



HAKIKAZI CATALYST

**Knowledge
Action
Change**

A CHALLENGE

“Many problems related to democracy in Africa are rooted in ignorance and insufficient education....Citizen influence and oversight must be cultivated through civic education. At present, the state of civic education in Tanzania is far from being satisfactory. I, therefore, challenge the non-governmental stakeholders to think about appropriate ways to develop citizens’ influence and oversight on governance through responsible civic education.”

President Benjamin Mkapa

KARIBUNI

Welcome to the first edition of the Hakikazi Catalyst newsletter, which replaces our information bulletin. Every three months we will update our partners, friends and stakeholders with news of the focus areas, activities and plans of the organization as it heads towards its fifth anniversary. We hope you will enjoy it. Let us know what you think.

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TERRAT SACCOS UP AND RUNNING

The people of Mkonoo and Nadosoito villages in the Terrat area of Arusha Municipal Council area have taken a big step towards financial independence by starting their own savings and credit cooperative societies (SACCOS). This achievement is one of many developments in the area since Hakikazi began mentoring activities three years ago. To sustain this success, Hakikazi has contributed matching funds to the newly formed cooperatives to ensure their financial stability in the first years of operation.

Access to credit is a major constraint facing small producers and traders in the Hakikazi working area. Many small producers find it impossible to retain sufficient money from harvest to planting time to be able to purchase seed and fertil-

izer. In this situation, the availability of credit can make the difference between increased or reduced vulnerability. Likewise, small traders and budding entrepreneurs find it difficult to access the capital necessary to service their businesses.

Hakikazi works with the villagers of Mkonoo, Nadosoito and 13 other communities to identify sustainable livelihoods opportunities within the constraints of their natural and economic environment. A major feature of this work involves encouraging the formation of livelihoods groups who can pool their resources and knowledge for the benefit of all their members.

Once formed, livelihoods groups are in a better position to gain access to sources of funding and to private and pub-



Nadosoito Livelihoods Groups

lic advisory services.

An agricultural group in Mkonoo were encouraged to seek extension advice from their Municipal Council about the techniques and benefits of cultivating drought resistant maize. As a result they succeeded in producing a satisfactory crop during a growing season with low rainfall levels.

Other groups in the village are involved in milk production, sheep farming and tree planting for soil conservation.



PASTORALISTS AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Hakikazi is collaborating with a group of pastoralist civil society organizations to conduct participatory analysis of their institutional and governance capacities.

The Institutional and Governance Learning Group has the support of Development Cooperation Ireland to initiate a process improving the policy influencing skills of pastoralists at both local and national level.

As part of the first phase of the project, Hakikazi is producing three plain language booklets explaining key Tanzanian government policies and policy processes. The booklets will be printed in both English and Kiswahili and are entitled:

- Pastoralism in Tanzania's policy framework
- Pastoralism and the Local Government Reform Programme
- Pastoralism and the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty

They are intended to act as training and facilitation tools to improve the capacity of pastoralist civil society groups to understand the provisions within key policy processes in Tanzania, their relevance for pastoral livelihoods and how best to engage proactively in these processes.

These activities form part of Phase 1 of a 15-20 year programme which aims to reinforce pastoral civil society in East Africa as a whole. Resource Conflict Institute (Reconcile) and the Drylands programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) are implementing this programme with the support of DFID, Swiss Development Cooperation and DANIDA.

Hakikazi has accumulated much experience of working with pastoralists in its core operational area of Northern Tanzania, where they are the focus of conflicts over natural resource use. Conflicts in the laws regarding land manage-

ment have given central government the ability to decide land use issues without local consultation in some cases.

A few settled pastoralist communities have been able to arrive at mutually beneficial arrangements with tourism investors. Others have found their traditional land use rights have been overridden and that hunting or mining concessions have been granted at central government level with little or no benefit accruing to the community.

The implementation of the Local Government Reform Programme may provide an opportunity to ensure that laws are clarified and that natural resource management issues can be decided in a participatory manner at local level.

One of the major challenges to be faced will be the construction of a legal redefinition of the term 'unused land'. At present, central government is operating a policy promoting the use of such land for investment purposes. In many cases,

these lands have been used in a sustainable manner for centuries as seasonal pasture. It is only in recent years that pressures created by the eviction of pastoralists from National Park areas have resulted in overuse of some rangelands. Policies promoting the development of a livestock sector focusing on ranch production will inevitably increase degradation of fragile environments. Integrating sustainable methods of livestock production more effectively into domestic and international markets may produce more sustainable gains to both the livestock sector and the pastoralist community.

Marginalisation of pastoralist communities is not confined to the issue of land. Other facets include poor provision of education and health services. Hakikazi intends to be active in ensuring that pastoralists improve their ability to advocate effectively for their rights in these areas.



Hakikazi Catalyst plain language guides are available on our website:

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KARANGAI - A CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Karangai village in Arumeru District received national TV news coverage recently as a result of progress they have made in improving livelihoods in the past three years.

A delegation from the Government of Zanzibar visited the village on a fact finding mission, bringing the crew from ITV with them. Karangai was selected for the visit by Arumeru District Council as a good example of community mobilization and development.

Hakikazi have been working in Karangai for three and a half years. The intervention has been based on the philosophy that knowledge stimulates action which leads to change.

To create knowledge, Hakikazi disseminated plain language information about policy framework documents such as the PRSP and particular sector policies such as forestry, agriculture and beekeeping.

Policy education acted as a stimulus to the development of action plans. Participatory tools were used to assist the process. Two types of action plans were developed by the Karangai

community.

The first type were a number of topic specific small group plans eg tree nursery, horticulture, goat keeping, brick making. The second type were Village Action Plans aimed at community development issues such as school expansion.

The plans were used as advocacy tools in three main ways. Firstly, village action plans were inserted into the normal, hierarchical local government channels by submitting them to Ward Development Commit-

tees and from there to District Plan level.

However, in some instances plans were fast tracked to Districts in order to lobby for services and advice available at that level.

Thirdly, sector specific plans were used as a basis for accessing funding opportunities such as PADEP.

The result of these actions has been change in the form of community development and improvements in livelihoods.

Livelihoods groups have been formed for both cattle and goat dairying. The goat group corral their animals to reduce environmental degradation. Other groups undertake maize farming, tree planting and vegetable production.

Local people now feel that they have been empowered to take ownership of their development process. Most importantly, they feel that the future holds hope and that they can look forward with confidence.



“The goat keeping project has improved the health of my grandchildren and protected the environment. I can now milk 3 litres in the morning and 3 litres in the evening from one goat, which we use for family consumption and sell some for income. From the sale of the milk and kid goats I was able to build a brick house with a metal roof.”

Mama Ndemanyiso Elirehema
- Karangai Village

PLAIN LANGUAGE NEWS

Hakikazi Catalyst plain language guide authors have had a busy time of late. Guides to the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy and the Tanzania Participatory Poverty Assessment have just been printed.

Several other new booklets are currently in production. These include the guides to the forthcoming National Strategy for Growth and the Reduction of

Poverty (NSGRP), the Poverty and Human Development Report, the Cooperative Development Policy and Act, a joint booklet covering the National Trade Policy and the Small and Medium Enterprise Policy and finally a set of three booklets for use as part of a programme aiming to improve the advocacy capacities of pastoralist organizations. (see article fac-

ing page).

Towards the end of 2004, Hakikazi completed its Land and Natural Resources Syllabus which looked at legislation and policy in the areas of forestry, wildlife and land itself.

Specific booklets were also produced on policies relevant to beekeeping and forestry. These last three booklets, along with

those on Cooperative Development and Trade and Enterprise policies are playing a central role in the implementation of Hakikazi's central advocacy programme, the goal of which is to empower small producers and traders to effectively influence policy and to utilize opportunities provided by policy to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

The recently published National Strategy for Growth and the Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) provides a focus for all government policy and legislation for the next number of years. As such it represents a fresh opportunity for Tanzanian civil society to mobilise in the interests of the poor.

Civil society must assume that there is a genuine political will to implement all aspects of the strategy and that the way forward must be to ensure, through our actions, that this will is translated into concrete results.

By this stage, it is probably safe to say that most CSOs have analysed the NSGRP and its operational matrix in order to identify those recommended actions most immediately relevant to the needs of the marginalized in our society. There will also have been a degree of cross-checking to identify inconsistencies between the strategy and existing policy and legislation

The scope of the document and its role as a keystone for all other policy means that there is no shortage of provisions that could form a focus for effective intervention and monitoring. There are measures aimed at the promotion of the small and medium enterprise sector, improving agricultural market access, harmonizing the land laws and publicising budget allocations on notice boards down to village level - to name but a very few.

The challenge for CSOs is to ensure that people can understand and analyse aspects of the

strategy in a way that enables them to recognise methods of engaging in the processes they describe. The ultimate aim will be to induce positive change by giving ownership of the strategy to those who are most in need of the poverty reduction measures it contains.

One of the most important prerequisites for successful community development is the internal social cohesiveness of that community.

Ideally, communities should enter the process of knowledge building and dialogue about their policy environment as a coherent group. This will increase the capacity available for analysis and for the identification of opportunities. Change, when it comes, will also benefit the maximum number of people.

Importantly, strong and participatory social organization

within a community also increases capacity to hold government accountable for both inaction and inappropriate actions.

Over the next number of months, Hakikazi will be working with small traders and producers who are dependent on natural resources and the environment in order to build their capacity to analyse those policies that are most relevant to their situation. These policies and laws include those relating to land, forestry, agriculture, cooperative development, small and medium enterprises, trade and NSGRP.

Working in our main operational area of Northern Tanzania, the programme will include participatory action research to ensure local and national government accountability in the areas of agriculture and markets.

Community livelihoods capac-



Emmanuel Kallonga, Director, Hakikazi Catalyst

ity building will also feature strongly, as will effective upstreaming of grassroots feedback to existing policies. The programme is scheduled to run until the end of 2006 but our intention will be to maintain working relationships with all target communities on a long term basis.

