

Partnerships and innovative financing key to Tanzania's water-smart future

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE annual 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG) Tanzania Partnership meeting, held last week, closed with calls for increased partnership and innovative financing to propel Tanzania's water-smart future.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and supported by the 2030 Water Resources Group Tanzania Partnership, the meeting convened over 100 stakeholders from the public sector, private sector and civil society to discuss ways to collectively strengthen water resource management throughout the country.

Although Tanzania is not classified as a water stressed country, high rainfall variability regularly plunges some regions, central to the country's economy, into severe seasonal drought.

Increased demand on existing resources is further exacerbated by inefficient and rapid irrigation in addition to climate change.

The Ruaha River, for example, is drying up. More water than needed is abstracted, only 20 per cent of which is productive.

Meanwhile, water sources in the Pangani Water Basin are already limited on per capita basis and future pressures are growing due to increased demand from commercial and urban water users.

In the face of these challenges, the government has been working to deliver a comprehensive water sector development strategy geared towards national objectives.

Increased efficient workflows are helping utilities to better ensure sustainable water supply and sanitation, while more defined responsibilities within the Ministry of Water and waste water companies



Participants at the 2030 Water Resources Group Tanzania Partnership Annual meeting held in Dar es Salaam to discuss partnerships for water-smart growth. File photo

are driving enhancements.

Newly established monitoring and advice mechanisms are further improving water quality and economically sound management practices.

Speaking about the country's water resource management efforts, Eng Isack Kamwelwe, Deputy Minister for Water and Irrigation, praised 2030 WRG Tanzania partnerships related to the river basins of Pangani and Great Ruaha together with support for financing efficient irrigation for small-scale farmers.

He stated: "Water is a crucial resource with great implications for

socio-economic development. This partnership can play a major role in bringing positive results for water resource management."

He especially commended the participation of private sector representatives in the partnership meeting and observed: "This shows how committed businesses are to join hands with the government, development partners and civil society to tackle water challenges facing the private sector and the nation at large."

Meeting participants discussed best practice and local success stories such as that of Serengeti Breweries and Olam's Aviv Tanzania

Coffee Plantation supported by partners such as Water Witness International and the Alliance for Water Stewardship.

Jane Joseph, an independent water resource management consultant, explained how civil society organisations are working with Serengeti Breweries to promote water stewardship standards through certification process supported by the partnership.

She explained: "Serengeti Breweries have strong plans to reduce water usage in their processing systems. They have worked with Shahidiya Maji and

Water Witness International to develop partnerships with other water users around their plants, especially in relation to groundwater challenges."

The government is working with the public-private-civil society 2030 Water Resources Group Tanzania Partnership and the International Water Stewardship Programme to develop financing instruments for water-efficient smallholder agriculture in an effort to create funding for research, pilots and feasibility studies and promote international best practices from irrigation financing schemes.

Lucy Magembe, senior policy advisor at The Nature Conservancy civil society organisation, underlined the importance of having resources to tackle the water stress affecting both urban and rural areas: "We have to think about sustainable finance for water resource management. Smart finance mechanisms are key to funding initiatives for tackling water insecurity, supply challenges, growing demand and environmental degradation."

Two new partnerships launched earlier this year—the Joint Great Ruaha Restoration Campaign and the Kilimanjaro Water Stewardship Platform—are further expected to contribute valuable solutions to the country's water challenges in their respective regions.

The 2030 Water Resources Group is a global public-private-civil society partnership with the goal to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030. The 2030 WRG was invited in 2013 by the government of Tanzania to help strengthen water resource management through the development of a solution-oriented multi-stakeholder partnership.

The Ministry of Water is driving the initiative along with senior members of the private sector and civil society. Global partners include bilateral agencies (such as Sida), private companies (including Nestlé, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola and SABMiller), development banks (such as the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank), international non-governmental organisations and income-generation projects.

The 2030 WRG was launched in 2008 at the World Economic Forum and has been hosted by IFC since 2012.

"We have to think about sustainable finance for water resource management. Smart finance mechanisms are key to funding initiatives for tackling water insecurity, supply challenges, growing demand and environmental degradation."

Project funded by FCS helps in fight HIV/Aids stigma in Mwanza's lake-side district

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT, MWANZA

TANZANIA'S rural community is a beehive of activities. And to prove this you should not only count the number of organisations that discharge their activities in this social enclave, but also look at the kind of problems being addressed.

Some of the problems could be solved merely by leaders holding a political meeting with residents. But other social problems need just more than that.

Problems that have to do with HIV/Aids checks, and poverty eradication cannot merely be solved by a political meeting or a social gathering.

They need a form of organisation that is pretty more instituted than that and going deep into the grassroots. And that is where Umoja wa Vikundi vya Vijana Vya Uzalishaji Mali Uelimishaji Rika Magu (UVUUMA) comes in.

Sylvester Kakinda, who is the Executive Director of this non-governmental organisation traces its historical background to 2000 when it was founded in Magu District, Mwanza Region before its registration in 2011.

Subject poverty and HIV/Aids being prevalent in this lakeside district, the founders were of the view that the establishment of this organisation would help the indigenous people, especially the youth to overcome those social menaces through empowerment. It was therefore thought that this NGO should hinge its strength in knowledge imparting about HIV/Aids and its governing laws.

The way to get rid of these problems has not been an easy task, says Sylvester Kakinda, the executive director of UVUUMA.

"It was therefore deemed necessary that partners in undertaking such projects should be sought for funds and material sourcing," he says.

"That is how the FCS came in, not only as a funder, but also as a facilitator," he adds.

UVUUMA started to work with FCS in mid 2014 for a project that involved capacity building and advocacy

programme on the laws relating to HIV/Aids. On coming to conclusion in June 2015 the project had published brochures that were used to educate and empower the people in the district.

At least four other activities were done by this organisation on this district bounding Lake Victoria.

Not only 36 groups of people living with HIV/Aids and vulnerable children were training. But also funds as financial loans to them and the organisations helping them were provided.

Orphans were given access to better education services by providing them with learning tools such as pencils, mathematical sets, text and exercise books, school bags and uniforms.

The Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS) did not stay aside. It chopped in and extended its long hand. It funded the conducting of the workshops, meetings to impart knowledge to the youth and the HIV/Aids victims on their rights besides providing medicines and monitoring their operations.

The works of any organisation is measured by the weight of its output. And so is that of UVUUMA.

Between 2014 and 2016, UVUUMA managed to create a remarkably wide awareness to 9,619 people, a figure which has not been reached by many community based NGOs.

As if that was not enough, it empowered them by conducting different activities for their welfare, touching especially, the youth, orphans and other socially vulnerable groups in the fields of knowledge and their rights.

In so doing it has, for instance, conducted training, held meetings, dialogues and workshops with the HIV/Aids stakeholders including Local Government officials, health facilities operators, community groups and civil society organisation members.

Kakinda adds that over the period, UVUUMA reached people in 19 wards within the district in the course of implementing capacity building and advocacy programme in HIV/Aids funded by the FCS alone.

The wards include Mwamanga, Kisesa, Bukandwe, Bujashi, Kongolo and Lutale.



Umoja wa Vikundi vya Vijana Vya Uzalishaji Mali Uelimishaji Rika Magu (UVUUMA) staff members in a discussion with consultants from the Foundation for Civil Societies on the fruits of the latter's grants to the non-governmental organisation for the year 2016. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The success of any programme is measured by those to whom it has been administered. And this is what they had to say about the work of UVUUMA.

Victims of HIV/Aids expressing their gratitude to the organisation say, for instance, they would appreciate to have more advocacy workshops conducted so that they would do away with the discriminatory experienced by the victims in society.

They said this during a three-day stakeholders' workshop on HIV/Aids, organised by UVUUMA on April 14, last year in the headquarters of the lake-side district.

They say such workshops would keep abreast with issues pertaining to their fundamental and basic rights.

Kisesa Ward nurses and medical assistants would not want to remain back. They say such workshops should be conducted regularly so as to boost the image and importance of their professions.

A drumming person is useless if they run the show without an accompanied dancing partner. So is the same with medical practitioners—without NGOs to mobilise the people on how to attend to their health any work by the former would hardly bear fruit, they aver.

Michael Makungu, the administrative and human resources officer with the group says that to promote their activities they have managed to procure modern working tools like laptops, printers, camera and office desks through a FCS financial assistance.

As part of its registered achievements, he adds, the group has managed to facilitate the formation of 18 groups in Magu District out of the knowledge imparted by FCS on the importance of creating innovative skills.

"Through the group's tailored programmes, knowledge on loan facilities, agriculture and awareness on the HIV/Aids laws and reduced discrimination were imparted to these," he says.

This is testified by small representative groups of Wita, Kitumba and Igekemaja villages which say that they learnt to stop discriminating HIV/Aids victims and protect the rights of vulnerable groups after attending the organisation's workshops.

Another area where they have enjoyed FCS' sponsorship is on public finance management.

UVUUMA Executive Director contends that through training on accounts and funds management, they now can make payments in cheques

and not cash only.

More that was done by the organisation is how to develop a financial policy, using monitoring and evaluation tools and how to draft business proposals.

Not only that, Onesmo Mucheyo, an accountant with the group, insists that FCS has improved their network as they have managed to meet more people and face more organisations in the course of working with it.

For example, in capacity building workshops organised by the group, officials got the chance to interact with other NGOs and CSOs and shared with them knowledge and plans on how to serve the community well.

Kitumba Village Councilor having attended the capacity building and advocacy workshop says the group empowered them with the knowledge on the laws relating to HIV/Aids, rights and treatment of the victims.

They say challenges are the mother of all inventions. This is what UVUUMA had gathered in the course of implementing the projects.

Programme officer Peter Mashauri says that inadequate financial resources have been a problem, especially after the end of the project.

This is because there are no

continuing projects that may help the group to continue with the project activities for the welfare of the community.

The rule against the repetition of a programme excludes the rest of the community members who are not covered in the programme to benefit from the activities conducted in the same after it trails off because the grantee is forbidden to do so.

Makungu, further contends that geographical situation is another factor in that often it hinders them to carry out project activities in many district wards because of the distance between them.

Kakinda, thanking the FCS for their continuous support to them and other Civil Societies Organisations urged them to continue imparting knowledge and giving them financial support.

On the group's way forward, they say, FCS should conduct many more trainings on HIV/Aids so as to be able to reach more people who are in need of their services.

He recommends that FCS should conduct workshops on how to construct strategic plans to ease the carrying out of activities in the course of serving the community.

Kakinda explains that UVUUMA intends to develop its innovative skills to avoid dependence on donor funds, besides creating more sources of generating income.

Further to that, he says that the organisation intends to support and develop more groups to easily raise awareness of youth on the appropriate utilisation of resources and self-job creation.

The group also intends to have more branch offices so as to empower communities socially and economically and easily monitor its beneficiaries.

In five years to come, Mashauri insists that the organisation would be able to minimise the spread of HIV/Aids infection to a greater extent as it anticipates to reach more people in the uncovered areas. And who knows- this might be in areas located outside the district.