

Capacity Building for Research and Action at Local Level

Mrs. Philipina Labia is the Director for Faraja Human Development Tanzania, a Civil Society Organization (CSO) based in Dodoma region and operating in Tanzania since 2005. The CSO deals with advocacy and community awareness in different development sectors with focus on Education sector and Vulnerable Children.

The CSO is a member of TEN/MET and builds capacity for School committees in Dodoma. Faraja received capacity building through trainings and exchange visits to strong national organizations such as Haki Elimu. Through TEN/MET's capacity building some short and long-term changes have been observed. *"We were trained and as a result we have been able to raise awareness for school committees. Through this we have learned a lot of new things like nutrition in schools and role of government and stakeholders. We are also able to follow up and monitor nutritional issues at schools"*.

At community level, the CSO has played a key role in creating awareness to parents and community members at large on their role in advancement of quality of and access to education. *"We sensitize the community on various aspects such as their contribution to enhancing access and quality of education with a special emphasis on girl child education"*. The gender sensitive approach has been employed in education sector to ensure equity in access for both girls and boys. Issues sensitive to girls such as early pregnancy and prevention are on top agenda during sensitizations.

Research for evidence based advocacy and planning was one of the areas addressed through TEN/MET capacity building efforts. This had impact at an organizational and individual level. *"Thanks to TEN/MET we have been able to conduct researches and I have coordinated a number of studies in collaboration with other partners such as TWAVEZA. My level of confidence has significantly improved as I can now present in big conferences"*.

Several initiatives and changes have materialized through TEN/MET at organizational level (Faraja), at national and community level. However, few areas are mentioned for more improvement as to achieve bigger impact. This includes more capacity building on documentation, information sharing in both local and international language, and fundraising.