



# SAFINA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (SAWA)

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## MY VOICE PROJECT REPORT

### CHILD FRIENDLY ACCOUNTABILITY

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

**Safina Women's Association (SAWA)** has implemented My Voice project on Child Friendly Accountability at Doma Village. This Project was implemented as a pilot project and facilitated by Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF) for three months (September – November 2018). The project was particularly focused on Children out of school as well Children in school. The primary objective of My Voice Project was to give children capacity to raise their voice to community members and other Key Stakeholders based on Child Rights and the Persistence of Violence against Children. About 47 children in and out of school were trained on different laws including: The Law of Child Act 2009: which enshrines key child rights drawn from international and regional agreements that establishes a framework for protection of children from abuse, violence and neglect and sets standards for juvenile justice: The Child Development Policy of 2008: The law of Marriage Act which contradicts with the Law of Child Act. The trainings were targeted to ensure children had a sound understanding of core child protection principles.



A joint picture of In and Out of School children at Doma center

**LIST OF CHILDREN TRAINED : DOMA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

| <b>Sno</b> | <b>Name</b>               | <b>Place of domicile</b> |
|------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1          | Rojas Notikeli Kilumbi    | Doma village             |
| 2          | Renatus Mpeka             | Mtipule Village          |
| 3          | Ayubu Bernard Gervas      | Doma Village             |
| 4          | Benson Revison Mkasanga   | Doma Village             |
| 5          | Rajabu Diwani Hamadi      | Mtipule Village          |
| 6          | Ernest Edward Ruwago      | Doma Village             |
| 7          | Thomas Alphonse           | Doma Village             |
| 8          | Wadhia Maneno Mpendu      | Doma Village             |
| 9          | Malambi Sabini Joseph     | Msongozi Village         |
| 10         | Shafii Adam Kobelo        | Msongozi Village         |
| 11         | Edward Salumu Habibu      | Doma Village             |
| 12         | Bernadetha Luwi Mwenda    | Doma Village             |
| 13         | Fadhila Mrisho Mrisho     | Mtipule Village          |
| 14         | Agness William Jonass     | Mtipule Village          |
| 15         | Farida Rashidi Marinza    | Mtipule Village          |
| 16         | Ayubu Ally Shabani        | Msongozi Village         |
| 17         | Happiness Charles Francis | Msongozi Village         |
| 18         | Zakia Elimu Kisuguru      | Msongozi Village         |
| 19         | Maua Said Nassoro         | Msongozi Village         |
| 20         | Richard Falaja Martini    | Doma Village             |
| 21         | Maua Wendelini Anatori    | Msongozi Village         |
| 22         | Ester Shukuru Fabiani     | Msongozi Village         |
| 23         | Mariam Sefu Mtambulo      | Doma Village             |
| 24         | Bahati Juma Salumu        | Doma Village             |
| 25         | Joshua Daniel Benai       | Mtipule Village          |
| 26         | Zainesi Michael Said      | Msongozi Village         |
|            |                           |                          |

**LIST OF CHILDREN TAINED : OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

| <b>Sno</b> | <b>Name of the child</b> | <b>Place of Domicile/Hamlet</b> |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1          | Godbless Ally Lwango     | Doma Village                    |
| 2          | Francis Paulo Cypirian   | Doma Village                    |
| 3          | Amibu Salumu Ally        | Doma Village                    |
| 4          | Sarah Salumu             | Doma Village                    |
| 5          | Mohamad Mpeka            | Doma Village                    |
| 6          | Kanoti Grinodi           | Doma Village                    |
| 7          | Zainabu Hemedi Useni     | Doma Village                    |
| 8          | Afredy Cleti Thadey      | Doma Village                    |
| 9          | Dickson James            | Doma Village                    |
| 10         | Husein Husein            | Doma Village                    |
| 11         | Gidion Oska              | Doma Village                    |
| 12         | Jonas Epimark Mathias    | Doma Village                    |
| 13         | Raheli Masanja Malamata  | Doma Village                    |
| 14         | Hidaya Mfaume            | Doma Village                    |

|    |                        |              |
|----|------------------------|--------------|
| 15 | Zuhura Selemani        | Doma Village |
| 16 | Warida Muhidin Rashidi | Doma Village |
| 17 | Sabrina Mbaraka        | Doma Village |
| 18 | Nasra Maulidi          | Doma Village |
| 19 | Rahma Hemed Oseni      | Doma Village |
| 20 | Mohamed Ally Mohamed   | Doma Village |
| 21 | Salumu Abdala Hassan   | Doma Village |

## PROJECT OUTCOME:

The Project Outcome was to see that Children are empowered to champion child rights defending and sustain promotion of their meaningfully participation in holding duty bearers accountable to their obligation at local and national level to prevent and respond to violence against children.

In view of this outcome, three outputs that were targeted: These were

### OUTPUT 1.1: Children trained in violence against children and child protection.

#### Activity 1.1.1: Conduct Action Training to introduce key My Voice; Child Friendly Accountability Concept to in and out of school children.

Twenty six (26) Children in Doma Secondary school were selected using random method. This exercise was conducted in Form I and III, the classes that were not involved in National exams. The selection was conducted based gender balance: Thirteen (13) boys and thirteen (13) girls.

Out of school children were selected participatorily based on Hamlets of Doma Village. Two staff from SAWA worked collaboratively with Doma Village leaders for 2 days, who went house to house to identify the children and agree with their parents. Only 21 children were identified from the Hamlets who were willing to participate in the project.



SAWA staff in an Exercise of identifying out of school children at Doma

Both groups of children (In and out of school) were introduced to the four pivotal concepts of child rights, ending violence against children, child protection and child participation. The training was conducted for three days to in school children and 3 days for out of children..

➤ **ON CHILD RIGHTS**

- Children themselves listed child rights and the facilitator was able to top up the list.
- Children were able to defined who a child was
- Understood the concept of duty bearer and those who were responsible for protecting child rights. To make the concept more clearly, children were supported to discuss a range of duty bearers and their roles in respect with child safeguarding.
- identified a list of the people responsible for protecting child rights
- Understood the concept of children's right to protection

➤ **ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

- Children were able to Identify the types of violence against children in their communities
- Described the impact of violence against children
- Understood the concept of children's vulnerability
- How vulnerability affects child's access to protection

➤ **ON CHILD PROTECTION**

- Children were able to identify actors and systems that are designed to protect children both in school and out of school. Children realized that there were only informal systems and these systems were very weak
- Children suggested several things that could improve child protection in their communities e,g To have one Trained female and Male teachers specially designated with issues of child protection, whom they can report their issues.
- Children also argued that The Village Women and Child Protection Committees be trained immediately so they can work to address issues of violence against children at village level.

➤ **ON CHILD PARTICIPATION**

- Children were able to understand the concept of children's right to participation
- Identified barriers to child participation and the consequences of preventing children from participation
- Understood what opportunities were there for their participation eg : Using Child Friendly Accountability Forums as a platform to raise their voice on issues that affect them.
- Understood risks for their participation and also suggested mitigation strategies like. Ensuring community leaders were clear about their Child Friendly Accountability activities so that they support them when they face an obstacle.



Children at Doma Secondary school in training session

**Activity 1.1.2 Conduct Training on Laws and Regulations related to child rights and Protection to in and out of children.**

The training was conducted for 2 days for in school children and 2 days for out of school children.

- The Children
  - understood the Normative and Legal Framework related to child protection at the local, National and International levels
  - Were introduced to United Nations General Assembly, Its Human Rights Treaties, Various resolutions of the UN GA like Resolution on Alternative care of Children, Juvenile Justice, and Treatment of children in detention and Bullying.
  - Understood the concept of International Human rights law and how it is developed
  - Were introduced to National laws and how they are made
  - Understood the difference between a law , a decree and National policy
  - Were introduced on how law and policy are made at the local level that were relevant to the protection settings.



**Out of school children in training session on laws and regulations**

## **CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 1) For in school children six sub groups were formed; Two groups who will be dealing with issues of child rights abuse at the school, Another two groups who will be dealing with issues of violence against children at the school, One group that will be dealing with child protection issues and the last group that will be dealing with children's participation. All Sub groups will be working under one leadership of one chairperson and Secretary. They will be having monthly meetings and all meeting proceedings will be recorded.
- 2) For the Out of School children, four committees were formed. One as Child rights defenders, one working with issues of violence against children, one working with child protection issues and the last that will be working to ensure children participation in all issues that affect them. The sub committees will work also work under one leadership of a Chairperson and Secretary. The committees will be meeting at each month and proceedings of their meetings will be recorded.
- 3) Children will be developing their own IEC Materials on Child Rights, Violence against Children, Child Protection and Child Participation through hand drawings and display them for visibility to other children as part disseminating information to other children in the school. (They will need CHILDREN'S CORNER NOTICE BOARD where they will be displaying their information). Pictures will be displayed on two weeks basis
- 4) Both the in and out of school children have vowed to continue the drama activities. At some point they will be displaying together through general meetings of the village and Hamlets. This will be conducted on quarterly basis.
- 5) As part of sensitization of children on issues related to child rights, Violence against children and child Protection, football and Basketball teams for both in and out of school children have been formulated. Competitions will be held quarterly

## **OUTPUT 1.2: Community and duty bearers trained on violence against children and child protection**

### **Activity 1.2.1: Introducing My Voice Project on Child Friendly Accountability to community and School**

One day stakeholders' workshop was organized with village leaders, teachers and school board members to introduce My Voice Project on Child Friendly Accountability. Eighteen participants attended. The purpose of introducing the stakeholder to Child Friendly Accountability was to

make sure they understood the concept so that they provided informed consent. At the end of the workshop, participants

- Understood the concept of Violence Against Children
- Were able to identify forms of violence that children experience at levels of Family, Community, Institution, National and International levels
- Understood what is child protection and who is responsible for protecting children
- Identified child protection duty bearers in their context e.g Village leaders as the primary Child Protection duty bearers at Village levels, Parents and or Care givers as the Primary Child Protection duty bearers at family, Teachers as the duty bearers at school levels etc
- Were introduced to the concept of Accountability
- Understood what does a child friendly accountability look like in practice
- Understood nature their participation in Child Friendly Accountability



**Stakeholders' workshop on CFAcc**

#### **CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- 1) Stakeholders positively accepted the project
- 2) Formulated a task force of 5 members to support and encourage children in their Child Friendly Accountability Activities
- 3) Village leaders accepted to provide a platform for children to express their views. The Forum will be organized at a village level two times in a year
- 4) Doma Secondary School leaders promised to increase the frequency of school Baraza from 2 times (Current) to 4 times as from 2019.

**Output 1.3: Public awareness campaign is held challenging negative social norms and practices.**

**Activity 1.3.1: Conduct one day children's Concert at Doma center to promote child rights and raising awareness of community on violence against children**

Children's concert was an event organized at Doma Center 24<sup>th</sup> of November. The concert had two purposes,

- 1) To strengthen cohesion between the in and out of school children. During training of both groups, a range of different talents was observed across the children. Some were more innovative and some had more confidence in expressing themselves. Organizing a concert was one way to bring the two groups together to share their experiences and innovative skills. This was done through different competitions on football, basketball and drama activities.
- 2) To raise community awareness on issues of child rights, violence against children, child protection and Child Participation. Both groups prepared educative songs, poems, drama that were demonstrated in public with the view of educating adult people about child rights, violence against children and how it impacts on child development. This was the first time children's concert was held in Doma center. Although adults' participation was not very high, deliverance of different messages was effective. Many big truck drivers heard the messages, and even adult people who were far from the event heard the different messages that children were delivering through the use public address system. Apart from that children distributed different IEC Materials that had specific messages, some targeting parents and some targeting big truck drivers and bodaboda operators.
- 3) To increase children's confidence in speaking before the public. This was very successful. Children demonstrated their confidence through different drama activities, songs and poems. It was quite encouraging since it was their first time. Some of the children acknowledge it was their first time to come to a public and speak. Some acknowledged that their participation had cleared them from shyness.



Children demonstrating their talents through Drama and basketball activities

## **CONCERETE ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 1) Children have been able to demonstrate their different talents
- 2) Children's confidence has increased
- 3) Community awareness on issues of child rights ,violence against children,, child protection and Participation has increased
- 4) Cohesion among the in and out of school has increased
- 5) Adults' support on Child Friendly Accountability initiatives has increased

## **CHALLENGES**

- The time was not realistic. It was too short compared with the type of activities planned. Also time allocated for each activity did not much with timeliness indicated in the child friendly Accountability toolbox
- The budget was too small. There was a big difference from what was planned and the actual implementation on the ground. Eg during children's concert, much more budget was required to meet the costs of hiring the Public Address system. Originally it was thought the system could be hired from Doma, but only to find that this was not possible as the public system at Doma was occupied with Vigodoro events in the village. The PAS had to be hired from Morogoro which proved very expensive.
- Child Friendly Accountability Project needs to be considered as a separate project if it is to be made effective. It needs time commitment, human resource commitment and expertise. Percentage of time for the staff who takes active participation in the project should be given consideration.
- Delay of fund transfer significantly affected the implementation schedule. Once the project has been approved, it is reasonable if the funds are transferred in lump sum at once rather than transferring the money in installments. TCRF could only demand project reports when time was due.

## **WAY FORWARD**

- 1) Activities should be planned based on realistic time frame and should adopt the timeliness indicated in the toolbox
- 2) There should be transparency on how much budget is available for each organization so as to give room for organizations to budget more realistically
- 3) All staff who take active role in the project planning and implementation should charge a % of their time in the project budget as part of their salaries.
- 4) Once the project has been approved, TCRF should proceed to transfer the whole budgeted fund and wait for quarterly/ Annually reports in line with conducting monitoring visits.