

Education: access • equity • quality

TEN/MET Newsletter

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“Every Child Needs a Teacher”

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FROM THE DESK OF THE COORDINATOR

Dear All,

I am happy to present to you this new-look edition of our newsletter. This edition, the fifth since we started regular communication through the print media, also comes at a momentous period in the development of education at home and elsewhere.

We have just observed the Global Week of Action (GWA), whose theme; “Every Child Needs a Teacher” engaged our minds from 24th to 30th April, 2006. On reflection, one question still haunts the conscience of all of us within TEN/MET and other stakeholders who care about the education of our children: Does every child, indeed, have access to a teacher, leave alone quality education?

There are a lot of challenges facing teachers in their onerous of engaging the young generation through the learning at all stages; at issues at all these stages, however, is the overriding question whether they are all doing so effectively. Addressing such challenges requires the participation of many key players – the teachers themselves; the communities in which they serve; public officials and politicians. Unless we address such needs, Education for All will forever remain a mere phrase for starry-eyed dreamers.

There is also the HIV/AIDS pandemic in our midst, in which significant amounts of resources have been spent in addressing it. It is estimated that developing countries are home to around 95 per cent of the people living with HIV/AIDS, Tanzania very prominent among them!

Tanzania in particular has been severely hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, written in ever increasing numbers of orphans which, in turn, call for concerted efforts to meet increasing dependency rates and the needs of the children themselves. Needless to say, we hardly scratched the surface here – and much more remains to address the growing list of unmet needs.

The Day of the Africa Child – observed every June 16 – is another landmark event providing real opportunities for the voices of the children to be heard. We urge the civil society organizations not to take this day as just as another event; we have to work jointly to bring about its desired impact. Indeed, our very future depends on how our children are being treated today.

While I appreciate the way TEN/MET members have responded by sending articles for the newsletter, we are still calling for more. It is my sincere hope that we develop this vehicle for mutual communication, future editions, will be greatly enriched by your continued support.

Welcome aboard – and join in this journey of ideas. And please write back to us: it’s the way we can both make a difference.

Joseph Kisanji
Coordinator

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2006 Global Week of Action (GWA)

“Every Child Needs a Teacher”

This year Global Campaigning for Education (GCE) is planned from 24th – 30th April 2006. It is in this week where we will be campaigning and demanding from politicians to keep their promise for “Every Child Needs a Teacher,” theme for 2006. As we have been doing since in the past years, we need to work hard and dedicate ourselves to organize events where we are. This aims at raising the profile of education as a key development issue by reminding both leaders and the general public on their roles and urgency of delivering Education For All (EFA).

Both international and national preparations of the Global Week of Action have started. Referring to the theme, Tanzania Teacher’s Union (TTU) will be leading the event at the national level. The climax will be on Sunday, 30th April 2005 in Dodoma Municipal for the big hearing where politicians and other decision makers will be involved. According to the resource pack received from the Global Campaign for Education, three levels of implementation at the national level are: Creating Dossier, Officials Back to School and the Big Hearing.

Following on the success of previous years, officials, political figures and celebrities will be invited back-to-school and adult learning centres. There will be a brief report on progress made on previous pledges and be presented with the Case for teachers. They will be asked to commit themselves on taking teachers to school.

We encourage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to collaborate with TTU and government at the district level in marking this event. The information circulated will be useful for planning and organizing for an effective event.

Towards the Day of the African Child

The Day of the African Child is earmarked on every 16th June. In year 2005, Pamela Young of Oxfam GB shared with us how the day was celebrated in Shinyanga. “Thousands of children, parents, teachers, civil society organizations and government officials gathered in Shinyanga to celebrate the day through the voices of children”, she explained. We are convinced that you all did something on this day as we do not have a generic way of doing it.

“Orphans: It is Our Responsibility” was the theme for 2005. This year’s theme is yet to be known. CSOs should take initiatives of planning and organizing on how the day will look like in their areas. Get reminded that, there is need of collaborating and networking for a broader impact. It is important to document and share the plans and previous experiences with others through mails are media for the effectiveness of the day.

You will also be informed where the climax of the day will be marked at the national level when it will be known. It is our expectation that TEN/MET members will actively participate and volunteer to lead this event at the national level.

Dismas Baran: Community Animal Health Worker’s Experience

By: Gloria Mziray – Farm Africa

There has been a critical shortage of Agriculture Extension Officers in rural areas where agriculture is the major socio-economic activity. Furthermore, there have not been effective mechanisms for the distribution, accessibility and availability of animal drugs and insecticides in these areas.

Dismas Baran is a father of four children aged 42 years old. He is living in Nakwa village some 8 km from Babati town, the village has a total population of over 2,800 people, 900 households and a livestock population estimated at over 3,500. He is a subsistence level farmer who grows maize and keeps a few local goats and improved goats. In the past, his family depended on seasonal income that emanated from selling agricultural products.

Since when he completed his training in 2001, Dismas has been providing animal health services to the community ranging from 12 to 25 households per week. The service entails providing vaccine, treatment of the most common diseases that affect animals, and consultancy services on improved livestock husbandry.

In most cases, the income realized is used to assist his family (household) in some of the daily household needs such as buying some school uniforms for the children, food, kerosene, clothes for the spouse, paying labourers and also purchasing an extra piece of land. In his own words Dismas said, *'Being a Community Animal Health Worker(CAHW) has helped me as I have managed to buy 5 cattle worth 400,000/= and two goats worth 50,000/= . I have become more popular and respected in the village'*. He furthermore explains that household income has been increasing due to the extra income as he no longer depends on the income generated from the agricultural products.

Livestock keepers have benefited a lot from the services provided by the existing CAHW; this is because he provides timely and prompt treatment, vaccination etc. His presence has helped to reduce animal deceases and death. This has a direct bearing on cattle production.

Dismas Baran is eager to develop his skills for rendering quality services. "I would like to attend certificate training through self- sponsorship and improve my entrepreneurship skills." He explains. He furthermore would like to strengthen the services he renders and improve his farming techniques.

When used effectively, education has a direct impact not only for individuals but also for

national development. To be more effective, education should reflect one's socio-economic activities and the environment where it is delivered.

KEEP YOUR PROMISE: REDUCE THE SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS

By: Ashery Makengo - TETA

According to the United Nation's anti-AIDS agency (UNAIDS): the exceptional global threat posed by the disease can be met only by an equally exceptional response. December 1st every year is world AIDS Day (WAD). This is the time to pay tribute to millions of individuals all over the world who have stood up and spoken honestly and openly about HIV/AIDS. Lessons learned in almost 25 years experience into HIV/AIDS pandemic are beyond doubt.

The UNAIDS estimates that there are 38 million children living with HIV. In 2005, some new 4.9 million people became infected with the virus. Around half of those infected with the virus contract it before they are 25 and die before 35. It is estimated that around 95 percent of people with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries. Tanzania being a developing country has been severely hit by the pandemic where the number of orphans has been mushrooming and dependency rate sharply increasing.

"Stop AIDS – Keep the Promise," is the theme of last year's world AIDS Day. The message appealed to governments and policy makers to ensure that they meet the targets they have agreed to in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Civil society Organization (CSOs) are not left aside as silent observers in responding to the pandemic. There is a need of joining hands and mobilizing resources together towards reducing stigma and the infection rate.

In Tanzania, over 2 million citizens are living with the virus or have died of AIDS. Though the disease was firstly reported in 1983, it was officially declared as a national disaster. Efforts made in responding to the disease should include the non-infected population of the community. Strategies applied to combat the disease include awareness creation, prevention measures, treatment, care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

We are called upon to join our efforts in responding to the WAD theme of which we are internalizing and implementing in this calendar year. Orphans and vulnerable Children (OVC) have the right to quality education, health services and a better living environment that can make them enjoy life. It is therefore our responsibility in responding positively to the pandemic and taking care of OVC wherever we are working and living. These children are the leaders and technocrats of the future. Deliberate efforts should be done now to rescue the situation which when left to proliferate; it will lose control in future.

Most of the OVC in Tanzania live with their grandparents who are no longer capable of providing basic needs to them such as food, education, health care, and shelter. These old women and men are also dependent and need to be taken care of. When left alone without any assistance, these old people will finally feel that their well being is jeopardized and will lose hope of living.

IS A PREGNANT GIRL NOT ALLOWED TO SIT FOR NATIONALEXAMINATIONS?

By: Velenalwiva-Songea

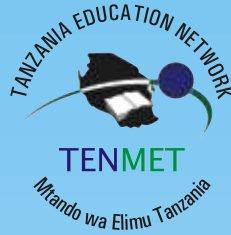
There has been a long debate in Tanzania regarding girls who become pregnant while in school. Some have been advocating for them to attend classes. This has not been resolved despite the fact that education is a basic right entitled to every child without any discrimination.

There is a girl who completed primary education in 2005; she was able to sit for class seven examinations while she was pregnant. This was possible through efforts made by friends of education who saw it wise not to lose such a young lady who had been performing well since when she started school. Furthermore, they considered education as one of the very rights entitled to her.

“Socio-economic challenges facing Shakila had led to her pregnancy. I came to realize that she is an orphan who lost her parents some few years back, she was the family’s breadwinner. I

am really grateful for her bravery and transparency, she was able to tell the story in full and sought for assistance such that she could sit for her national examinations, it was hard for me as an activist to assist a pregnant pupil sit for her national standard seven examinations as the law does not allow such a situation to prevail at the basic educational level.” Velenalwiva explains.

Velenalwiva is now proud that her efforts have not ended up in vain. The girl has successfully passed her examinations and was selected to join a girl’s public secondary school. She was expecting to deliver in February this year. “As an activist together with STOF (Saint Therese Orphans Foundation) – my organization; we have a task of negotiating with school administration so that her position is retained. We would like to extend our gratitude to all organizations and politicians who joined us hands in ensuring that the girl’s right to education is protected. The only thing left is to assist her join secondary school,” Velenalwiva whose organization works with orphans narrates.



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“Kila Mtoto Anahitaji Mwalimu”

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KUTOKA DAWATI LA MRATIBU

Wapendwa Wasomaji,

Ninayo furaha kuwasilisha kwenu toleo hili lenye mwonekano tofauti na majarida yetu yaliyopita. Toleo hili la jarida ni la tano tangu tuanze kuwasiliana nanyi kupitia machapisho na pia ni kipindi muhimu katika maendeleo ya elimu hapa nchini na duniani kote.

Tutashuhudia Juma la Utekelezaji wa Elimu Kidunia (GWA), ambapo kauli mbiu yake kwa mwaka huu ni; “Kila Mtoto Anahitaji Mwalimu Bora” kuanzia tarehe 24 – 30 Aprili 2006. Katika kutafakari, kuna swali moja ambalo linaendelea kutusumbua wanamtandao wa elimu pamoja na wadau wengine ambao wanazingatia elimu ya watoto wetu: Je, ni kweli kwamba walimu wanatosheleza ukiachilia mbali suala la ubora wa elimu?

Kuna changamoto nyingi zinazowakabili walimu katika kuwahudumia watoto kwa kuwafundisha katika kila hatua; hata hivyo, swali la msingi linalotawala ni kama kweli hawa walimu wanafanya hivyo kwa ufanisi. Tunapoziangalia hizi changamoto tunahitaji ushiriki wa watendaji muhimu wakiwemo walimu wenyewe; jamii wanazozihudumia; watumishi wa umma na wanasiasa. Endapo hatutashughulikia mahitaji ya walimu, Elimu kwa Wote itabakia daima kuwa ni ndoto.

Ugonjwa wa UKIMWI pia upo kati yetu ambapo rasilimali za kutosha zimekwishatumika katika kukabiliana nao. Inakadiriwa kuwa asilimia 95 ya watu wanaoishi na Virusi vya UKIMWI wapo katika nchi zinazoendelea, Tanzania ikiwa moja wapo.

Tanzania kipekee imeathiriwa vibaya na janga hili la UKIMWI ambapo idadi ya watoto yatima na kiwango cha utegemezi vimekuwa vikiongezeka kwa kasi. Jitihada za pamoja zimekuwa zikihitajika katika kukabiliana na ongezeko la watoto yatima na mahitaji yao ambayo kwa kiasi kikubwa hayajaweza kutatuliwa na kubaki tukikabiliana na ongezeko kubwa la mahitaji hayo.

Kila mwaka tarehe 16 Juni tunaadhimisha siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika. Hili ni tukio muhimu kwa kuwa sauti za watoto zinapaswa kusikilizwa. Tunazihimiza Asasi za Kijamii kuipa siku hiyo uzito stahiki utakaoleta matokeo yaliyokusudiwa. Mustakabali wetu unategemea jinsi tulivyowalea watoto wetu leo.

Ninapenda kuwashukuru wanachama wa TEN/MET kwa jinsi ambavyo mmekuwa mkitutumia makala mbalimbali kwa ajili ya jarida hili. Ni matumaini yetu kuwa tutaimarisha mawasiliano na upashanaji habari. Njia hii itatumika katika kuboresha zaidi matoleo yajayo.

Karibuni na mjiunge nasi katika safari hii ya kifikra. Tafadhali msisite kutuandikia kwa kuwa ndiyo njia itakayoleta mabadiliko.

Joseph Kisanji
Mratibu

Yaliyomo

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Juma la Utekelezaji wa Elimu Kidunia (GWA) 2006

“Kila Mtoto Anahitaji Mwalimu”

Juma la Utekelezaji wa Elimu Kidunia (GWA) kwa mwaka huu lilipangwa kufanyika kuanzia tarehe 24-30 Aprili. Ni katika juma hili tutakapokuwa tukikampeni na kuwadai wanasiasa kutekeleza ahadi zao kwa ujumbe wa mwaka huu wa “Kila Mtoto Anahitaji Mwalimu”. Kama ambavyo tumekuwa kukifanya tangu miaka ya nyuma, tunahitaji kufanya kazi kwa juhudi na kujitoa zaidi ili kuratibu shughuli hii pale tulipo. Hii inalenga katika kuboresha hali ya elimu kama suala la msingi la maendeleo kwa kuwakumbusha viongozi na wanachi juu ya wajibu wao na haja ya kufikisha elimu kwa wote (EFA). Matayarisho ya kitaifa na kumataifa ya Juma la Utekelezaji wa Elimu Kidunia yameanza. Chama Cha Walimu Tanzania kitaongoza utekelezaji wa tukio hili kitaifa kwa kuzingatia ujumbe wake. Kilele cha maadhimisho haya kitakuwa Jumapili, Aprili 30 katika Manispaa ya Dodoma kwa ajili ya kuwashirikisha wanasiasa na watoa maamuzi wengine. Kutokana na mwongozo tulioupokea toka Kampeni ya Kimataifa ya Elimu, maeneo matatu ya utekelezaji katika ngazi ya taifa ni: Kukusanya taarifa, Watendaji Kurudi Mashuleni na Kilele cha maadhimisho ambapo wanasiasa, watendaji na watu maarufu watakaribishwa.

Taarifa zitakazokuwa zimekusanywa ni uthibitisho wa taarifa za kuhimiza zinazoweza kutumika kusesitizia hali iliyopo. Watoto, watu wazima wanaojifunza, walimu na wapiga kampeni watakusanya uthibitisho unaohimiza juu ya walimu bora. Taarifa hii itakuwa na maazimio ya walimu bora, au upungufu wa walimu bora, simulizi na uthibitisho.

Kutokana na mafanikio ya miaka iliyopita, watendaji, wanasiasa na watu maarufu wataalikwa kurudi shuleni na vituo vya kujifunzia watu wazima. Kutakuwa na taarifa fupi juu ya maendeleo yaliyotokana na ahadi zilizopita na kuwasilishwa kwa hali za walimu. Watatakiwa kudhamiria kuwapeleka walimu shuleni.

Kumekuwa na mabadiliko ya ujumbe wa Juma la Utekelezaji wa Elimu Kidunia kutoka mwaka mmoja mpaka mwingine ambapo; Elimu ya Wasichana ni Somo Kubwa (2003), Ushawishi Mkubwa Kidunia (2004), Elimisha Kuondoa Umasikini (2005). Pasipokuwa na walimu bora elimu kwa wote haiwezi kufikiwa. Walimu wana wajibu wa msingi katika mfumo mzima wa elimu. Ili walimu washiriki katika kazi yao kwa ufanisi mkubwa kuna haja ya mahitaji yao kushughulikiwa kikamilifu.

Tunazihimiza Asasi za Kijamii (CSOs) kushirikiana na Chama cha Walimu Tanzania (CWT) na serikali katika ngazi ya wilaya kuadhimisha siku hii. Taarifa zilizotolewa zitatumika kwa kupanga na kuratibu kwa ajili ya ufanisi wa tukio.

Tunapoelekea Siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika

Kila mwaka Juni 16 tunaadhimisha siku ya Mtoto wa Afrika. Kwa mwaka 2005, Pamela Young wa Oxfam GB alitushirikisha namna siku hii ilivyoadhimishwa mjini Shinyanga. Alieleza kuwa, “Maelfu ya watoto, wazazi, asasi za kijamii na viongozi wa serikali walikusanyika Shinyanga kusherehekea siku hii kupitia sauti za watoto”. Bado tunashawishika kuwa wote tulifanya kitu katika siku hii pamoja na kuwa hatuna njia moja ya kuadhimisha siku hii.

Ujumbe wa mwaka 2005 ulikuwa, “Watoto Yatima ni Jukumu Letu Sote”. Ujumbe wa mwaka huu haujafahamika. Asasi za Kijamii zichukue jitihada za kupanga namna siku hii itakavyokuwa katika maeneo yao. Tunakukumbusheni kuwa, kuna haja ya kushirikiana kwa ajili ya matokeo bora zaidi. Ni muhimu kuweka taarifa na kushirikishana mipango na uzoefu uliopita na wengine kutumia barua pepe au vyombo vya habari kwa ufanisi zaidi.

Pindi tutakapofahamu kilele cha maadhimisho haya kitaifa, ni matarajio yetu kuwa wanachama wa TEN/MET watashiriki kikamilifu na kuwa tayari kuongoza tukio hili katika ngazi ya taifa.

DISMAS BARAN: UZOEFU WA MFANYAKAZI WA AFYA YA WANYAMAKATIKAJAMII

Na: Gloria Mziray-Farm Africa

Kumekuwa na upungufu mkubwa wa maafisa ughani katika maeneo ya vijijini ambapo kilimo ndio shughuli kuu ya kijamii na kiuchumi. Zaidi ya hayo hapajakuwepo na mfumo bora wa usambazaji na upatikanaji wa dawa za mifugo na za kuua wadudu katika maeneo hayo.

Dismas Baran ni baba wa watoto wanne mwenye umri wa miaka 42. Anaishi katika kijiji cha Nakwa takribani kilomita 8 kutoka Babati mjini. Kijiji hicho kina idadi ya watu zaidi ya 2,800, familia 900 na mifugo zaidi ya 3,500. Yeye ni mkulima mdogo wa mahindi na anafuga mbuzi wachache wa kienyeji na wa kisasa. Siku za nyuma familia yake iliishi kwa kutegemea kuuza mazao kutoka shambani mwao tu.

Tangu alipomaliza mafunzo yake 2001, Dismas amekuwa akitoa elimu kuhusu afya ya wanyama katika jamii kwa watu wapatao 12 hadi 25 kwa wiki. Huduma hizo ni pamoja na chanjo, matibabu kwa magonjwa yaliyozoeleka yanayowaathiri wanyama na huduma za malipo ya kitaalamu kwa ajili ya ufugaji wa kisasa.

Kwa kiasi kikubwa, fedha inayopatikana hutumika kuitunza familia yake kwa kununulia mahitaji yao ya kila siku kama vile sare za shule kwa watoto, chakula, mafuta ya taa, nguo za mkewe, kuwalipa wafanyakazi na pia kununulia shamba la ziada. Dismas alisema kwa maneno yake mwenyewe, *“Kuwa mfanyakazi wa afya ya wanyama kumenisaidia kununua ng’ombe 5 wenye thamani ya 400,000/- na mbuzi 2 wenye thamani ya 50,000/- . Nimekuwa maarufu zaidi na kuheshimika hapa kijijini”*. Zaidi ya hayo Dismas alisema kwamba kipato cha familia kimeongezeka kutokana na pato la ziada kwani kwa sasa hategemei tena kipato kinachotokana na mazao ya kilimo.

Wafugaji wamefaidika sana na huduma zitolewazo na mtaalam wa afya ya wanyama katika jamii, hii inatokana na sababu kwamba anatoa huduma za matibabu kwa wakati muafaka, chanjo, n.k. Kuwepo kwake kumesaidia kupunguza magonjwa ya wanyama na vifo. Hii ina matokeo ya moja kwa moja kwa uzalishaji wa ng’ombe na mazao yake.

Dismas ana shauku kubwa ya kutaka kuongeza elimu yake ili aweze kutoa huduma bora zaidi. *“Ningependa kuhudhuria mafunzo ya cheti kwa kujilipia mwenyewe ili niboresha ujuzi wangu wa ujasiriamali”*, anaelezea. Angependa pia kuboresha huduma anazotoa na kuongeza ujuzi wake katika kilimo.

Inapotumiwa vizuri, elimu ina matokeo ya moja kwa moja siyo tu kwa mtu binafsi bali pia kwa maendeleo ya taifa kwa ujumla. Ili iwe na matokeo bora zaidi, elimu inatakiwa iakisiwe katika shughuli za kijamii na kiuchumi na katika mazingira ambapo hutolewa.

TIMIZA AHADI YAKO: PUNGUZA KUENEA KWA VIRUSI VYA UKIMWI NA UKIMWI

Na: Ashery Makengo – TETA

Kulingana na Shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa lenye kupambana na UKIMWI (USAIDS); tishio la pekee la dunia linalosababishwa na ugonjwa huu linaweza kushughulikiwa kwa kuwa na jibu ambalo pia ni la kipekee. Tarehe mosi Desemba kila mwaka ni Siku ya UKIMWI Duniani. Ni siku ya kuwakumbuka mamilioni ya watu duniani kote ambao wamesimama kidete na kuzungumza kwa uwazi na uaminifu juu ya Virusi vya UKIMWI (VVU) na UKIMWI. Hakuna wasiwasi kwamba tumejifunza mengi kutokana na uzoefu wetu wa zaidi ya mika 25 tangu ugonjwa huu ulipotambuliwa kwa mara ya kwanza.

Shirika hilo la Umoja wa Mataifa (UNAIDS) limekadiria kuwa kuna watu wazima zaidi ya milioni 38 na watoto milioni 2.3 ambao wanaishi na virusi vya UKIMWI. Mwaka 2005 kulikuwa na watu milioni 4.9 walioambukizwa vurusi vya UKIMWI. Nusu ya hawa walioambukizwa ni wale wenye umri chini ya miaka 25 na hufariki kabla ya kufikisha mika 35. Inakadiriwa kuwa asilimia 95 ya watu

wenye VVU na UKIMWI wanaishi katika nchi zinazoendelea. Tanzania ambayo ni mojawapo ya nchi zinazoendelea imepata pigo kubwa kutokana na gonjwa hili ambapo idadi ya watoto yatima imekuwa ikiongezeka na kiwango cha utegemezi kimeongezeka sana.

“Zuia UKIMWI: Timiza Ahadi Yako” ilikuwa kauli mbiu ya siku ya UKIMWI duniani kwa mwaka jana. Ujumbe huo unazitaka serikali na watunga sera wote kuhakikisha kuwa wanafikia malengo waliyokubaliana katika kupambana na UKIMWI. Asasi za Kijamii hazikuachwa pembeni kama watazamaji waliokaa kimya katika kupambana na janga hili. Kuna umuhimu wa kuungana pamoja na kukusanya rasilimali za kusaidia kupunguza unyanyapaa na kiwango cha maambukizi.

Tanzania inakadiriwa kuwa na zaidi ya watu milioni 2 wanaoishi na Virusi vya UKIMWI au waliokufa kwa UKIMWI. Pamoja na kwamba ugonjwa huu uligunduliwa kwa mara ya kwanza mwaka 1983, ni mpaka mwaka 2001 ndipo ulipotangazwa rasmi kuwa ni janga la kitaifa. Jitihada za kupambana na ugonjwa huu zinatakiwa kuwashirikisha pia wanajamii wale ambao hawajaathirika na virusi. Mikakati iliyopangwa ya kupambana na ugonjwa huu ni pamoja na uhamasishaji wa jamii, mbinu za kuzuia, matibabu na huduma kwa watu wanaoishi na virusi vya UKIMWI.

Tunaalikwa kuungana katika kutekeleza ujumbe wa siku ya UKIMWI duniani ambao tunautafakari na kuutekeleza ktika mwaka huu. Yatima na watoto wanaotoka katika mazingira magumu wanayo haki ya kupata elimu bora, huduma za afya na kuishi katika mazingira mazuri ambayo yatawafanya wafurahie maisha. Kwa hiyo ni jukumu letu sote kupambana na ugonjwa huu na kuwatunza watoto wanaoishi katika mazingira magumu katika maeneo tunayoishi na kufanyia kazi. Watoto hawa ndio viongozi na watawala wa kesho. Jitihada za ziada inabidi zitumike kwa sasa ili kuokoa hali hiyo kwani kama tukiachia hali hiyo kuendelea itatushinda hapo baadaye.

Watoto wengi yatima na wale wanaoishi katika mazingira magumu, wanaishi na babu na bibi zao ambao hawawezi tena kuwapatia mahitaji yao muhimu kama vile chakula, elimu, afya na malazi. Wazee hawa pia ni tegemezi na wanahitaji kupatiwa huduma hizo. Wazee hawa wakiachwa bila msaada watajisia maisha yao

yamesahauliwa na hivyo kukata tamaa ya maisha.

JE, MSICHANA MWENYE MIMBA HARUHUSIWI KUFANYA MTIHANI WATAIFA?

Na: Velen Lwiva – Songea

Kumekuwa na mijadala mirefu nchini Tanzania kuhusu watoto wa kike wanaopata mimba wangali bado wanasoma. Baadhi ya wanaharakati wamekuwa wakiwatetea waendele na masomo hadi wamalize japokuwa sheria za nchi zinawazuia kuendelea na masomo. Suala hili halijapatiwa ufumbuzi pamoja na Elimu kuwa haki ya msingi kwa kila mtoto bila ubaguzi wa aina yoyote.

Matatizo ya kiuchumi na kijamii aliyokuwa akipambana nayo msichana huyu yalimpeleka kwenye ujauzito. “Nilikuja kutambua kwamba msichana huyo alikuwa ni mtoto yatima aliyepoteza wazazi wake miaka michache iliyopita. Alikuwa yeye ndiye mtafutaji na kwamba familia iliyoachwa ilimtegemea yeye. Ninaufurahia werevu wake na uwazi aliokuwa nao. Alithubutu kuelezea historia yake na kuomba msaada ili aweze kuruhusiwa kufanya mtihani wake wa kumaliza elimu ya msingi. Ilikuwa ni vigumu sana kwangu kama mwanaharakati kumsaidia huyu binti mwenye mimba ili afanye mtihani wake kwani nilijua sheria ya nchi hairuhusu wanafunzi wa aina yake kufanya mtihani”, alieleza Velen.

Velen sasa anafurahi kwamba jitihada zake hazikugonga mwamba. Msichana huyu alifanya mtihani wake vizuri na kuchaguliwa kujiunga na shule ya wasichana ya serikali. Alitarajiwa kujifungua Februari mwaka huu. “Kama mwanaharakati pamoja na shirika la STOF kazi yetu kubwa ni kujadiliana na uongozi wa shule ili kuhakikisha kwamba nafasi yake inahifadhiwa. Tunayashukuru mashirika yote pamoja na wanasiasa walioungana kwa pamoja kuhakikisha kwamba haki ya msichana huyu ya kupata elimu haipotei. Kilichobakia sasa hivi ni kumsaidia huyu msichana ili aweze kuendelea na masomo yake ya sekondari”, anaelezea mama huyu ambaye shirika lake linajishughulisha na watoto yatima.