

# AcT Accountability in Tanzania Programme

## News Updates

### New Partners

The month of October saw an increase in the number of AcT partners to almost double. AcT signed on seven new partners, which makes a total of seventeen CSO partners. These partners work in different areas of the community ranging from women and children's rights to agriculture. They are; Café Africa, Equality for Growth, Caucus for Children's Rights, HelpAge International, SNV, Norwegian Church Aid and HakiKazi Catalyst. Please visit our website for more information about the individual organisations and their specific areas of focus.

The addition of new partners not only marks an increase in the number of our CSO partners, but also helps in further strengthening the potential synergy between our partners' work and efforts. With the establishment of the 'Working Groups' based on the Learning Strategy (soon to be launched on the AcT website), partners will be able to collaborate with each other on areas of mutual interest and share ideas/experiences of what has worked and what has not and why in terms of strengthening accountability.

### Impact of Mass Communication

During several of our Learning events, AcT has seen a growing interest among its partners towards the use of social media as a means of communication. It is therefore, not surprising that some of our partners who are already using these forms of communication have been able to achieve some impact in the communities that they work in. Some examples include;

- Through its SMS hotline, Daraja received 829 SMS in its six month pilot period which resulted in 12 water points being fixed and subsequently providing water to 24,000 people.
- TNRF's documentary, "People have Spoken: Voices from Loliondo" received over 11,000 hits on You Tube which persuaded Councilors to stand in support of their communities and resist a central government plan to evict them from their land in contravention of the Village Land Act.
- HakiElimu's media report on sexual abuse in a school in Kagera resulted in the issue being raised by MP's in parliament discussions.

## Partner News

- **Search for Common Ground (SFCG):** Following completion of its scoping mission (of which some of AcT partners were interviewed), SFCG has now been signed up by AcT and is funded under the Strategic Opportunities Facility. SFCG aims to produce a series of television soaps that will promote gender sensitizations and promote attitudes that are favorable to women's growth. Some AcT partners might again be involved in the curriculum development process of the programme.
- With the increased popularity of television and radio shows, the programme aims to reach at least 2 million television viewers and 8.7 million radio listeners. To learn more about SFCG, visit [www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org)
- **Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF):** Through the breakfast debates hosted by Policy Forum and partly facilitated by TNRF, TNRF has created space for civil society to be involved in the development of the REDD strategy in Tanzania. The Institute of Resource Assessment requested TNRF to develop a proposal for coordinating lessons learning between nine NGO pilot projects that are implementing REDD in the country. For more information on this, contact Carol Sorensen at +255 27 2503053 or visit <http://www.tnrf.org/groups/projects/redd/resources?group=21123>

## SNIPPETS

- The governance issues of climate change and the environment are to become a new focus area within AcT. Dedicated funding for this focus area is being provided by DFID and Danida. We expect to make a public announcement soon as to when AcT will be open to receive CSO applications in this area. The standard AcT application will apply with CSOs required to submit a big idea for change.
- Necodimus Chipfupa resigns as HelpAge International's Country Programme Director, and takes over as a regional director in Southern Africa.
- Uwezo presented the finding of its second country wide assessment of children's education level on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011. For more info, visit <http://www.uwezo.net/index.php?i=263>
- To learn more on outcome mapping and hear stories from organizations that use this tool, AcT encourages you to join the Outcome Mapping Community by visiting <http://blip.tv/outcomemapping/introduction-to-outcome-mapping-5682166>

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