



ATD Fourth World Tanzania 2014, Review of the year

Tupo Pamoja! (We are together!)

In 2014, side by side with mothers, fathers, children, friends, communities facing extreme poverty, this is what the members of ATD Fourth World kept telling each other.

Thanks to the efforts of all, we built and strengthened cooperation that could overcome the daily sufferings of difficult life situations.

In this 2014 Review of the year, we would like to share the efforts and the pride of those people who, whatever their difficulties and challenges, are committed with others to empower families and communities to overcome extreme poverty.



ATD Fourth World

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All Together in Dignity (ATD) in a few words

"**All Together**" refers to the unity of the Movement, as well as the necessity to join everyone's efforts to reach common goals.

"**Dignity**" represents the core of the ATD Movement. ATD members who live extreme poverty and friends explain that dignity refers to the value of every human being, as well as the respect everyone deserves. Dignity represents the essence of humanity; everyone has dignity. However, in many cases, human beings are not respected as such.

ATD Fourth World is an international Movement founded in France in 1957. It is now present in more than 30 countries worldwide. We started working in Tanzania in 1999 in three areas of Dar es Salaam: Tandale, Tegeta (Kunduchi and Boko) and the Magogoni Fishmarket.

People living in extreme poverty are at the centre of our Movement, actively participating in the solutions to overcome extreme poverty, together we stand for the rights of all, creating public awareness and influencing public policies.

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ATD Tanzania in 2014 Challenges and Successes

Too often when we look back on a year we think of the difficulties we faced. We remember some of our dear and close members of ATD who passed away, and for those young lives that were tragically taken after only just beginning.

For all the efforts people living in poverty make every day, cleaning fish, walking miles to earn a few coins, washing clothes, breaking stones, too often people tell us life has no hope for them.

**One mother said,
"I am thinking what can I do with my two
eldest children, I cannot cope any more.
You have to help me find somebody I can give
them to, so I can take the baby
and leave."**

This mother did not leave. She persevered like all people living in extreme poverty who refuse to accept that hopelessness is a condition of life. People living in poverty often talk about life as "*fighting*", and every day it is really that. A fight.

A fight just to exist. The members of ATD know this fight cannot be won in isolation. Unity is our greatest weapon in the fight against extreme poverty.

In 2014 we, the members of ATD, renewed our commitment in the fight against extreme poverty through our words and actions, through our knowledge and convictions. Through our unity.



Special Events

***“How is ATD going to help us to move forward hand in hand? To show that we reject extreme poverty, I want to eradicate extreme poverty, to no longer see people living in extreme poverty, because that hurt us.”
Mama Sele***

Meeting at National Library Our common ambitions

In January, the members of ATD came together at the National Library of Tanzania for a meeting that saw the launch of the ATD Fourth World Ambitions 2014 - 2017. In small groups the members of ATD worked together to identify what were the priorities for them from the ambitions.

This meeting was also an opportunity to hear news from the ATD Coordinators for the African Region who were visiting Dar es Salaam. The meeting finished by wishing them a good journey as they went on to visit the members of ATD in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Special Events

***“Outside of Tanzania I learned that people live in peace even in a country that is not.”
Shabani***

Visiting the ATD friends In Rwanda and DR Congo

Fighting extreme poverty is a challenge shared all over the world. ATD is an international Movement building relationships between people in the world in order to end extreme poverty.

In 2014, a Tanzanian delegation went to visit ATD members in Rwanda and DR Congo (Shabani, Bibi Teddy, Hamisi).

It was a chance to meet others, create friendships, discovering the lives of one another. People realised they are not alone: in Tanzania, Rwanda, DR Congo, people are fighting for the same cause.

The Tanzanian delegation shared with children in DR Congo activities, singing, dancing which they had learned from the children of the Street Library in Tandale.

They discovered the strong commitment of people, based on a strong network composed of groups depending their age. Strong solidarity exists between members: children helping to repair a house, old people participating in Street library...

Discovering the way how the community organises as a group, ***“...it was something new in my life.” (Bibi Teddy)***

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Access to Rights

***“My daughter had not been to school for 3 years,
but step by step, by meeting ATD,
we were able to bring her back to school.”
Mama Meresiana.***

Education For All

***“I had to start school again after we
moved, I was put in the Memkwa class
with my young sister where I stayed for a
long time. I stopped going to school
because I was tired of being in a class
with children half my age”***

Just one example of the many and various reasons why children living in extreme poverty fail to go to school. In 2014, ATD launched an ambitious project, Education for All. Its aim, to demonstrate that when families living in extreme poverty are involved in each step of their children's education, all children can succeed to start and finish primary school.

The first phase of this project is participatory research, to identify the efforts and challenges families and teachers make for children to go to school.

A research group with a diverse mix of ATD members was formed to plan, facilitate and carry out the research, which will be ongoing throughout 2015.

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Children

Street Library

Street Library is a space to share and enjoy time together with story books, to create friendships and not to feel alone. The Street Library allows children to be with other children in their community. They learn how to live together, to respect each other, to collaborate together such as to share colours, pencils and other materials.

Every Wednesday afternoon before the Tandale Street Library, we visit houses to remind children and families. Under a tree we start singing together, dancing, and we introduce games. Then, we sit together reminding the basic rules and read stories, sometimes the elder children read a story. Then it's the creative time such as learning how to draw animals, to colour or other games.

***“The Street Library is like the family
day, it gives importance to children”
Bibi Teddy***

***“It gives a challenge to learn and share with others,
for instance my young brother before attending the
street library, he did not want to read or do
anything, now he likes to read
and takes books by himself,
shares stories with others, so he is kind now.”
Mama Feisali***

As well through the stories children can learn, discover and explore new things and ideas that are not available in their environment. It is an opportunity for children who are often excluded to accept each other and feel as equals. Reading books and nice stories allows children to enjoy learning. It is a place that gives children freedom, not as strict as school, it is a pleasant learning time that prepares children for school.

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Access to Rights

Birth Certificate

***“Before we thought getting a birth certificate was impossible, ATD changed our mind.”
Mama Mkude***

In 2014, we continued the Birth Registration project. Every week in the area around Tendale or Tegeta, ATD members Venance, Shabani and Baba Meresiana were very active to support extremely poor families to obtain **birth certificates**.

In Tandale parents encouraged each other to overcome challenges and find the necessary paperwork as the team visited different houses.

Together we managed to register 176 children.

Birth registration is very important because it means that a person "legally exists" and is recognised as a citizen by the state. Moreover it gives access and entitles people to rights such as education or formal employment.

Parents explained the importance for their children to have this document and they see it as a step to overcoming extreme poverty.

“You cannot be successful without a birth certificate, in order to be recognised as a citizen in Tanzania.” Mama Feisal

The Birth Registration project is sponsored by Hilfe für Afrika and the Diplomatic Spouses Group.

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Access to Rights

Adult Literacy Class

***“One way to fight extreme poverty is to overcome ignorance by enabling people to know how to read and write.”
Choloka***

Since 2009 ATD Fourth World has promoted adult literacy. A class continued in Kundunchi in 2014 with 12 learners.

Members of ATD insist accessing literacy is a step to overcome extreme poverty: you can sign a paper; be independent to use transport; read newspapers; etc.

Twice a week for six months members of the community learned together with a professional teacher in a place donated by a local ATD friend. They learned to read and write Swahili.

They supported and got to know each other more deeply as the class progressed.

Little by little people say they feel less vulnerable and are able to defend their rights. They worked hard, overcoming feelings of shame in the difficulties of learning and gained pride in their achievements.

Mr. Kasian, who support the learners, said: ***“...your life changes. Before the class, you depended on others to get help. After you find freedom, autonomy. Sometimes some people give up at the first time because its too hard, but they can come back.”***

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Skill Sharing: discovering sowing together

In June 2014 we began the workshop of Skill Sharing. After conversations and preparation time, young mothers of Tandale decided to be active and to share their knowledge and talents.

Their first idea was sharing their skill of sowing together. Every Friday afternoon they discovered materials, and the main stages of sowing. Little by little the mothers made by their own hands bindings, bordering, etc.

Through the workshop mothers could share between themselves about their lives, home, challenges they faced and how they overcome strong situations.

***“Before I had to pay for sowing, now I can help my family myself and show them how to do.”
Mama Pendo***

It was not only a question of skills and how-to-do, but as well a question of friendship, solidarity and cooperation.

Asha, one of the mothers said: ***“ I didn't think I could have the talent for sowing, now I can make or fix clothes for my children, even my neighbours. I really gained confidence.”***

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***“We are happy to come for the aim of fighting extreme poverty, in order to bring changes in our community, starting from us, continuing with families”
Karama***

The Young Friends of ATD

In the Young Friends group we are youths from different places in Dar es Salaam. We meet twice a month and we run a Street Library on a Saturday. In our community, this activity allows elders to see our commitment in a positive way.

In the meetings we have, every one is free to share ideas, we trust each other and being together allows us to build strong friendship and brings us hope. *“I feel with my fellows, when we discuss together, we feel we are one”*

Last year we participated at the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. During the year we also visited Kigamboni Community Center in order to see how other youth groups started and succeed.

“The Young Friends group gives an opportunity to young people to come and do something for our nation” - Elizabeth

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Participation

“I really feel ATD is a family and not like any NGOs, we take decision together. Our meetings are good illustrations of this.”
Venance

Advisory Group

The ATD Advisory Group is an example of how ATD members work in partnership on issues that see the development of the ATD Movement in Tanzania and the way to fight against extreme poverty.

To work in real partnership, hearing each persons ideas, allowing them to express themselves, to develop their confidence, is a challenge but one that shows what is possible to the rest of society.

Because the group members come from very diverse economic, social and educational backgrounds, the ideas developed are meaningful and effective. The group met about once a month and worked on texts from the ATD International Movement, prepared events, such as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and took time for self evaluation since the group began in 2009.

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Events

“In 2014 I met people I didn't expect to meet. Through ATD I understood that cooperation with others is important for me rather than doing things on my own.”
Yusuph

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Each year the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is the occasion for people living in extreme poverty to speak out and reveal to society their knowledge, struggles and efforts. The 2014 theme was “Leave No One Behind: Think, Decide and Act Together Against Extreme Poverty”.

The Advisory Group planned where, with who and when to celebrate. Buguruni School for the Deaf accepted, a school dedicated to children who suffer discrimination and humiliation.

“I felt confidence in myself and how important was this moment with people in difficulties.” - Kasian

The day was organised with activities of cleaning the school environment together, time to learn from one another and listening to testimonies from Buguruni School pupils and ATD members.

ATD members discovered how disabled people need to live among others and not on the margins of society. Between pupils and teachers they discovered solidarity.

“I was struck by the way children live with teachers, close to the way of ATD, its a calling for commitments.” - Venance.

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“ATD does not give up visiting families in Tandale, and slowly ATD members will understand poverty.”

Bibi Teddy

Being close to families

The first priority for ATD is to reach people living extreme poverty. One way is visiting people and understanding deeply about their lives. We build trusting relationships, sharing moments of joy, achievements and challenges in their daily struggle.

After a long process, at one moment it is possible to make heard their voices, their experiences and their knowledge in front of society.

“ATD can show us the way to live together, with the community, to find solutions” - Mama Furaha

Visiting families enables us to understand their difficulties and find a way to support a family that does not send their children at school anymore. By visiting regularly, it creates a deep trust, families can share personal difficulties without feeling shame.

By visiting families in their homes and activity area, they tell us that thanks to the visit they stay in touch with all members of ATD Tanzania.

“Welcoming regularly people from ATD at my home, it broke my loneliness, opened my eyes and allow me to be conscious, for example about the importance of education.” - Mama Athumani.

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“ATD thinks about families living hard situations and simplifies the task of going to school.”

Mama Feisal

Access to School

It is our collective duty to ensure all human being have their rights respected. To go to primary school is the right of every child. Parents living in poverty struggle every day to ensure this right is respected for their children. Many succeed, but for some, the challenges are too great. Today in Tanzania too many children regularly do not attend primary school.

Through school children can learn how to live with others and gain self confidence. It opens opportunities for further education, skills training and work.

Last year ATD Fourth World supported around fifty children to access primary school.

This included assisting parents to obtain birth certificates for children starting school in January 2015; supporting parents to register their children in Standard One or Memkwa classes; and accompanying parents to school to meet Head Teachers when there was a misunderstanding and children had been sent home from school.

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"We are like one family"

Each and every person brings his ideas, enthusiasm, knowledge, skills and commitment in the fight against poverty. People living in extreme poverty, the friends of ATD, the members of the ATD team, each in his own unique way brings the best of him or herself.

What unites us is the refusal that not one person be left behind while others advances to the detriment of the poorest. Like a family, we are united in this conviction.

Full time volunteers take part to this fight. They choose to live a simple life, closely with people living extreme poverty. They support the commitment of the members and guarantee the ambitions and projects of the Movement in Tanzania.

All along 2014 Hamisi, Hemed, Reachel and Robert, composed the team. From the end of the year, the team grew and today, in 2015, has welcomed Alexie, Cristal, Laurent, Leo, Salehe and Salma.

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“Where will I be tomorrow”

Constantly moving with no permanent settlement; worrying each day where to find food; ignored, or worse, considered without value; seeing their children not going to school; again and again struck down by sickness; thinking that in everything they try to do they fail; this is the life of the poorest people, unknowing and continually asking themselves in spite of all their efforts, *“Where will I be tomorrow?”*

And yet, as the grip of extreme poverty all but suffocates all hope from the lives of people living in extreme poverty, their resilience, aspirations, knowledge and efforts to build a world of peace can be an inspiration for humankind.

Ambitions

Valuing all Humans as Equal - Priority to the Poorest

ATD Fourth World's priority is to go step by step, word by word, with the poorest people in all we do. In order to create meaningful and trusting relationships we will open our hearts, minds and souls to know one another sincerely and continue our search for those who are missing. We must be respectful in our search for understanding the suffering they endure each day, and encourage society to learn of the efforts and gestures they make to build stronger communities.

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Learning for Life

The thirst for knowledge of people living in poverty of all ages is never diminished regardless of the hardships they face. We will deepen our understanding of all aspects of education and learning for life, starting at home, in the wider community, in schools and centers of further education. A priority will be to identify the efforts people living in poverty make and the barriers they face to succeed in their quest for knowledge. We must emphasize the joy of learning and encourage mutual participation and reject competition.

Young People - Carrying our Hopes

At the very moment in life when young people crave the freedom to express themselves, individually and collectively, they face the challenge of responsibilities being thrust upon their young shoulders. We will encourage young people from all backgrounds to express themselves and follow their dreams. It is essential their actions are recognised within their communities as building peace and carry forward the hopes of their nation.

Creating an Inclusive World

Our Movement, our vision, is for the world, for poor and rich, for all humans to live in unity and peace, with dignity and in a sustainable way. We will enable people to understand and access their fundamental rights. To spread our message we will share our vision, starting with our neighbours, our communities and beyond. We will develop new partnerships and create new friendships with individuals and groups and through cooperation share the knowledge, ideas and skills we have for the benefit of all.

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