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## ENVIRONMENT AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

### 1.0 Introduction on Environment Program

Environment program is the program implemented by Youth Peacemakers to educate people to protect the environment through:

- forming environmental groups at schools
- educating VICOBA groups on the protection of the environment
- Training and educating people on using other alternative way of getting source of energy and light. For example use of solar for light and bricks for alternative energy.

The aim is to have better environment in our communities so that people will be able to improve their life. Destruction of environment can cause climate change and lead to soil erosion, lack of rain fall, flood and or drought. Such results can affect human activities and cause misery such as extreme poverty, poor farm yielding and production, disease and death.

### 2.0 PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

#### 2.1 Planned activities on environment program

2.2 Under this program we have worked towards training the school pupils and students at different levels in and around the communities.

Shukilai Environmental club which is located 10Km from our office was visited, trained and supported in establishing a nursery tree.

As part of the motivation and follow up; in February we received guest from Norway who were the students from Valdres *Folkehogskole*. They visited other schools such as Ngwelo B, TOT'S training at Korogwe, Mlalo, Shume and got a chance to meet with VICOBA groups and tending groups. They saw/and commended the work being done by the YPM and much more the environmental club and they planted trees together with them as part of contribution in protecting the environment.



*Valdres Folkehogskole students visited YPM program at Lushoto*

Also we received Young Peace Performance (YPP) group who came from Norway, Sri lanker, and Palestine. They visited some of the schools in Lushoto District including Mhelo primary school, Irente Blind primary school, Prince Clause secondary and Shukilai primary. They also got chance to visit Handeni District where they visited Eastern Arc primary, Jitegemee primary, Handeni secondary and Community college. The aim of the visit was to learn and observe on how the work on advocacy and related issues concerning the environmental protections, Peacemaking, VICOBA and S2C are carried and having impact to the target communities by YPM.



*Young peace performance at Youth Peace Makers Tanzania*

YPM managed in the year 2015 to extend her area of implementation by visiting Mkinga District. As part of the plan the activities on Democratic Citizenship, Economic Justice, Just Peace and Environmental Justice were given due priority. There was formation, training and support to environment groups at Mwakikonge and Mwakikoya primary schools and to form another new group at Horohoro vijijini Primary school. It was learnt that the groups are doing well and they started tree seedbeds and also educate other students and the society on environmental protection through traditional songs and dance. The big challenges they face is scarcity of water at Mkinga District.



*Environmental groups at Mkinga and Handeni Districts and their established seedbeds*



*P.O for environment and advocacy during training in Mkinga. Environment club at Mwakikonge educate other students*



*Members, speaker on Breakfast meeting at Mkinga District about illegal migrates*

On 29<sup>th</sup> May we had the breakfast meeting at Lushoto District and we discuss on issue of “*Faida na changamoto za kukusanya ushuru katika Wilaya ya Lushoto na nini Kifanyike?*” The meeting was attended by the officers from Lushoto District, business men and women, representatives of vehicle owners (public transports) and the drivers and motorcycles representative (*Bodaboda*). We compared the development of Lushoto District and the levies and duties collected in Lushoto. There was also identified a gap that there are no meetings on income and expenditures as feedback to people. Also there is collection of double taxation for those who have business in the area demarcated within the

gate. At the end of the meeting we formed tax force to make a follow up of what has been discussed and the tax force collected name from those who are paying tax to make suggestion and request to the District executive officer to change the system.



*Contributors and main speakers on 29<sup>th</sup> May breakfast meeting at Lushoto District*

On 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June we had the PETS training conducted at Lushoto District the training includes people from Lushoto District, Korogwe, Handeni and Mkinga Distrists the objective of this training was to teach the community to be accountable at grass root level. Also they learned about the proposed constitution, entrepreneursh and stop poverty campaign.



*PETS seminar at Utondolo*

On 26<sup>th</sup> June we had another breakfast meeting at High Land Hotel Lushoto to discuss about the environment in Lushoto District. The speaker was the environmental officer from Lushoto District who explained about the by-laws which protect the enviornment. It was learnt that thought there are good laws, there were like toothless dog. In practice these are the reasons for the people to continue to pollute the environment. We also form the environment task force and mobilized people to clean their houses and working places to keep the environment clean.



*Members of the breakfast meeting who attended discussion on Effects and Impacts of Environmental Degradation from Family to International levels.*

In June there was a sports camp for a football team who were preparing themselves for the East African Cup at Moshi. The Program Officer took opportunity to train, lobby and introduce the group on environmental changes and related issues. She visited the camp with YPP participant 2014 Mr. Dickson Hizza and taught them on top of Environmental agenda, about S2C, Stop Poverty campaign and the power of Youths engagement for accountability at community level. The youth from the camp were so excited because apart from doing exercise for their preparation they also got time to learn useful things for their future.



*Youth Peace Makers football team at Irete camp during the training visitations and preparations camp.*

There was also a breakfast meeting at Handeni District held in December. The topic was about the Protection of the environment and availability of water at Handeni District. Due to the environmental destruction Handeni is facing the huge problem of scarcity of water. Due to that reason and the request from stakeholders from Handeni we conducted the breakfast meeting so as to discuss reasons and the consequences of the environment destruction and what can be done. On that meeting which also involved members from Handeni District we observed that in Handeni there is not enough knowledge on environmental by-laws and/or specific laws which are followed to protect the environment.



*Second speaker present during the meeting*



*member of the meeting contributed on topic*

### **3.0 SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES**

#### **3.1 Success**

- The program was in many ways positively received in most visited schools
- Succeeded to form YPM environment clubs 2 in secondary school and 9 in primary schools
- Succeeded to establish trees nursery in schools
- Succeeded to plant around 370 trees around the school areas and community areas in districts of operations
- Succeeded to conduct breakfast meeting at the end of each month in Lushoto, on May at Mkinga District and December at Handeni District.
- Increased number of people using solar to protect the environment.

#### **3.2 Challenge facing the program**

- Low co-operation from some of the environment teachers/patrons.
- Drought in some areas such as Mkinga and Handeni become the challenge on establishment of nursery trees and planting of small plants.
- Soil erosion
- Transfer of co-operative teachers to other working stations by employers
- Lack of knowledge on how to establish the trees nurseries.
- Lack of monitoring of teachers to what has been done by students.
- Lack of solar panels to continue supplying those in need.
- Poor sending back of knowledge by some representatives of the centers after trainings.

### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION**

#### **4.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- To have more physical follow up on program activities
- To conduct seminar about the environment to the environment teachers and students
- To participates in Global environment week
- To have beehive to protect the water sources

- **To have environmental clubs competition.**
- **To participate in general clearness every month**

#### **4.2 CONCLUSION**

The environment and advocacy program was successfully in 2015 because we succeeded to form the environmental and S2C clubs at schools in Lushoto, Handeni and Mkinga Districts. The breakfast meetings that were conducted helped to rise awareness to the people and solve the problems occurred in the communities. Educating the civil society to be accountable on making the follow up of their resources at grass root level for better development was an exceptional achievement for the growth of targeted communities.