



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS TO REDUCE INCOME POVERTY

Communities whose livelihoods directly depend on natural resources are not yet taking advantage of available opportunities from economic growth in Tanzania. Hakikazi is empowering affected communities to help them identify those opportunities and overcome limitations they face in securing sustainable livelihoods.

At Hakikazi we have three overall objectives -

1. To promote public education that creates knowledge and understanding of poverty issues and policies to raise awareness of the poor about their social and economic rights and responsibilities.
2. To facilitate processes of participation, transparency, and accountability that ensure choices and voices of poor communities are included in making decisions about key poverty reduction strategies.
3. To promote sustainable livelihoods and capabilities through processes that foster constructive dialogue and action between the poor and all levels of government on issues affecting income and capability poverty.

From these objectives come our three programmes -

- Zinduka¹ Programme: Knowledge and Understanding for Policy Engagement.
- Community Governance Programme: Action for Accountability.
- Community Livelihood Opportunities.

Community Livelihoods Opportunities

Under this programme we work directly with marginalised communities who are dependant on natural resources, to help them overcome the limitations they face in trying to secure sustainable livelihoods.

Pastoralists and hunter-gatherers (PHG), small producers and small traders are dependant on accessing, using, and owning natural resources for their livelihoods. However, they face a policy environment that limits access to and potential uses of natural resources. This makes them powerless and voiceless in the face of changing natural resources policies (agriculture, land, forestry and wildlife), and trade and investment policies.

The two components of our programme are -

1. Promoting accountability over natural resource management.
2. Participatory action research and planning to enhance livelihood opportunities.

“Sound natural resource management that enables sustainable use of resources will enhance poverty reduction activities and livelihoods diversification.”

**Emmanuel Kallonga,
Director, Hakikazi Catalyst**

Promoting Accountability Over Natural Resource Management

Rationale: Key policies related to natural resource management entitle PHG, small traders and small producers to various benefits which they are currently not accessing. These communities are also subject to changes brought about by privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation. They need -

- Access to information and knowledge about the relevant policies and challenges to their existing livelihoods.
- Skills to exact accountability.
- The chance to think through ways on how to secure better livelihoods in the future.

Key decision makers at local and national level need enhanced understanding of issues to do with limitations on the access, use and ownership of natural resources for neglected and isolated communities. This will work towards a conducive policy environment for these groups to access their social and economic rights.

Our Goal for 2004: We will empower 6 communities of PHG, small producers and traders with information and knowledge about natural resources policies and on-going reforms that create livelihoods opportunities or limitations, and enable those communities to act on them.



Emmanuel Kallonga discovers how raising seedlings is reducing income poverty in Karangai.

Photo: Lorelee Hyde

What has Hakikazi done so far in 2004?

1. We are working with **groups in four villages** to develop their **knowledge on natural resources policies**: Karangai (Arumeru District); Mererani (Simanjiro); Ngejusosia and Terrat (Arusha Municipal). We will also work with two villages in Monduli District.
2. We are digesting **Trade and Investment Policies** as a first step in **popularising these in plain language** and producing in simple guides for dissemination.
3. We also plan to digest, popularise and disseminate the **National Policy for a Competitive Economy** and the **Small and Medium Enterprise Development Policy**.

¹ Zinduka is Swahili for 'wake up or be aware'.

Participatory Action Research and Planning to Enhance Livelihood Opportunities

Rationale: New opportunities are opening up which may have the potential to improve the livelihoods of PHG, small traders and small producers. Those affected need to have the opportunity to identify the opportunities and assess their feasibility. The impact of HIV/AIDS is a significant constraint on the opportunities which are feasible, and any action planning needs to take this into account.

Our Goal for 2004: We will enable 18 sub-village level communities of PHG, small traders and small producers to carry out participatory performance monitoring on natural resources policies to enforce good governance and accountability.

What has Hakikazi done so far in 2004 ?

1. We are **preparing community based organisations** for the monitoring.
2. We have **introduced the project** to the communities.
3. The next steps are to **train the communities** on monitoring, and then **carry out the monitoring** over the next 6 months.

Networking with other NGOs and Institutions

We are also advocating for pro-poor policy and practice changes in environmental, trade and investment policies that reflect community opinions and choices by -

- Working with daily Kiswahili and English newspapers to produce articles on good governance of natural resources.
- Facilitating interface meetings between villages and lower level government officials on environment and land use issues and conflicts.
- Establishing a relationship with a community radio station in Arusha to obtain airtime for discussion on issues.
- Producing a plain language guide to the Land and Natural Resources Syllabus.
- Taking an active role in the Wildlife Working Group.
- Working with the Arusha Poverty & Environment Committee.
- Holding monthly colloquia on livelihoods issues, the most recent being the impact of HIV/AIDS on livelihoods.



Photo: Loralee Hyde

A small trader in Karangai has her say on skills and resources needed by her group to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

Who has Benefited?

We have established working relationships with 46 livelihoods groups, with each group having an average of 35 people. In Mererani we are working with 200 people.

Together with the Arusha Poverty & Environment Committee, 1,849 people in total are benefiting from Hakikazi's facilitation.

With an average of 4.5 people per household (2002 Population and Housing Census), we are identifying opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for over 8,300 people.

Policy Makers and Marginalised Communities need Answers to these Key Questions -

1. Are new economic opportunities for rural communities being created by current natural resources management reforms in order to improve their livelihoods?
If not what can communities do?
2. Are natural resource management institutions operating effectively and sustainably so that they will ensure the security of livelihood opportunities?
If not what can be done, at community, local and national levels?
3. Is governance improving in a way that it can meet both the development challenges brought by privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation, and the prosperity of local communities?
4. What constraints exist that prevent the poor from accessing benefits, and what would constitute an appropriate response?

Constraints Identified So Far

- Land alienation.
- Rights denied on deciding what crops to grow, for example, being allowed to grow coffee only.
- Lack of collateral capital.
- Lack of marketing infrastructure for agriculture, livestock and trading goods.
- Inability to buy inputs, for example, fertiliser and seeds.

Actions Identified So Far

- Lobbying for land rights where access and use is restricted.
- Strengthening livelihoods groups to improve their power to attract grants and loans.
- Providing feedback to decision makers.

What Next?

To meet our objectives at Hakikazi, we will continue to promote sustainable livelihoods by-

1. Enabling communities to identify livelihood limitations and opportunities.
2. Promoting activities that help to strengthen capabilities, assets and incomes required for sustainable livelihoods.
3. Advocating for an enabling environment that empowers communities to access, use and own natural resources.

You are invited as an individual or as a group to respond to the Key Questions above or to make any other comments. Send your responses to Hakikazi Catalyst, P O Box 781, Arusha or email hakikazi@cybernet.co.tz