

Extra Monitoring Report: Masoko May 2012

Executive summary

This report presents the findings from a follow-up visit to respondents who had received information about the capitation grant and Uwezo test through a community activation campaign in 2011. The campaign was conducted by Masoko in 27 districts of five regions in Tanzania Mainland, namely: Pwani, Morogoro, Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma. The visit was conducted from 3 - 5 May 2012 in two districts: Mvomero in Morogoro region and Kibaha in Coast region. Since Masoko had conducted their campaign in the two districts in April 2011 slightly more than a year had passed.

The Masoko/Twaweza partnership objective was to shift citizens' conventional perspective on education which focuses on 'inputs' rather than 'quality', and that citizens should thus take action to make a difference. The follow-up visit was intended to observe the outputs Masoko was supposed to deliver the following outputs:

- a) Conduct a 60-days initiative through public meetings, road shows, school visits and household visits to:
 - Inform, popularize and spur debates on Uwezo findings from the annual learning assessment report for Tanzania 2010.
 - Administer Uwezo tests in schools and let the teachers mark and share results to the students
 - Administer Uwezo tests to the children in households, mark and share the results with the children and parents.
 - Inform and prompt audiences' interest to know what the capitation grant is, how much it is and what it is for. Demonstrate how parents can make follow and give feedback on whether the capitation fund is disbursed to their village schools. Stir debates on options to improve the current situations.
- b) Hold 30 public rallies, at least one in each district but where necessary holding two in large districts.
- c) Circulate and administer 500,000 copies of Uwezo test/tool to the audiences in all gatherings

Key findings

The follow-up exercise was conducted to better understand the effects of Masoko's operations on individuals and communities. A special focus was on whether or not people remembered the message a year after Masoko community activation campaign. Respondents were asked whether or not they remembered the public meetings, road shows, school visits and household visits and what exactly they remembered. We also asked respondents if they knew people or neighbors who participated in the events, and whether they did anything after the event.

The following were the key findings:

- Out of 15 respondents, four remembered participating in either road or cinema shows while 11 respondents remembered hearing from friends and neighbors about Masoko road shows, public meetings and cinema shows.
- All 15 respondents remembered that the message in these shows was about the capitation grant.
- Four respondents said they took action to ask the head teacher about the capitation grant. In Dakawa, for example, a crowd of 30 citizens asked the head teacher how much the school had received in quarter one of 2011. The head teacher had to explain that the school received TZS 223,000 and it had 1,218 pupils (i.e. TZS 183 per pupil). The local leaders in the village took action by asking the Tanzania Teachers' Union Secretary in Mvomero who

confirmed to them that distributing this money (capitation grant) is a government policy aimed at improving primary and secondary education.

- Out of 15 respondents, only one remembered seeing children being given the Uwezo test in his neighborhood. Others, such as Wami Dakawa primary school head teacher did not remember seeing children being tested in his school.

Survey and design sample

Two districts were sampled out of 23 that Masoko conducted the campaign. In each district Masoko was required to hold one campaign and where necessary hold two in large districts (In Kibaha it was Kibaha town and Mlandizi. In both areas we met with respondents.

Fifteen respondents participated in the exercise (5 respondents each in Kibaha and Mlandizi in Coast region and another 5 in Wami Dakawa, Mvomero district in Morogoro region). Respondents recommended fellow respondents. E.g. We started with village chairperson /or village executive officer and asked them about the Masoko campaign. All of them remembered it. Then we asked them to recommend other respondents whom they remember attending or knew about the road/cinema shows and public rallies.

Conclusion

The Masoko community activation campaign has revealed that when citizens get the right information regarding issues of importance to them, they usually act. However, there is a need to find solutions to offer citizens with options (what to do) when their efforts to take action lead nowhere. In the case of Wami Dakawa, citizens were able to ask the primary school head teacher how much the school received. When the head teacher revealed how little the school had received the citizens did not have other options but to calm down with no further action. If they were provided with other options, possibly they could have acted.

Masoko follow-up visit: Interesting quotes and suggestions

1. Mr. Mohamed Mbwiga (Head Teacher - Wami Dakawa)

'You have to ensure that your partners have the right information about particular subject when you agree with them to conduct exercise of this nature. For example they should clearly know the disbursement processes of the capitation money so that the citizen gets to know when the money is not reaching to school, what procedures they should follow.'

2. Dakawa village chairperson

'Masoko brought a chaotic situation at the schools and in the community. They did not inform the village leadership on their intentions to conduct community activation campaign on capitation grant. If Masoko had engaged the village leadership, head teachers and parents all at once to educate them about capitation grants and ask them if they know about it first before accusing the local government authority as well as the head teacher's office of corruption, citizens could not have taken action to go to the head teacher's office and ask about the money.'

3. Joseph Mvulla (Wami Dakawa)

'Twaweza's message on capitation grant could work better if Twaweza make use of mobile phone technology through sending citizens SMS on capitation grant instead of focusing too much on companies like Masoko, radio, TVs and popular booklet distribution. Some radio and TV programs that citizen usually tune play music almost 24 hours a day, so SMS means could work for the capitation grant message.'

4. Gabriel (Kibaha)

'If it is true that capitation money is a government policy, it will never be implemented in full. A few elites will make sure that half of the money enters their pockets.'

5. Fadhili Bakari (Kibaha)

'I attended Masoko cinema shows here in Kibaha town and I remember them telling us that pupils in schools are supposed to get 15,000 to buy books and help school to buy chalks, but I don't believe that thing is true.'

6. Mama Jimmy (Mlandizi)

'I saw people here playing music and talking through loud speaker about money to schools. But I wasn't interested with the subject because I had my own business to attend.'

7. Salum Chuma (Village committee member – Mlandizi)

'The information from Masoko was useful for parents, teachers and students to know about their learning.'