO unatekelezwa katika mikoa miwili ya Njombe na Iringa nchini Tanzania, huku ukisaidia watu wenye ulemavu wa aina mbalimbali ikiwemo wasioona, wenye ulemavu wa viungo na watu wenye familia za watu wenye ulemavu wa aina mbalimbali.

“Shughuli hizi zinachangia kipato cha taifa na maendeleo binafsi.” Pia ziliwezesha uhusiano na wafanyabiashara na kutoa jukwaa la kufanya kampeni kwa sheria zinazofaa kwa watu wenye ulemavu.” alisema Rahim

Akielezea mipango yake ya baadaye, Anacleth anasema anatarajia kuendelea kutoa elimu ya kilimo kwa watoto na kupanua kilimo na anatamani kuona watu wengi zaidi wenye ulemavu wanafikia ndoto zao.

“Natamani kuona watu wenye ulemavu wanashiriki katika miradi mbalimbali ili kuweza kutimiza ndoto zao za kila siku,” anasema Anacleth

Anacleth na wakulima wenzake waliomba kwa Voice kuongeza muda wa utekelezaji wa mradi huo katika maeneo mengine kadri iwezekanavyo kwani kwa sasa safari yao ya mabadiliko ndiyo imeanza.

From 2016 to the present, DSDO has successfully completed two significant projects, with Voice playing a pivotal role in supporting initiatives designed to improve the lives of differently-abled individuals. As Rahimu Zebedayo Mwajombe, DSDO director, eloquently states, “Our initial endeavor revolved around leveraging technology for the benefit of differently-abled individuals in Njombe.” In 2021, a new project was initiated, with the noble goal of “empowering persons with disabilities, especially in fruit farming.”



GEOFFREY AUDAX KIBANDWA

ICCAO ilivyoweza ndoto za vijana kutimia Dar Es Salaam

"Biashara yangu nimeanza Novemba mosi, 2022 nikiwa na mtaji mdogo sana ila sikusita kuanza kwa sababu ya mbinu na mafunzo niliyopewa kwenye biashara na namshukuru Mungu kila siku biashara yangu inapaa,"

Hiyo ni simulizi ya kijana mjasiriamali, Geoffrey Audax Kibandwa, mkazi wa eneo la Yombo Machimbo jijini Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

yake ulikuwa mdogo, lakini ari yake ilikuwa isiyoshindwa. Alijitayarisha na mbinu alizojifunza kupitia mafunzo na mwongozo uliotolewa na shirika la ICCAO.

Geoffrey anasema alikuwa na imani kubwa katika uwezo wake na katika wazo kwamba kila siku ilileta fursa mpya za biashara yake kukua.

**Safari ya ujasiriamali ya
Geoffrey ilianza mwishoni
mwa mwaka 2022,**

ambaye anaishi na ndoto za kufanikiwa bila kuyumbishwa au kukatishwa tamaa.

Safari ya ujasiriamali ya Geoffrey ilianza mwishoni mwa mwaka 2022, alipoamua kuanzisha biashara yake mwenyewe, msingi wa biashara



"Nilipewa mafunzo ya muda wa miezi mitatu niliweza kufungua biashara na nimeunganisha biashara tatu ambazo ni stationary, vifaa vya simu na vifaa vya umeme,"anasema Geoffrey ambaye ni Mwenyekiti wa kikundi cha vijana cha Response kilichosajiliwa Manispaa ya Temeke.

Anasema kikundi hicho kilianzishwa na lengo la kujenga uwezo wa vijana kwa maendeleo ya kiuchumi na kijamii ambapo shirika hilo lilitoa mafunzo kwa kushirikisha vikundi 30 vya vijana kutoka mikoa ya Dar es Salaam na Pwani.

Mafunzo hayo yalilenga kuwajengea viongozi wa vikundi vya vijana ujuzi na maarifa muhimu ili kuleta maendeleo katika jamii zao.

Maisha ya Geoffrey yalibadilika baada ya kupatiwa mafunzo hayo kupitia programu ya maendeleo ya vijana, ikiwa na mkazo juu ya elimu ya kiuchumi na uongozi.

Anasema elimu aliyopata kupitia programu hiyo ilimbadilisha, ilimpa ujasiri na ujuzi wa kusimamia biashara yake ambapo moja ya vitu alijifunza ni kutambua kuwa biashara haihitaji rasilimali kubwa ila ni muhimu kuwa na umakini na usimamizi madhubuti.

Meneja wa miradi kutoka ICCAO, Maria Mrindoko, anasema katika utekelezaji wa miradi walipata ufadhili kutoka Voice Tanzania kupitia mradi unaoitwa Maslahi Yetu Kwanza ulioanzishwa mwaka 2019. Miradi hii ilifanyika chini ya uratibu wa Shirika la Wanawake na Maendeleo barani Afrika (WiLDAF) likiwa kama mratibu wa Mafunzo na Uunganishaji wa miradi ya Voice nchini Tanzania.

Wanawezesha makundi kuinuka kiuchumi.

Anasema makundi wanayofanya nayo kazi wanawawezesha kiuchumi, masuala ya kijinsia, huduma za kijamii ambazo wametilia mkazo kwenye masuala ya afya na kutoa elimu ya uongozi kwa vijana.

Anasema lengo kuu la shirika hilo ni kuona mabadiliko ya kijamii yanayochochewa na vijana waliopata mafunzo, ili kuonyesha vijana wanaweza kuwa viongozi na wahamasishaji wa mabadiliko.

"Tulijua kwamba kwa kuwawezesha vijana kupata maarifa, ujuzi, na fursa, wanaweza kuwa viongozi na wakabadilisha jamii zao wenyewe. Kupitia miradi kama "Maslahi Yetu Kwanza, ICCAO, imelenga kuona vikundi vingi vya vijana vikitoka kutokuwa na miradi au biashara hadi kumiliki makampuni yanayofanikiwa,"anasema.

Kwa kadri muda ulivyosonga mbele, biashara ya Geoffrey iliendelea kufanikiwa. Mafanikio yake ya kweli hayakuhesabika tu katika duka lake linalokuwa bali pia katika maisha aliyoyagusa na mabadiliko chanya aliyoyachukua. Kupitia kazi kubwa, uvumilivu, na kujitolea kwake kwa vijana, Geoffrey amekuwa taa ya matumaini inayovuta huko Yombo Machimbo.



SULEMANI MTUMWA VUWAHI

Kusaidia wazee Zanzibar

Juhudi za JUWAZA's kwa msaada wa Voice na WiLDAF

Katikati ya mandhari ya kuvutia ya Zanzibar, Jumuiya ya Wastaafu na Wazee Zanzibar (JUWAZA), chini ya Ufadhili kutoka Voice Tanzania na kuratibiwa na Shirika la Wanawake na Maendeleo Afrika (WiLDAF), inabadilisha maisha ya wazee kwenye visiwa hivyo vya kuvutia.

Mmoja wa wanachama wa JUWAZA, Sulemani Mtumwa Vuwahi (81),

anasema kwa sasa kutokana na umri wake kuwa mkubwa anakabiliwa na changamoto mbalimbali ila wanapatiwa kipaumbele katika huduma za afya, lishe na masuala mengine.

Vuwahi, ambaye pia ni mwanachama wa JUWAZA na mwenye jukumu la kuratibu kwa niaba ya wazee wenzake, anapongeza ubora wa huduma zinazotolewa kwa kundi hilo.

Anasema kwa sasa huko Zanzibar, wazee wanapata msaada kupitia juhudi za pamoja za mashirika kama JUWAZA na wataalamu wa afya waliojitolea ambao wanaweka kipaumbele kwa ustawi wao.

JUWAZA, ikishirikiana kwa karibu na wataalamu wa afya Zanzibar, imetekeleza jukumu muhimu katika kuinua ubora wa huduma za afya zinazopatikana katika vituo vya afya ambapo hilo limetekelezwa kupitia njia mbalimbali, ikiwa ni pamoja na programu za mafunzo zinazowawezesha wazee kwa kuongeza uelewa wao juu ya haki na majukumu yao.





Muuguzi wa Kituo cha Afya Bwejuu, Fatma Mussa Makame, anasema mafunzo yaliyotolewa yamelenga kutoa elimu kuhusu wazee, ikiwemo katika afya na lishe na mafunzo hayo yamekuwa muhimu katika kuhamasisha wazee kupata huduma za matibabu na msaada.

Amesema, mafunzo yamewezeshwa mabadiliko katika mtazamo kuhusu utunzaji kwa wazee na kutilia mkazo umuhimu wa kuwapa kipaumbele wazee pindi wanapoenda kupata huduma katika vituo vya afya.

Naye muuguzi katika Kituo cha Afya cha Jambiani, Halima Mohammed Ali, anasema mafunzo hayo ya kuboresha utoaji huduma kwa wazee, yamewawezesha kutunza wazee na kuwajali na kuwa kituo chao kinaweka msisitizo maalum katika utoaji wa huduma kwa wazee huku akisisitiza umuhimu wa kurekebisha kwa miundo mbinu muhimu katika vituo hivyo.

Mzee Abdallah Haji Suleiman, mkazi wa Jambiani, Zanzibar, alipongeza wafanyakazi wa afya kwa kujitolea kwao thabiti na

kuhakikisha kuwa wazee wanapokea huduma bora kila wakati.

Mmoja wa watoa huduma za afya wa jamii, Hayeshi Fadhili Rajab amesema kupitia mafunzo na kujengwa uwezo na JUWAZA, wameweza kutoa huduma muhimu kwa wazee ikiwemo lishe, utunzaji wa afya na kuwahudumia wazee kwa umakini mkubwa.

Naye Fatima Haroub Mtungo, ambaye pia ni Mzee, alishukuru watoa huduma wa afya ambao kwa sasa wanawatembelea majumbani na kuwapa elimu ya lishe, afya bora na kuangalia ustawi wao na kuwa hiyo imekuwa msaada mkubwa kwao wazee.

Afisa ufuatiliaji na tathmini kutoka JUWAZA, Kombo Bakar Kombo anasema elimu ya huduma rafiki katika vituo vya afya kwa wazee imesaidia kuongeza juhudi za pamoja za kutengeneza mazingira mazuri ya huduma za afya wanayostahili wazee.

Anasema mwaka 2021 walipata programu ya Voice iliyojikita katika afya na kuweka mazingira wezeshi ya kiafya kwa wazee Zanzibar ili kuchochea mabadiliko ya huduma za kiafya katika vituo vya afya ili ziendane na kundi hilo.

Kombo anashukuru Voice kwa msaada wao kwani umeleta mabadililo chanya katika utunzaji wa wazee Zanzibar.

Mstaafu wa utawala wa afya wa wilaya, Jakub Abdul Issa, anasisitiza umuhimu wa mafunzo hayo na umuhimu wa kukabiliana na mchakato wa kuzeeka unaozingatia utu.

**Wazee wanapata msaada
kupitia juhudi za pamoja za
mashirika kama JUWAZA**



PASCHALINA JUMANNE MANYAMA

YEMCO ilivyojipanga

kuwawezesha Wanawake kiuchumi Tanzania

Katika ulimwengu ambapo fursa mara nyingi huwa changamoto kufikiwa, simulizi za Paschalina Jumanne Manyama na Jaida Selemani Mohammed zinang'aa kama taa za matumaini na kivutio.

Wanawake hawa wawili wamebadilisha maisha yao kutokana na jitihada za Shirika linalojishughulisha na kuwawezesha wanawake, vijana na watu wenye ulemavu kupitia maendeleo ya stadi na ujasiriamali la Youth Empowerment and Mindset Change Organisation (YEMCO).

YEMCO imeweza kufanikisha hilo kupitia ufadhili kutoka Voice Tanzania chini ya uratibu wa Shirika la Wanawake na Maendeleo Barani Afrika (WILDAF).

Safari ya Paschalina ni ushuhuda wa nguvu ya elimu na mafunzo ya stadi, ambae kabla ya kushirikiana na YEMCO, alikuwa akijishughulisha na biashara ndogo ya kukaanga na kuuza viazi, ambapo kipato chake kilikuwa kidogo huku kikiwa hakitoshelezi mahitaji yake.

Kwa kutambua fursa kupitia YEMCO, aliamia katika ujasiriamali wa utengenezaji wa Batiki kwa kuanzisha kikundi cha kuweka na kukopa (VICOBA) na kupata fursa za mikopo kupitia YEMCO.

Baada ya kuanzisha kikundi hicho kinachowawezesha kupata mikopo, ameweza kujiimarisha kiuchumi na kuondokana na hali ya utegemezi ambapo kwa sasa anaweza kutengeneza hadi Batiki 30 kwa siku huku kipato chake kikizidi kukua na kubadilisha maisha yake.

"Awali nilikuwa najishughulisha na uuzaji wa viazi ambavyo nilikuwa navitoa Morogoro na kupeleka Lushoto, pia nilikuwa natoa mihogo Tanga mjini napeleka Lushoto kwa ajili ya kukaanga na kipato nilichokuwa nakipata ni kidogo na viazi vyenyewe vilikuwa vya msimu. Baada ya kukutana na YEMCO nilifanikiwa kujipatia mkopo na mafunzo ya kutengeneza batiki. Hivi sasa ninatengeneza Batiki na vilevile ninafundisha wajasiriamali wanaotaka kujiunga na biashara hii na masoko napata pia,"

Kutokana na kukua kiuchumi, ndoto za Paschalina kwa sasa ni kuanzisha kiwanda cha uzalishaji batiki ili aweze kuleta mabadiliko chanya katika jamii yake na kuisaidia familia yake ikiwemo mama yake mzazi.

Mafunzo ya batiki ambayo niliyapata kwanza yananiingizia kipato kwa kuwafundisha watu na kwa kutengeneza batiki na kuuza. Kwa siku naweza kutengeneza hadi batiki 30 ambayo siyo chini ya sh 650,000 na ninauza rejareja Sh 25,000 batiki moja," anasema

"Faida nyingine niliyopata nikiwa ndani ya YEMCO nimenunua viwanja viwili, nimenunua kimoja kipo Dodoma na kingine kiko Picha ya Ndege. Ninaweza kutoa hisa kwenye Vicoba kutokana na mapato ninayopata," anafanua Paschalina

Kwa upande wake Jaida, ambaye pia ni mnufaika wa mafunzo na fursa za mikopo kutoka YEMCO, simulizi yake inaonyesha mabadiliko makubwa ya kiuchumi ambayo ameyapata kupitia ujuzi wake wa kushona, ameweza kuanzisha biashara ya ushonaji.



JAIDA SELEMANI MOHAMMED

Jaida anasema kupitia kazi hiyo ameweza kupata mkopo, kununua ardhi, na kuanzisha ujenzi wa nyumba yake, mafanikio aliyoyapata kwa muda mfupi na anatarajia kununua eneo kwa ajili ya kufanyia shughuli zake na kuwa na sehemu ya kufundisha wanafunzi wa kushona.

“Nina watoto wawili na wanasoma kwa kutegemea kazi yangu ninashona nguo za kike na kiume, na ninazidi kujifunza na tangu nimepata mafunzo haya ninazidi kuboresha kazi yangu. Awali nilikuwa mama wa nyumbani japo nilikuwa na ujuzi lakini sikuuzingatia hadi nilipoenda YEMCO,” anasema Jaida

Simulizi hizi za Paschalina na Jaida ni miongoni mwa mengi yanayofanywa na YEMCO katika kuwawezesha kiuchumi wanawake, vijana na watu wenye ulemavu.

Mkurugenzi wa Shirika la YEMCO, Mohamed Idd Bassanga anasema lengo kuu la shirika hilo ni kuwawezesha vijana, wanawake, na watu

wenye ulemavu ili kukua kiuchumi kwa kutumia vipaji walivyonavyo na kutumia ujasiriamali ambao wanajengewa uwezo.

Anaeleza kuwa ufadhili wa Voice Tanzania uliwezesha ujengewaji uwezo wa vijana hao. Juhudi za ushirikiano wa mashirika hayo sio tu zimeboresha uwezo wa kitaalamu wa wanawake hawa bali pia zimeawezesha kukabiliana na changamoto za ukatili wa kijinsia.

“Wanawake kama Paschalina na Jaida wanapofikia uwezo wa kukabiliana na changamoto za kijamii na kuwezesha mabadiliko katika jamii zao, itawezesha kufikia dira ya Tanzania isiyo na umaskini na usawa wa kijinsia,” alisema Mohamed

Wakati YEMCO na washirika wenzake wakiwa wamepiga hatua kubwa, lengo lao ni kufikia jamii yote nchini ili kuongeza mabadiliko chanya kama yaliyoonekana katika maisha ya Paschalina na Jaida, ili kuwezesha jamii kuondokana na utegemezi na kuweza kujitegemea hasa kiuchumi.

“Azma ya YEMCO ya kuwawezesha wanawake nchini Tanzania inaonyesha mwanga wa matumaini, na kutengeneza jamii yenye kuzingatia usawa, kupitia ushirikiano baina yetu tunatarajia kuona simulizi nyingi zaidi za mafanikio kama ya hawa ili watu waweze kupunguza changamoto mbalimbali na kuchangia maendeleo katika jamii,” alisema Mohamed

Mkurugenzi huyo anasema uwepo wa miradi kama hiyo ni sehemu ya ukombozi wa maisha ya mwanamke, inabadilisha maisha ya jamii kwani mwanamke anapowezeshwa jamii nzima inawezeshwa. “Miradi kama hiyo ikiendelea kuwepo kunatarajiwa Tanzania isiyokuwa na umasikini, isiyokuwa na manyanyaso ya mwanamke.” Alisema Mohamed.

“Tunashukuru sana Voice kwa kazi waliyofanya kwa kutupa kazi ya kuelimisha watu na kubadili maisha yao na tumewajengea uwezo kwa kuwa bora katika kazi zao na kuweza kuingiza kipato na kuboresha maisha majumbani kwao,” anasisitiza



MOHAMED IDD BASSANGA





WILDAF Tanzania

P. O. Box 76215 Dar es Salaam Tanzania

   WILDAFTz

www.wildaftanzania.or.tz

Kwa msaada wa kisheria,
piga simu bure: 0800780070
Au pakua Funguka App

