

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

TANZANIA

STEFANIE BRINKEL
JULIE GOUDET

DECEMBER 2017

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Role and Responsibilities of Christian Women for Peace Building and Development

LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN MTWARA

On the 2nd and the 3rd of December 2017 Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the Christian Women's Association "Wanawake Wakatoliki wa Tanzania" (WAWATA) of the diocese Mtwara jointly convened a workshop on the "Role and Responsibilities of Christian Women for Peace Building and Development". The event took place at the Masista Secondary School in Mtwara. More than 60 people took part.

On the first day, the participants arrived at the conference hall after joint morning prayers. Welcome remarks were given by Verena Mahundu, Chairperson of WAWATA in the diocese Mtwara. After a round of self-introductions by all participants, the Bishop of the diocese Mtwara, Titus J. Mdoe, delivered his opening speech and thanked KAS for making this important event for the diocese possible. Subsequently, Erasto Ndeuka, project manager of KAS, elaborated on the objective of the workshop and asked all participants to write down their expectations with regard to the event.



Erasto Ndeuka (KAS) addressing the audience

The first topic of the workshop dealt with self-reflection. Erasto Ndeuka and Stefanie Brinkel, project manager at KAS, gave short presentations and Mr. Ndeuka facilitated a plenary discussion on the topic.

Subsequently, Verena Mahundu elaborated on the position of catholic women in the leadership of the church and in the community (topic 2) and jointly discussed the subject with the participants. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of WAWATA, she additionally gave a short presentation after lunch on how to organize an effective and successful meeting (topic 3). She invited her fellow leaders to share their experiences and agree on joint procedures.

In the course of the afternoon the participants were assigned group work pertaining to opportunities and challenges they are facing in their parishes and on the community level in general. The first day was completed successfully after joint prayers and dinner in the evening.

Isidori Tamba, coordinator in the diocese of Mtwara, and Erasto Ndeuka opened the second day after Sunday prayers in the early morning, by giving a recap of the first training day as well as inputs for the sessions on Sunday. Then, Mr. Ndeuka invited the participants to share their reflections on opportunities, challenges and solutions for WAWATA in their parish. A representative of each parish made a short presentation to present the findings of their group work.

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Among others, it emerged that most parishes cultivate land and raise livestock but struggle to build up their own businesses for development due to a lack of funds, limited access to technologies and lack of skills in the communities.



A participant presenting the result of the group work

Giving a presentation on entrepreneurship skills (topic 4), Erasto Ndeuka encouraged the participants to find solutions by using the resources they have. He suggested to begin with small business operations in accordance to their financial capabilities, and to grow progressively. He also highlighted the advantages of cooperation and solidarity. Parishes can be able to receive technologies or vaccination for the animals by working together and creating a common budget, for example. Additionally, Stefanie Brinkel emphasized the importance of planning and gave the participants some insights into how to develop a business plan. After tea break, Richard Shaba, programme coordinator of KAS, elaborated on leadership and communication (topic 5). He reminded the participant of the importance of communication within and between the parishes. He raised awareness that neglected communication efforts can have severe consequences on relationships, peace and development. Richard Shaba also highlighted the significance of being able to listen to others for good leadership.

Thereafter, Fr. Alfons Holela gave a presentation about leadership in church (topic 6). He highlighted the role of women in church and encouraged the participants to keep up a dynamic spirit of WAWATA. He explained that, for peace building and development, it is necessary that each individual takes ac-

tively part in church and community life and is aware of his or her responsibilities.



Fr. Alfons Holela discussing with the participants

Finally, Fr. Alfons Holela summarized the contents of the two-day event and the participants jointly shaped conclusions, agreements and the way forward. Erasto Ndeuka invited the participants to evaluate the event in light of the expectations they had expressed on the first day. It was found, that nearly all expectations have been met. Verena Mahundu, WAWATA Diocese Leader, thanked KAS for this successful cooperation and expressed her sincere hope that other joint workshops could take place in Mtwara in the future. Bishop Titus Mdoe closed the event by thanking all participants for their commitment and encouraging further efforts for the empowerment of Christian women.



Group photo with the participants; sitting in front (f.l.t.r.): Fr. Patrik Mwaya, Imelda Mrope (vice chairperson of WAWATA in Mtwara), Verena Mahundu (chairperson of WAWATA in Mtwara), Bishop Titus Mdoe, Agnes Nambungu (secretary of WAWATA in Mtwara) and Isidor Tamba (coordinator)



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