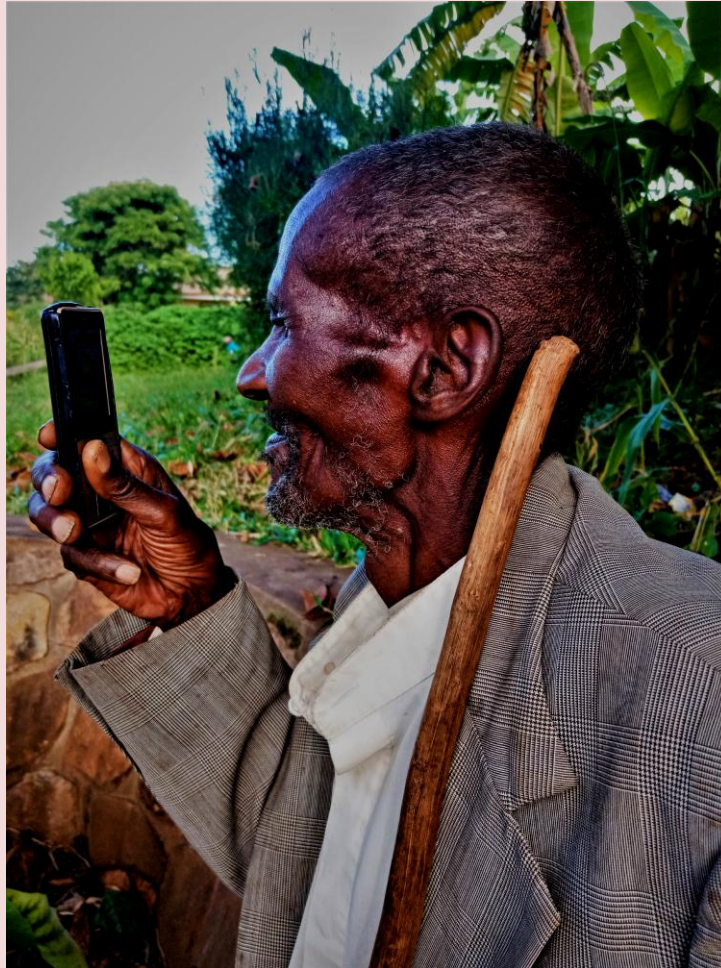


Pension payments during the emergences “COVID-19”



Social protection for elderly in Muleba District – Tanzania

News from the Organization

“The ageing secret of being positive during emergence”

The 2020 year was started with the high spread of the epidemic which started December in China widely to the world. It created stress, anxiety, fear and other strong emotions among the people. During eruption of Corona pandemic our implementation was affected since then our Tanzania government announced the measures to be taken like banning all massive gathering and prevention mechanism with fear of the increase of Corona virus transmission. Kwa Wazee relocated funds to support the reaction of preventions to the beneficiaries and the community such as using mobile fund transfers, produce fliers and post with protective information, use of local radios, and provision of protective gears such as masks, hand sanitizers disseminate them within our community.

General election campaign and election on October affected the implementation of our activities as some of our beneficiaries spent a lot of their time in campaign rather than engaging in Old People groups.

The action plan has helped the organization to continue providing services to the beneficiaries to produce the expected results. The results from each department are detailed.

1. Pension Fund

2.1 Older people targeting pension

The beneficiary in January 2020 were 955 OP and 281 grandchildren receiving pensions and at the end of the year 905 OP and 120 grandchildren. The number decreased due to death, shifting of the older people and children were monitored and found above 18 years, replaced by the beneficiaries, and out of school. During the epidemic fear the beneficiaries received their funds through mobile cash transfers. The beneficiaries reported more on the improvement of psychosocial wellbeing, nutrition, cohesion in the community, improve their house and assets.

“Through the pension received, I bought a pig at a rate of 20,000Tsh and after three months I sold it at 70,000Tsh which I have used it to repair my house”.

2.2 Universal Pension Pilot (UPP)

2.2.1 Admission

21 elderly people were registered to make a total of 200 pensioners in Ikondo and Nsisha. Among pensioners 132 are female and 68 are males. The slight changes of this program were revealed in the second baseline survey. www.kwawazee.ch

2.2.2 Baseline II results

The result of the baseline was shared to the beneficiaries, local government and older people in commissions with purpose of advocating the universal pensions and challenges.



UPP Pensioner and a Committee sharing the impact of UPP to the participants



The regional social welfare officer responding on some issues raised by OP during the session.

3 Around PSS – Light

“Getting organized improves life”

1268 older people are organized 107 groups where they learn and practice different skills which make them improve their identity, proactive, improved capability and active in the society. There are set of roles and meetings monthly for the discussion and planning. Each group has objectives, norms and leadership which harmonize members. The results of being in groups are mutual support, livelihood through income generating activities, revolving funds, psychological support through mutual interaction and trainings, investing in animal keeping, Agriculture and vegetables. The revolving funds have helped to pay the school fees, repair their house, purchase goats, chicken, meet the house requirement like blankets, utensils, bed-sheets, and pay for the day labor.

Recently the groups of PSS have become more an asset and health security for the older people. The income securities for the older people have increased due to the paramount support from the groups. Groups saved the sums of 11,369,400/= and withdrawn 6,328,500/= to support members who became sick, 1.6M for commemoration of the world older people’s day and Christmas and 3,614,400 as the balance. In additional 3,565,000 were spent but not recorded as the saving in the office The groups became the key areas where every member learn new techniques and got advice from the members

“Julia lives in Ngenge village with her grandchildren who were left by her daughter who died after giving birth. Jalia is the member of Abagambakamoi group which deals with cultivation, and revolving funds with aim of promoting the income of the members. This group has 15 members and each member of this group contributes Tsh 3000 per month after getting their pension which are distributed to one member for his/her expenditure. Jalia has received the contribution twice since last two years. She invested the contributions from group into keeping goats. She produced goats up to 12 which assisted her to support her grandchildren to attain o-level education. In January this year she sold 4 goats for 200,000/ equal to 90 USD which were used to get various school requirements. Also she sold 4 again and got 200,000/Tsh which was used to improve her house and part of it was paid to the child care institution where her grandchild is cared.

Jalia is grateful to the group as she gets new ideas and innovations to make the life better. Each member has his/her ways of spending the revolving funds. Most of them are advised on the use of the funds and for the ones who is negligence has to define the needs and the group supports him to get those needs instead giving cash and get spent into luxurious things like alcohol”.

3.2. Empowerment and motivation.

Other support to the older people were training on IGA-food processing, leadership, composite production, seedlings, manure for their agriculture, water tank and resilience.



A group of OP trained on nutrient sweet potatoes seedlings have harvested and processing them for adding value so that to have flour for making porridge.

3 Advocacy Work

“I was real disappointed, just see how old and poor I’m, two weeks ago I was seriously sick and went to the Health center with my ID which issued by Muleba District Executive Director but I didn’t receive any medical attention from the facility. Instead I was told by a doctor to pay for the treatment, I had neither the cash nor anything to bond for the treatment and therefore get rejected. I decided to go back home and start using herbs”. Said by Grevas Bisilimbo 78 years old from Kasharunga Ward

It was planned to advocate more on the rights of OP during the campaign of general election to build up social contract between the candidate and the older people. This was affected by the COVID-19, fears of political instability and involvement of the civil servants in the politics. The older people ID for free treatment was discouraged to be used in the mid of the year. The health and economic income for the older people challenged us to advocate for.

4.1 Legal Training

54 trainers from the OP councils were trained on writing and inheritance laws, marriage and land law by the District magistrate Hon. M.A Hamza and later the ToT trained 307 from them 115 reported of having a written will. 75% of the cases were related with marriage and inheritance law.

4.2 Training on IGA

103 leaders were trained on income generating projects and given some skills on making soaps, basic entrepreneurship, food processing, bee keeping, animal keeping, agriculture and capital generation.



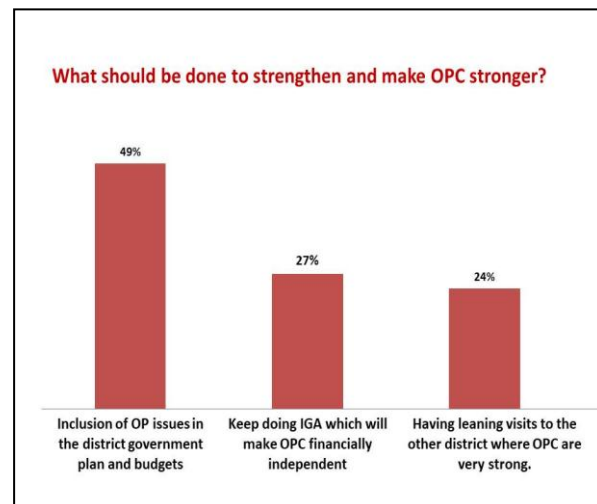
One of group under OPCs dealing with bee keeping project in Kasharunga Ward



Training to leaders of OPCs on soap processing

4.3 OPC Assessment

We have done assessment with 50 leaders from 25 wards reflecting on OPC achievements, what can be done to become strong, threats on OPC movement and what are the main issues to keep in advocacy agenda. From each issue the participants were asked mention three most important response and later from the heightened to choose one most important by indicating beans on them. The graph shows the result:



The threats to the movement of older people: 48% was lacking the ageing act, 41% was lacking political will on the implementation of universal pension and 11% lacking representative in decision making. Otherwise the result on advocacy consistence, 61% universal pension, 23% free and quality health services, 7% involvement of the older people in decision making and eventually other issue were on issue related to older people.



142 trained leaders on IGA and supported with seedlings



Picture show the leaders from 8 districts who formed regional commission.

5. Health Program

5.1. Eye Treatment

“Save sight renovate lives”

The perfect eyesight to aged group contributed more to their fun and cohesion at the household livelihood. The number of older people screened during mobile clinic increased from 2256 of 2019 to 2593 where they got treatment and supported with spectacle while operated increased from 206 to 219. The elderly with eyesight problems have been improved their living as their eyesight become perfects. This has reduced the burden of care from the relative to self-care which increased the household productivity.

“I have been staying home to care for my grandmother who has eyesight problems because she wanted someone at home to guide her. Today I am happy that she could do everything by herself and I can go to work in the farm and even outside the village. May God bless you all for this support?”



6.0. Health meeting and Training

6.1 Health Training

Apart from the eyesight problems facing aged group, they also face challenges on physical pains, non-communicable disease, hearing problem and psychological problems. 1938 older people are in groups where they learn different skills on health self-help and body exercise.

The sessions covered the following topics:

- i. Body pains and helpful exercise ie simple exercise to improve their body pains, stability and prevent falling
- ii. Hygiene and clean water
- iii. Nutrition food – vegetable and fruits production
- iv. Non communicable disease and preventions

The trainings have helped the older people in groups to change some of their attitude which contributed to the health problem and become healthier.

“Regina 73 years living with 3 grandchildren and mother in law 94 years, she had been coughing during the night for 6 years where she screened for TB but diagnosed negative. Circumstance created fears and weakness. She failed to take her domestic chores.

We trained the groups on the use of clean water and how to make clean water. She started drinking water every morning and afternoon, she also changed eating health food in her diet. Then, after 6 months her health had improved and stopped coughing and vomiting. “It is one year since I have recovered and I am doing my home and group duties effectively. I can say that health trainings and sessions from Kwa Wazee has improved or saved my life”.



Older people in one of health training sessions

7. Self-Protection

“Ageing with fun skill helps protection against gender based violence” women have been experiencing different violence which harms their social and economic development. Elderly people expressed that since they grow up the violence happens in different ways upon them which made them to lose their confidence to protect themselves. This were caused by the tradition ways and believes which extracted by men domination of the female. The older people in this perspective have been trained on self-protection and determination.

The skill provided are self-defense techniques, property protection, and life skills which make them become confident and self-determination.

Later in three months during monitoring elderly presented the issues of violence against them to the community leaders and shared with key stakeholders who supported to resolve their conflicts. The cases of land grabbing, attempt to rape, and sexual harassment were reported and resolved.



We have introduced the self-protection in 5 wards where the older people councils are already stabilized and make a total of 2273 older people trained in SD. We selected 196 TOT - two from each sub-village, and we have trained them once on the self-protection techniques and provided the training tools.

During the meetings older people mentioned the following challenges being common in the villages; accusation of witchcraft, land conflict and sexual violence where the older women reported of fearing from 5:00 Pm to move free outside.



Self-defense techniques

8. Child Protection – Tatu Tano

8.1 Tatu Tano groups

TT is organized in 409 groups in 16 wards with 2220 members, among them 1386 being female and 834 male. The members learn from each other on the issue related to livelihood with savings, get support on education, training on PiaD and Self Defense and form the protection network in community.

8.2 Sustainable agriculture and animal keeping:

The beneficiaries of TT were trained on agriculture and animal keeping where they also got supported with seeds such as spinach, carrot, cabbage, water melon, bell peppers, etc. they produce for the family use and income generating. The training manual is available to guide them. The practices increase their knowledge about farming and animal keeping. 322 groups keep goats among them 27 groups paid back the goats which were distributed to other groups which have constructed the shed. We also support the immunization for 243 chicken kept by the groups of TatuTano.

301 groups deal with sustainable agriculture; in Jan-March all groups brought their produced crops at the office store where they sold their products at a price of 2000 where in September the price increased to 2500/= where they got an interest which should be distributed according to the stock of each group. 580 kg were purchased from the stock by the organization to support groups dealing with beans production.

8.3 Education

Kwa wazee continued improving the universal access of education for 2566 children and young people by supporting them with school, uniforms, exercise books and dictionaries from 16 clusters. Among them 1758 pupils are primary school (941 girls and 817 boys) and 744 from secondary schools (432 girls and 312 boys) and 46 were supported to attain vocation training, teaching college and advanced level.

8.4 Learning groups

The children in TatuTano groups have been doing the sessions on improving their literacy through reading programs in groups. Kwa Wazee printed 238 books written in English and Swahili which was distributed to the groups for the learning purpose. They support each other after school hours at their designed safe space in the village.

Also 384 story books produced and distributed to learning groups and trained the facilitators on basic mathematics by reviewing together some mathematic question which was hard to solve. The self-learning has helped to improve the participant's literacy and in turn increased academic performance at school.

9.0. PAMOJA (Alliance of child protection).

We have organized the information from the children and the community concerning violence against children and some measures that proposed by the children so that the alliance in the community could support them to reduce violence. We disseminated them to the groups of alliance in 32 villages so that to review them and give out their ideas during meetings. The alliances are committed themselves to support children who are confronted with violence to resolve and protect them from any kinds of violence and if the violence happen in the community the committee should make follow ups and find the resolution. The CORONA virus affected the implementation of the program and therefore this period we conducted meetings with facilitators for planning and reviewing some topics that should be discussed in the villages where PAMOJA program is implemented. We have drafted letters which will be distributed to the PAMOJA members.

I feel it: the facilitators have conducted meetings with 327 young children where they discussed topics including self-esteem, my body my voice and bullying. This helps the children to learn a good behavior which makes them to fit in the community.

PiaD: We have conducted monitoring meetings with PIAD facilitators from TatuTano to share the development of the groups. Few members have moved to other places though some joined the groups to learn from their colleagues who were trained. We would like to visit all groups to strengthen their capacity and knowledge on Peace is a Decision topics. 47 groups exist though the member stopped meeting because of the COVID-19.

8.6 Self defense

42 groups of girls with 1569 members were monitored to review the sessions and discuss about violence that the girls have worked on them.

405 girls were trained on self-defense life skills to increase their knowledge on protecting themselves from violence and any form of abuse. They were trained on self-identification, self-esteem, self-protection and arguments. The children have reported some issues rose during COVID-19 which affected them especially girls. The issues were pregnancies, enforced to work for family income, idleness which makes them to be seduced by boys/men. The participants shared the experience based on the sexual violence: 10 coerced sex, 27 attempts to rape, 14 forced to sex, 125 sexually harassment by touching their body part without their consent, provoking to them, and painful sign.

The children have shared their view that this training has changed their minds and understood how they can protect themselves against violence. *"I have been approached by men and failing to know what I should tell them. They are intelligence; they offer good gifts which you are in need of before telling you what they want from you. Later they tell you about sex and when you reject them you feel losing their attention and care. You keep quiet to them. This knowledge has opened me to stand by myself and make clear decision which will not affect me. We need to have skill which can help us to generate income for ourselves".*

"I was encouraged by a friend to go to Bukoba and promised me a job. I was sexually harassed; I used the self-defense techniques to defend myself. The skills I used were talking with voice, body techniques, asking help to people and leaving the house back home".



Girls Empowerment Sessions

We continued assisting assistant trainers of the self-defense techniques facilitation skills and empowering them through monthly meetings. 91 attended the sessions. 65% were new trainers who need more

facilitation skills so that they could support other girls in groups. The session also included 15 trainers and 9 aggressors.

8.6 Vijana Bicycle Centre (VBC)

The COVID-19 eruption made the delay of the container shipping and affected the business as we failed to get the container in time and we requested for the second container but the lockdown in Switzerland made difficulties in bikes collections. Also we changed the system of attending the workshop as one person has to attend. However, up to December, 2020 we had received 3 containers with a total of 1365 bikes and 865 bikes had been sold making the income of 127,488,000/=Tsh. Also, we have sold spares with value of 4,838,400/=Tsh and bikes repair with total 107,000/=Tsh. The total income accumulated was 132,433.400/=Tsh.

In June, 2020 we reopened up our activities and the training to continue empowering youth in bicycle assembling and trading concepts. We have opened the new branch in Kahama where two trained youth have opened the shop. We also launched marketing event of bicycle riding of 20Km from Muleba Bus stand to Kagoma village which helped to sell 264 bicycles. We are using the local media to promote our activities and products.

Bike for school program: we have visited 22 secondary schools to support maintaining the bicycle sold and supported to the girls who are moving long distance to school. We managed to discuss with student on development and what they feel proud of being with the bike. They mentioned the improvement on attendance, managing time which give them time for self-learning, performance, reduced harassment from men and reduced absenteeism.