

# TMF Newsletter

March 2017

## Message from the Executive Director

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*TMF Executive Director, Mr. Ernest Sungura*

Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), formerly known as Tanzania Media Fund, is an institution that promotes independent, quality, diverse and vibrant media with the aim of promoting public accountability.

It seeks to enable journalists to conduct investigative and public interest journalism, facilitate critical reflection and learning, provide funding to support quality journalism that better informs and encourages the public to demand greater accountability from both public and private entities across the country.<sup>1</sup>

Besides this, it provides grants to individual journalists and media institutions to conduct investigative journalism which results into high quality stories that touch on the lives of the ordinary citizens and prompt action by the Government and other stakeholders.

Upon funding, the grantees are supposed to produce stories that stir up action from the relevant authorities, translating to a positive impact to the concerned villages. More than 80 percent of the TMF supported stories cover rural areas. A story is deemed to be successful if it generates a positive impact in the specific area it originated from.

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*"TMF seeks to enable journalists to conduct investigative and public interest journalism..."*

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## Message from the Executive Director .....Cont'd

I The report you are about to read will show how the stories written by our grantees have changed the lives of the people in their areas of coverage. Owing to their positive impact, these stories are rated as success stories.

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*TMF rural dispatch grant worth \$ 2,000 requires the journalist to go through learning by doing sessions.*

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It is on the basis of this that during the year 2016, the Foundation issued grants to 60 individual journalists across the country to carry out investigative journalism and stories that are of public interest. After the investigations, the grantees then filed reports affecting the lives of people in different areas, including but not limited to the effects of mining in some regions such as Shinyanga and Ruvuma as well as agricultural mismanagement in Kagera. TMF thereafter sent an independent verification team to the areas where the investigations were done to quantify and verify the impact claimed by the grantees' works.

Led by Ms Rose Ngunangwa Mwalongo, the team visited locations in the ten regions covered where it interviewed the sources - leaders and citizens - on the impact of the stories and on whether they had any influence to their lives, or whether the stories had changed the patterns of actions by the authorities.

TMF has five grant categories. The verification team picked stories from 16 individual journalists but was only able to verify stories from 12 journalists, all from the rural dispatch grant category.

The TMF rural dispatch grant worth \$ 2,000 requires a journalist to go through **"learning by doing"** sessions. Such learning events include ideation and pre-story learning sessions which are conducted before heading to the field.

A mid-term review is also conducted in between, followed by post story learning sessions, which are conducted after publication of the story.

During the project, each journalist is assigned a seasoned mentor to guide him or her throughout the story assignment. In the course of the project, the journalist is entitled two full working days, which he/she spends with the mentor as pre-story learning sessions where both, the mentor and the mentee plan the story together.

I trust you will find the impact of the stories covered in this report not only informative but also consequential enough to motivate you to support TMF's work in future.

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## Regions and Areas Covered

The verification team visited ten regions in Tanzania, namely:

- Ruvuma
- Mtwara
- Lindi
- Shinyanga
- Kagera
- Urban West Zanzibar
- Manyara
- Arusha
- Iringa
- Mwanza.

The 12 stories pursued by the rural dispatch grantees and their impacts in areas covered subjected to verification are:

- Effects of Ngaka Coal Mine to Residents - **Ruvuma Region**
- Illegal Oil Trade and Operations and their Impact to the Economic Development of Zanzibar – **Zanzibar**
- How Diamond Barons Use Youths to Steal Sand Containing the gemstones in Kishapu District - **Shinyanga Region**
- Poverty galore among Villagers of Mwendakulima around Buzwagi Gold Mine in Kahama District - **Shinyanga Region**
- Land Disputes between Investors and Citizens in Missenyi District- **Kagera**
- How Village Leaders Take the Lead in Illegal Marijuana Farming and Trade in Ngaramtoni - **Arusha Region**
- Why Coffee Farmers in Kagera will not Benefit from the Crop - **Kagera Region**
- Rising Incidents of Rape and Sodomy in Iringa Urban District - **Iringa Region**
- Can there be Sustainable Food Aid for Starving People in Ngorongoro - **Manyara Region**
- Dumping of Human Waste in Lake Victoria by Ships and Boats and its impact on Health and the Environment - **Mwanza Region**
- Shall Residents of Mtwara Rural District really Benefit from the Mnazi Bay to Dar es Salaam Gas Project? **Mtwara**
- Boundary Dispute between Villagers of Kikulyungu and Selous Game Reserve in Liwale - **Lindi Region**

## 1. Effects of Coal mining to residents surrounding Ngaka mining in Ruvuma

### *What is the story all about?*

If you are walking through a village and every 100m you came across five people coughing, one after every 20m, then your first thought will be to ask yourself whether you are safe in that village. Well, this may very much sound like a hypothetical scenario but in actual fact, this was the case of villagers around Ngaka Coal Mine in Ruvuma region. Owing to the daily explosions at the mine, toxic dust arising from the explosions contaminated water sources surrounding it. Unfortunately, the villagers were on the receiving end in the sense that they became victims of diseases and outbreaks such as coughing and typhoid.

The objective of this story was to prove that indeed the mine's presence in the village was having negative effects to the residents surrounding it.

### *What was the support from TMF?*

Thanks to the contaminated water, a journalist by the name of Albano Midello got word that something was not right at the village, and so he immediately decided to do something about it. His first step was to seek grants from TMF, from where he received a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000 after which he headed for Ruvuma on a fact-finding mission. Under the mentorship of Mr. Ebenezer Mende the journalist was able to successfully complete his assignment

### *What happened in the field of journalistic work?*

Midello went to the field well guided by his mentor with full support from TMF. On reaching there, he engaged a medical doctor at Peramiho Hospital in Ruvuma Region to establish whether coal-mining activities could actually have adverse health effects on the surrounding villagers. The doctor confirmed that all the ailments the villagers suffered were aptly related to coal mining activities.

Midello was not satisfied with the medical proof alone and he sought too look for a second opinion. Fortunately, he bumped into the Village Executive Officer (VEO) who also confirmed that some villagers had indeed been fainting and falling sick while some women had suffered miscarriages.

Besides causing diseases, explosions at the mines had also caused buildings of nearby Ntunduwaro Primary School to develop cracks and at times pupils were forced to seek refuge under the trees as they felt the classrooms were not safe.

When contacted by the grantee, TANCOAL management claimed that the water was safe for drinking as the mining firm was conducting regular tests. But the question was, did TANCOAL themselves conduct their own independent tests?

Not wanting to rely on secondary information, the journalist sought independent water tests for all the water sources in that area from an independent chemist to confirm TANCOAL's claims, an exercise that cost him Tshs. 90,000. The chemist proved that water from all the sources at Ngaka Village had been badly contaminated and recommended evacuation of the villagers from the area.

The journalist also engaged the environment officer for the region to ascertain whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) test was conducted prior to the commencement of mining activities. The officer noted that his office had instructed the mining company to adhere to all regulations, including the EIA, before commencing mining. However, it is not certain whether the officer confirmed whether the EIA was verified to confirm that there would be no negative impact.

Ironically, the officer even went a step further to mention that there was a possibility of fish dying in the rivers due to contamination. Second question that comes to one's mind at this point is, why were the authorities on the ground not being proactive about the negative impact the mining company was having on the environment?

Anyway, armed with all this information and relevant proof, Midello then embarked on compiling six stories, which were published in Habari **Leo Newspaper** on July 2016, Mwenge **Newspaper** in Ruvuma, a media outlet owned by the Roman Catholic Church as well as Uhuru Newspaper.

### ***How has the story triggered accountability?***

Shortly after the publication of the first feature, Midello went to the RC's office where he was informed that the feature stories had prompted him to visit the mine. It was reported that in an attempt to defend the company, the Resident Mining Officer asked for the independent laboratory test results, but his request was denied because there was no consent sought from the journalist. It was later revealed that immediately after the reports appeared, the coal firm suspended its production manager who had claimed that the water was fit for human drinking.

It is important to note that at the time the journalist was doing his fact finding, the villagers informed him that the company had promised them compensation for their confiscated land. However, they also expressed fear that the mine authorities would probably bribe the journalist so that he would leave the news unpublished.

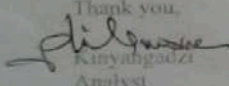
The RC told the TMF team that he was so impressed by the journalist's work and commented that Midello should be recruited to work for the Government.

Bacteriological Parameters							
Feecal Coliform	INTC	2	30	9	6	0	CFU
Sampling Time	02.59pm	03.10pm	04.06pm	04.25pm			
Temperature	20.80	24.40	23.90	24.2	24	25	°C
Coordinates	0522802 9249803	0522802 9249803		0709860 8038242			


From the analysis conducted, it was guided by TBS standards for domestic water


Remarks:  
From all sampling points water identified Feacally contaminated, low dissolved Oxygen and at point 03/2016 water is turbidly

Discussion / Recommendation:  
Prohibit and avoid human activities at Up stream of the river basin from residential area  
Improved shallow well, deep wells (consult hydro-geologist experts) or gravity schemes is highly recommended  
Periodical analysis is recommended  
NB: Bacteriologically water is not suitable for human consumption

Thank you,  
  
Kinyahgaizi  
Analyst

10 July 2016  
Date  
RUVUMA WATER QUALITY LABORATORY  
P. O BOX 42  
SONGEA

  
G. Payovela  
Manager  
Ruvuma Water Quality Services



Results by an independent chemist confirming contamination of water source in Ngaka aresa

*This space has been left out so I can insert the photo of the contaminated water as seen on original report sent to me. I need the original image without the caption on it*



## The Verification Exercise

The verification team interviewed a number of people who gave their testimonies as to the impact the published stories had on the lives of the people. They include Ntunduwaro Village Executive Officer, a villager called John Haule, a ward councilor, and the editor of Mwenge Newspaper. However, the team was unable to meet with Mbinga District Commissioner as he was reportedly away from office having gone to the mine area where he was scheduled to discuss matters pertaining to compensation with the villagers whose land had been grabbed by the company.



During the interviews the verifier found out that the stories had the following impact:

- Mr. Himid Diddy, the production manager at TANCOAL had been accused of being uncooperative and was subsequently suspended after the stories were published;
- Both Ruvuma RC and Mbinga DC made impromptu visits to Ntunduwaro Village immediately after the publication of the stories, as confirmed by the Ntunduwaro Village Executive Officer, Mr. Joseph Herbert Ngali.

*"Midello's work has had a great impact on the lives of all of us around Ngaka Coal Mine as a new water source has been identified at the Kindimba Juu area and a budget has been set aside by the Government to facilitate access to clean and safe water by the villagers. Moreover, TANCOAL mine has constructed water pipes and installed a pump at the mine to pump the water to the village and villagers around here use it as we speak,"* said the VEO as he showed the verifier one of the water taps.



- Ruanda Ward Councilor, Edmound Nditi said: *"TANCOAL mine has identified another water source at Ntunduwaro and the mine is willing to contribute 30m/- for water connections to the village. Previously the budget for water connections from the other source was 314m/- and the mine was willing to share its costs with the municipal council. Regional authorities allocated new plots to 261 villagers of Ntunduwaro in January 2017. The latter had been struggling for several years after they had been evacuated to pave the way for the construction of the mine,"* said the Ward Councilor.
- A local expert, Mr. Erick Mapunda undertook training on October 2016 to enable him to oversee mine explosives, so as to ensure that the mine adheres to TBS regulations.
- The DC paid a visit to the village twice after the said stories were published to discuss the issue of compensation for the land taken by the company from the villagers;
- Sales of **Mwenge** soared as attested by Mr. Oswald Ngonyani - who is the editor for Mwenge Publications, where Midello works as a journalist. He noted: *"Since Midello's stories on the effects of coal mining on people's health were published, sales of our newspaper shot up by 500 copies. We used to sell 3000 copies, but we have been compelled to increase our copies to 3500. We conducted a survey around the region to find out the reasons for the rise in sales and our readers cited the articles on coal mining by Midello. Midello has been working for the newspaper since 2014 but it was only late last year that the sales shot. Midello's name now appear as part of the editorial team,"* the editor said.
- Villagers whose houses were damaged by the explosions in the mines, have been told to list down their names for them to get compensation from the company. Ntunduwaro VEO confirming this during the interview with the verification team said although no timelines on this were given, it was fair to believe that the villagers would be compensated because the Prime Minister has threatened that he would close the mine if it fails to honor its promises; and
- Ruanda Ward Councilor in Mbinga, Mr. Edmound Nditi told the TMF team that, *"Mr. Midello's stories have had a big impact to the community, in that they have acted to awaken the authorities and the people on the causes of the illnesses they have been suffering from – including chronic coughing."*

During a visit to Ngaka Coal Mine on 8 January 2017, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed the following: *"TANCOAL should immediately fulfill their responsibility by providing residents of Ntunduwaro Village in Ruanda Ward with clean and safe water, since their coal-mining activities have resulted in the contamination of the natural sources of water. Failure to this, the Government may be forced to close the mine."*



*Hon. Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, inspects Ngaka Coal Mine during his visit in January 2017 after which he issued a strong statement on water and air pollution in the area.*

Further, the Prime Minister ordered the following:

- That the mine should immediately construct a tarmac road from the coal mine to Kitai to prevent dust from polluting the air which causes health problems to residents of the mining area. On the same note, the road from Ruanda to Lituhi should be repaired;
- The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment must ensure that there is effective implementation of the contract between the National Development Corporation (NDC) and TANCOAL; and
- Mbinga Rural Constituency MP Mr. Martin Msuha, should make a follow up on the duties of the coal mine as stipulated in the contract and ensure that they are fulfilled including the provision of clean and safe water to residents of the surrounding villages. In a word the stories by the grantee have made a huge impact as they have saved lives of 2400 residents of Ntunduwaro village as well as their descendants who would have perished for using contaminated water and inhaling coal dust.

## Conclusion

With \$2,000 support offered to the journalist, the stories published drew the government's attention to the plight of the villagers of Ntunduwaro, which led to its intervention. As a result, thousands of villagers got access to clean and safe water thus averting an impending catastrophe that would have had adverse effects on the entire village.

## 2. Illegal Oil Trade and Operations and their Impact on the Economic Development of Zanzibar

### *What triggered this story?*

In 2012, Zanzibar Revenue Board published a report that claimed that there was an illegal oil trade being carried out in the Isles that resulted in huge tax evasions, subsequently affecting the economic development of Zanzibar. Juma Khamis, a journalist in Zanzibar, came across this report and after seeing the depth of the repercussions cited in the report, he decided to find out more about the illegal trade.

The purpose of this story was to find out whether indeed there was a syndicate of illegal oil trade happening in Zanzibar, and if yes, what strategies would be used to curb it.

### *How did TMF Support the journalist?*

When Juma Khamis tabled his proposal to TMF seeking a grant to help him expose illegal oil trade and operations in Zanzibar, he probably didn't expect the overwhelming support he got. He not only got a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000 but he also got the support of a personal mentor, Mr. Burhani Muhunzi, who was with him every step of the way.

Expressing gratitude to TMF for its remarkable support, he urged it to continue supporting journalists so they could work for the welfare of the community.

### *What happened in the field of journalistic work?*

With the support offered by TMF, Juma managed to write and publish four articles in **Zanzibar Leo** in September 2016, after having interviewed 20 respondents, including oil business companies such as Gapco, Zanzibar Petroleum, and United Petroleum. In addition, he interviewed owners of illegal oil businesses at Kizimkazi Kusini and Mkwajuni, residents of Zanzibar as well as Zanzibar Revenue Board officers.

The aim was not only to verify the claims stated in the 2012 report, but also to highlight the causes and consequences of illegal oil trade operations in the Isles, as well as to give recommendations on how to address the problem.

One of the articles he wrote carried the title, '*Mafuta ya Magendo Yanavyoingia Zanzibar*', translated to mean, "*How illegal oil penetrates into Zanzibar*".

The project was not without obstacles as Juma highlighted that he faced a number of challenges during interaction with the respondents, especially the illegal oil business owners. Poor infrastructure, inadequate human resources, and distance from one point of investigation to another hindered him from carrying out his work smoothly.



## Verification Exercise

The verification team contacted various authorities in Zanzibar to inquire about the impact of Juma's stories. The authorities contacted include the Permanent Secretary, the Zanzibar Revenue Board, an officer at the board, and a resident of Nungwi area.

### How did the stories impact Zanzibar as a whole?

The stories had a remarkable influence on the respective authorities who took action to combat illegal oil import and business in Zanzibar. For instance, the Permanent Secretary confirmed during a telephone interview that,

- *"The four newspaper articles on illegal oil trade led the government to launch an operation to combat illegal oil imports and business in Zanzibar. It was from the reports that the government carried out an operation in November 2016 during which police officers seized 160 drums of illegal oil".*
- He also said that, *"the published stories also helped to strengthen cooperation between the regulatory and law enforcing authorities in the curbing of illegal oil trade in the Isles."*



Mr. Shaaban Yahya, an officer at the Zanzibar Revenue Board, had this to say to the verification team:

- *"The published stories prompted the responsible ministry to communicate with the Board to seek information on the illegal oil trade locations so that necessary action could be taken against the menace.*
- *Secondly, the stories also helped to reduce incidents of illegal oil operations in Zanzibar as they created fear among illegal oil business owners. For instance, some illegal oil trade activities at Mkunguni area have been halted", he said.*

According to Salum Beka, a resident of Nungwi area in Zanzibar, Juma's stories helped to raise public awareness on illegal oil trade.

- *"Prior to reading the articles, I knew nothing on illegal oil trade and operations in Zanzibar. The articles played a crucial role in educating the public about the importance and benefits of engaging in legal oil trade," Beka said.*



A former illegal oil trader who preferred anonymity said: "I learnt that illegal oil trade was hindering efficient collection of revenue through both direct and indirect taxes, hence it was slowing down economic development."

## **Conclusion**

Juma's stories may not have entirely helped to dismantle the syndicate of illegal oil trade but it has reduced the instances of illegal transaction. As a result of cohesion between the authorities and Oil & Gas industry, transparency and accountability in oil trade increased.

The stories also helped rural dwellers to benefit from the oil trade, as reducing the number of instances the illegal traders operated their illegal businesses.

Lastly, the stories paved way for the responsible authorities to receive more reports on illegal oil so that they could take appropriate measure.

### 3. How Diamond Barons Use Youths to Steal Sand Containing Gemstones in Kishapu District in Shinyanga Region

#### **What prompted the story?**

Marko Maduhu, a journalist with *Nipashe* Newspaper, received information about allegations that there are some rich people in Shinyanga Region who pay ill armed youth in Kishapu District some hefty sums of money to invade Mwadui Diamond Mine where they steal earth containing the precious gemstone. According to the reporter, the youths do not stand a chance to accomplish their mission since the mines have security guards armed with modern weapons. In most cases, the youth end up being shot, beaten and thrown into ditches, resulting into death, permanent injuries and/or disability.

#### **How did TMF support the journalist?**

Wanting to further investigate these allegations, the journalist submitted a proposal requesting for grants from TMF and got a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000. Under the mentorship of Mr. Samson Kamalamo, the journalist was able to successfully complete his assignment.

#### **In summary, what did the journalist find out?**

The mine in question, Mwadui Williamson Diamond Mine, is surrounded by eight villages, is not fenced and cameras do not function well. One Hilary, an investor, as well as the mining company are reported to have grabbed all farms around the mine. Youth claim that they cannot engage in farming and thus rely on gemstones for their jobs. The mine has not done much to provide jobs let alone improve the livelihoods of the surrounding villagers.

Maduhu thereafter filed four feature stories and had them published in ***Nipashe*** in October 2016.

#### **What happened during the verification process?**

The TMF independent verification team interviewed three victims whose testimonies are shared below. They also interviewed Kishapu District Council chairperson and the Kishapu District Commissioner.

The first victim was Mr. George Joseph, (32) a villager of Maganzo, near the Williamson Diamond Mine. He stated that in the company of colleagues they would go into the mine from time to time and return home without being noticed, raking in an enticing Tshs 6 million.

*"On the fateful night in 2013, however, security guards caught us and ordered me to sit down before shooting me on my leg. I was later rushed to the mine's hospital where my condition failed to improve and was referred to Bugando Hospital in Mwanza City. It was here that the leg, which was severely injured, was amputated," he said.*





Asked what would be his wish now that he is an amputee, he had a number of requests and/or suggestions:

- He would like to get legal assistance to push his case for compensation by the mine for causing his disability.
- He noted that the police and local militia should arrest intruders and bring them to justice in accordance with the law instead of taking law into their own hands.
- He stated that the company should employ youth living around the mine to mitigate the problem of poverty.
- He added that the Minister responsible for Energy and Minerals had instructed the youth with disability to list down their needs and send them to him, but since then nothing has been done for them.

- He further explained that due to his living conditions, he had to sell most of his properties, including two motorbikes and a small house, to cover for the treatment costs. As a result, he says he needs capital for him to establish a business for his family, which includes five children; and

According to him, the number of youth victimized by the mine security guards was reportedly high such that if they were to be all called to meet the verifier they would fill a *Fuso* truck.



Another victim of the hide and seek game was, Michael Ngusa (30), who had difficulties in speech due to the ordeals he suffered when he invaded the mine in 2012 through an area called Demtuu.

*"I was ordered by 12 guards to sit down but refused before I made an attempt to flee and that is when they decided to shoot me on the back. They later handed me over to the police who sent me to hospital, where I was told that I had to undergo an operation because the bullet had damaged my pancreas",* said Michael.

The admission took one month, after which he was sent back to the police station where he was locked up for four days. He refused to eat and was later sent to court where he was given a bail

due to a bleeding wound. The court found him guilty, but because of his condition, he received a six-month probation.

He called upon the company to consider creating jobs for youth, and also asked for capital to set up a business.

Felix Mallya, aged 49 is another interviewed victim. According to him, he was passing by the mine when guards who were chasing a thief, *"stopped me and wanted to arrest me, but I refused telling them that I was not one. They then beat, grabbed, and threw me into a pit where I stayed there until I was rescued by some staff of the Caspian Mining Company, who later sent me to Mwadui Hospital,"* he said.

The admission took five months without his family knowing his whereabouts. His wife died of shock, leaving behind one child. He added that in the past the mine guards were paid Tshs. 50,000 for every thief arrested. As a result, the relationships between the villagers and the miner have become sour.

### **What impact did the stories have?**

Results of the verification exercise indicate that the stories had an impact in the following ways:

- No one has been shot or killed since late 2016. Previously, the situation was very bad as there were many incidents of people getting lost, killed or injured. John Challya, a leader at Nyamikoma Village verifying this said: "Youth are no longer injured or killed as the case used to be."
- Kishapu District Council Chairperson Mr. Boniface Butondo said the Defence and Security Committee sat with the villagers to discuss the issue of the mine. *"We now have monthly meetings where we discuss issues pertaining to safety and security between the villagers and mining management. Youth have been urged to stop invading the mines to steal gemstones, instead they should form groups of small-scale miners as there are funds for such groups. The youth have positively responded to the proposal and as a result incidents of intrusion at the mines have significantly gone down,"* he said.
- Kishapu District Commissioner who is also the Chairperson of the Defense and Security Committee, in the district noted: *"Ever since I took office in **November 2016**, there have been no incidents of killings in the mine. I talked to the mine authority about employing youths living around the mine area; and the mine in collaboration with the District Council reached an agreement to see how the company can help youth and communities around it (eight villages) in terms of corporate social responsibility."* However, at the time of verification no youths had been employed as yet.

### **Conclusion**

The major impact of Maduhu's stories has been preventing further loss of human life and permanent injuries and/or disability caused by attacks by mine security guards, as confirmed by the District authorities and interviewed victims.

The stories also opened channels of communication in that now the District Council has provided a platform for the villagers and mine authorities to meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues affecting the parties and to resolve them

Plans are also underway to improve social services around the mine area and create employment to prevent youth from intruding the mines.

The objectives of this project were met making the investment made by TMF to enable this happen was a very worthy investment.



## 4. Poverty reigns at Mwendakulima around the rich Buzwagi Kahama District, Shinyanga Region

### *What triggered the journalist's interest in writing this story?*

Neema Mugheni, a journalist with Kahama FM Radio received claims that villagers living around the famous Buzwagi Gold Mine were living in abject poverty. She sought to do an in-depth investigation as to why there was poverty in the village, despite being surrounded by a major gold mine. To enable her carry out this investigation, she needed funding and direction on how best to approach the issue, and that is when she turned to TMF.

### *How did TMF support the journalist?*

After submitting her proposal to TMF, she received a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000, which enabled her to travel to Kahama on her fact-finding mission. Under the mentorship of Ms. Valerie Msokwa, the journalist was able to successfully complete her assignment.

### *What were the journalist's findings as she went about her investigation?*

Once Neema received the empowerment she needed from TMF, she visited Mwime, Chapulwa, and Mwendakulima, where she interviewed the villagers, ward council members, Kahama District Executive Director, District Commissioner and a health officer. Issues of focus for her investigation were jobs and social services such as water and health.

The heaps of complaints she received had more to do with lack of jobs, whereby only the few lucky ones were employed as security guards in the mine.



Ms. Neema Mugheni interviews jobless youths who have been struggling to get jobs around Buzwagi Gold Mine without any luck.

The Village Executive Officer (VEO) claimed that lack of skills was partly the main reason why local people were not getting jobs at the mine.

For his part, the Kahama District Executive Director called upon youths to form groups so they could engage in farming that would be useful to the mine.

The mine manager stated that if youth were to form groups they would help them to improve their wellbeing.

The District Commissioner, for his part, stated that he would sit with the mine officials and see how they can help youth around the mine. When she was through with the investigation, Mugheni aired four programs on Radio Kahama FM in November 2016.

### ***What impact did the aired stories have on the villages in question?***

During an independent verification, the team interviewed a number of people, including the Ward Executive Officer, Vincent Ndesekio (Mwendakulima Ward); the District Executive Director and Manager of the Kahama Urban Water Supply Authority (KAWASA).

The aired programs had the following impact:

- A plan to provide clean and safe water in the villages around the mine has been set up and is under implementation. According to the Ward Executive Officer, Mr Vincent Ndesekio, the District Council has already set aside the budget for water distribution while KAWASA has allocated for the ward Tshs. 9 million.





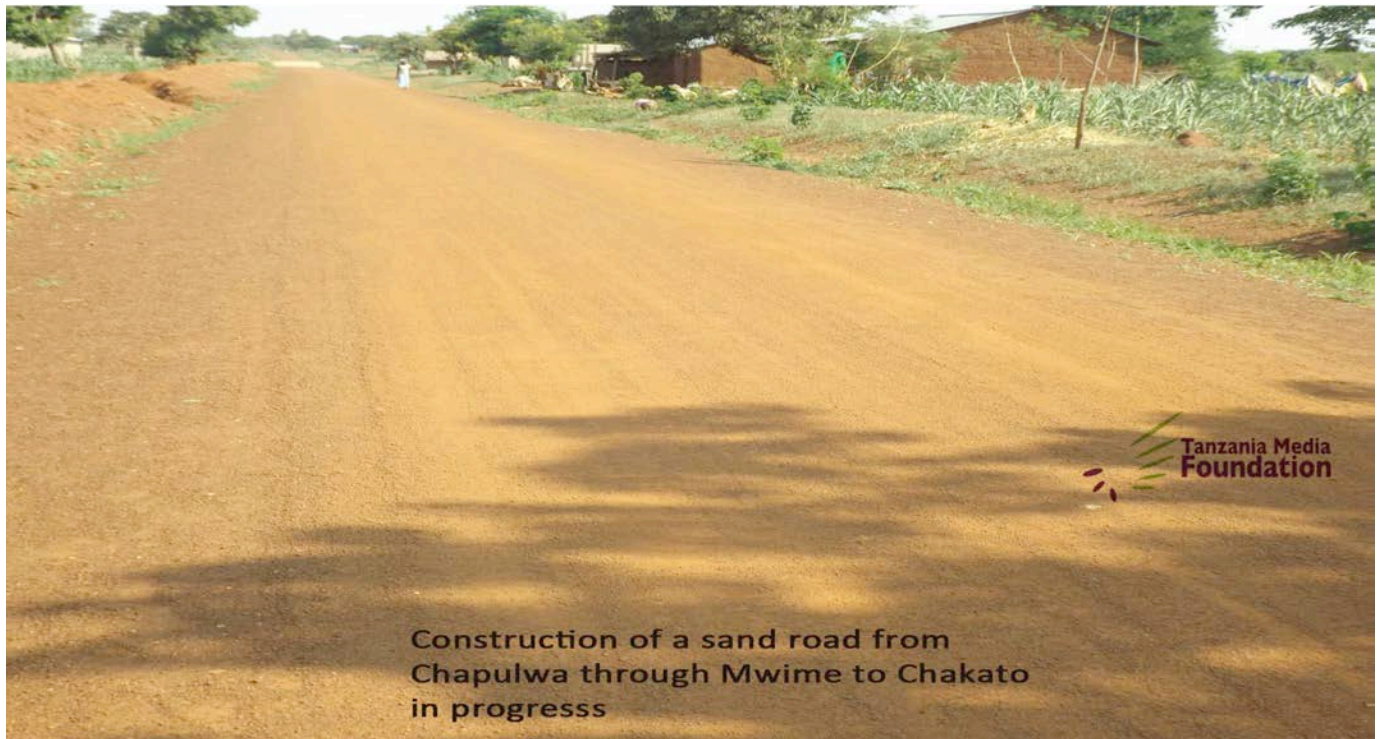
- The stories triggered repairs and maintenance of infrastructure and other amenities.



- Commenting on the activities that were conducted after the stories were broadcasted, Ndesekio said;
  - "Buzwagi Gold Mine has managed to pay Tshs. 7.8 million to repair a road outside the health centre around Mwendakulima Ward. The mine also paid 122m/- for the repair of a road from Mwime to Nyakato and again paid 502m/- for the road from SAS to Mwendakulima, Chapula to Mwime.
  - The mine has also renovated maternity ward toilets, the matron's office, the doctors' office, and the reception at the cost of USD 13,000 equivalent to 28,314,000/-.
  - The infrastructure at Mwime Health Centre, which was initially poor, has now been renovated, and an incinerator for burning garbage has been built.
- The District Executive Director promised to source for a budget as a whole;
- Buzwagi Gold Mine has provided Tshs. 7.6 million for Mwime area to support water infrastructure;
- There is now Transparency of income and expenditure at local government level, whereby annual action plan must be developed and endorsed by local people; and income and expenditure report must be shared with the public every three months;



- The Buzwagi Gold Mine has repaired 11 kms of the road from Mwendakulima, Chakulwa, to Mwime and Chakato Villages at gravel level, connecting three villages. The remaining part of the road will be repaired by the District Council;

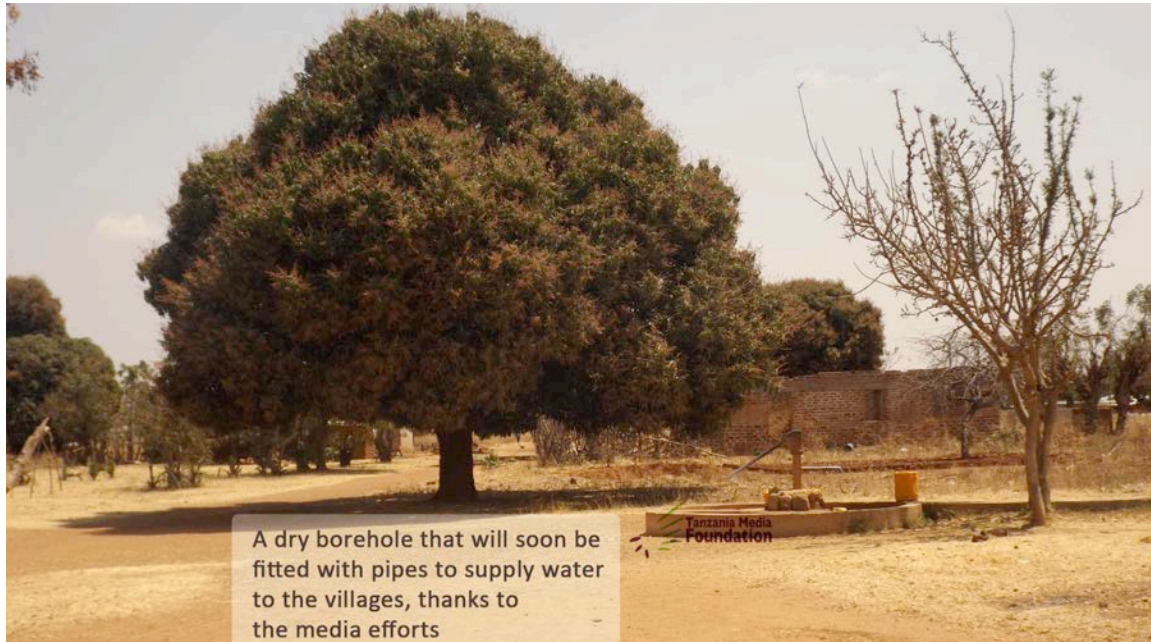


- The infrastructure has also helped to improve transport business, such as *bajaj* (three-wheeler) and *bodaboda* (motorbikes); and





- Kahama Water Supply Authority Manager Mr. Joel Rugemalira confirmed, *"the three villages have already paid Tshs. 7.2 million and as such the authority was planning in coming weeks to survey the area where pipes for water supply will be laid."*



## Conclusion

The grantee's work brought so much impact taking into consideration that the mine has been operational for more than 9 years, yet nothing had been done until few months after airing of the programs she had prepared.

## 5. Land Disputes between Investors and Residents of Missenyi District, Kagera

### *What was the objective of the story?*

Mr. Respicious John is one of TMF's journalists who received a grant to do investigations on land disputes between residents and ranch investors in Missenyi District, Kagera Region. He was specifically interested in Bugango, Bubane and Kakonyo villages, and his focus was on finding out the causes of the disputes, the effects of the disputes and what the barriers to resolution of the conflicts were.

### *What was TMF's contribution towards the success of this project?*

As with all the other stories, TMF gave a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000 to the journalist to enable him get to the bottom of the disputes that were being experienced in Missenyi District. Under the mentorship of Ms. Valerie Msokwa, the journalist was able to successfully complete the project.

### *What was the process of fact-finding, and what were the outcomes?*

He interviewed officials from the responsible ministry, among them the District Commissioner of Missenyi District, the land officer for Missenyi, the Commissioner for Lands, Chairperson of Missenyi District Council, three village chairpersons, the police, and the CCM (ruling party) Secretary in Missenyi District.

He then broadcasted his stories on Radio Karagwe FM, a station that has coverage in Karagwe, Missenyi, Bukoba, Muleba, Kyerwa, Ngara and Biharamulo districts.

The aired programs had the following impact:

- Leaders came to understand the source of the disputes and came up with proposed strategies;
- The disputes were included in the agenda of ward councils;
- Some of the land taken from the natives has been returned to them; and
- Incidents of violence, which were prevalent in the past have since declined.

### *What was the impact of the stories to the district?*

The TMF independent verification team met with and interviewed Bugango Village Chairperson, Missenyi District Commissioner and the residents to measure the impact. They had also planned to visit Missenyi Ranch, but due to security reasons as well as time factor, the team failed to visit the area.

The Bugango Village Chairperson noted that:

- The journalist's programs had a great impact, taking into account that Radio Kagera FM is the only radio in the region;
- The programs enabled leaders to understand the major problems and issues relating to land disputes in Missenyi District and prompted action by the local government authorities, with officials now addressing the complaints.

- After the stories were aired, the Prime Minister formed a special committee to resolve the land disputes in the district; and
- As for the radio station approval ratings of the radio have gone up as most citizens in the region now rank it highly in news broadcasts.

For his part, Missenyi District Commissioner (rtd) Col Denis Filangali Mwila noted: *"The story has enabled leaders, including me, to understand the sources of land disputes and related issues. This will help us as government leaders to devise strategies to address and resolve it. I congratulate Respicious for his efforts in seeking the truth behind the disputes, informing the public, and alerting authorities so that they can take appropriate action in restoring peace in Missenyi District. Most journalists tend to be biased in their coverage, but in my view, Respicious John did his work with a high level of professionalism by avoiding biasness and only concentrating on the truth about the matter."*

## **Conclusion**

Despite not being able to meet with officials of Missenyi Ranch, the verification team can conclude that the stories, indeed, had a big impact on the land disputes in the region, as attested by government officials.

Ever since the programs were aired, the Government has taken several measures to address the problem, including deploying militiamen to preserve peace.

## 6. Village Leaders Take the Lead in Illegal Marijuana Farming and Trade in Ngaramtoni, Arusha Region

### *What were the objectives of the story?*

There have been allegations that some village leaders in Ngaramtoni, Arusha Region are involved in the production and trading of the infamous plant, marijuana (*cannabis sativa*). His curiosity having being pricked by these allegations, Mr. Method Charles decided to investigate this further with an aim of finding a solution to this challenge, should he find out that the allegations were true.

### *How did TMF support the journalist?*

Armed with these objectives, Mr. Method Charles approached TMF seeking for their support to accomplish his mission. Foreseeing the impact airing this story would have on the affected villages, TMF awarded a \$2,000 rural dispatch grant to the journalist. Under the mentorship of Ms. Angela Mang'enya, the journalist was able to successfully complete the project.

### *What transpired during the journalistic work?*

Having been provided all the necessary support he needed to make his mission successful, the journalist began his investigations by interviewing victims of marijuana on how they get the grass and the effects it has to the residents. He also talked to leaders, marijuana farmers and villagers whom he asked how they conduct the farming and the trade.

The interviewees confirmed that it is true some local leaders were involved in the illegal trade of marijuana. Those interviewed were the Director of Arusha Municipal Council, who confirmed the allegations and noted that they were encouraging the villagers in the affected areas to plant other crops and stop engaging farming of the illegal plant. The Regional Police Commander (RPC) was also among the interviewees.

The stories were broadcasted by the **Habari Maalumu Radio** whose coverage in six regions, namely Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Dodoma, Singida, and Tanga.

According to the journalist, the stories had a positive impact to the affected community in Ngaramtoni in that the District Commissioner immediately took action by ordering inspection of the farms in the area. The implicated leaders in the illegal farming and trade were held accountable. Ever since the stories were aired marijuana business has become sour.

Besides, the Government made efforts to train extension officers on alternative crop cultivation on the understanding that they would in turn train and encourage the villagers to engage in production of other crops such as pyrethrum.

### *Did the stories trigger any accountability measures?*

The TMF independent verification team visited the leaders and citizens to verify the impact of the stories on their life as claimed by the journalist. Among the interviewees were a ten-cell leader and



a village chairperson. For security reasons, some of the interviewees requested that their names should remain anonymous while also declining the request from the verifier to record their voices.

The ten-cell leader James Melusoni noted that before the program was aired, marijuana farming and trade had taken deep roots around Ngaramtoni, severely affecting the consumers, majority of whom were youth.

*"The situation has improved to some extent as authorities have managed to combat the problem. The Arusha RPC launched a crackdown on marijuana business and encouraged the villagers to engage in production of other (legal) crops. Most marijuana farms have been destroyed, thus the trade has gone down considerably,"* he stated.

Echoing the statement, Lemanyata Village Chairperson Joseph ole-Lenoi said: *"The story prompted action by government authorities, who launched a special operation to locate and destroy marijuana farms besides ensuring that leaders involved in the illegal trade were held accountable. Regional authorities made efforts to create public awareness on the effects of growing marijuana and other crops that the villagers can legally cultivate. The ten-cell leader who fails to report marijuana trading activities in his area is held culpable and already one of them was fined Tshs. 10,000 as a result."*

## **Conclusion**

Looking at the feedback given by the various government leaders, it suffices to say that the journalist's objectives of eliminating the production and trading of marijuana was successfully done. In addition to this, new crops such as pyrethrum were introduced to the village to replace the illegal crop, which could also offer a new source of revenue in the future.

## 7. Why Kagera Coffee Farmers Will Never Benefit From The Crops They Grow - Kagera Region

### *What triggered the story?*

Mr. Mark Ngaiza, the journalist behind the story, got to learn that coffee farmers in Kagera Region were not really benefiting from production of the crop. Wanting to find out more about this claim, the journalist decided to find out why this was the case and whether there was anything the relevant authorities could do to change the situation.

### *What was the role of TMF?*

It is with this background in mind that the journalist sought assistance from TMF in terms of financial support. TMF not only gave him a grant of \$2,000, but the organization also went a step further and offered him training and a mentorship opportunity. His mentor, Mr. Dotto Shashi spent two full days with him guiding him on how best to approach his investigation and how to present his findings, later on the mentor continued with on-job mentoring until the story was successfully finalized.

### *What happened in the field of journalistic work?*

Having received the support he needed to embark on his investigation, Mr. Ngaiza started his research and covered Karagwe, Muleba and Misenyi districts, where he interviewed and talked to coffee farmers, officials from cooperative societies in Muleba and Karagwe, District Council officials, and authorities of coffee production companies in the region. He also conducted interviews with officials of the Tanzania Coffee Board based in Kagera, regional agricultural officers, trade officers, coffee traders, and the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

The grantee interviewed farmers on coffee farming and the challenges encountered in marketing the crop, particularly in price fluctuations and taxes imposed on their sales. He met and interviewed officials from the primary cooperative society called Magata based in Muleba District, and also an official from Karagwe District Cooperative Union (KDCU).

He asked them about the selling and buying process of coffee products at auctions, and the assistance provided to coffee farmers by the relevant authorities for them to address their challenges.

During interviews with officials at the district councils, the journalist enquired about capacity building for coffee farmers, growing benefits, and how they dealt with illegal coffee trade and smuggling in the region with Ugandan traders being at the centre stage.

In his interaction with officials from the coffee companies, including OLAM Tanzania Limited, the journalist asked them about buying coffee from farmers, price fluctuations and challenges they encountered. At the regional board offices, he enquired about the history of coffee growing in the region, the procedure for obtaining license for coffee buyers, supervision and the number of cooperative societies.

The journalist also asked the regional extension officers about coffee production in the region, and also had a chance to talk to trader officers about combating smuggling of the crop.

Across the border with Uganda, the journalist bumped into a renowned coffee smuggler who explained how coffee is smuggled out of the region.

Finally, the journalist interviewed the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies on how the problem in the region could be tackled.

Having gathered all the information he needed, he put together a total of four radio programs which were aired by Radio Kasibante FM in September and in October 2016. The radio station's coverage includes the whole of the region, some parts of Geita and Mwanza regions and areas around Lake Victoria and Uganda.

The grantee within the same period managed to also post the stories on the internet, and specifically on [www.sautiyamnyonge.com](http://www.sautiyamnyonge.com), a move which managed to attract a wider coverage in and out of the country.

According to the journalist, the stories resulted in the following people losing their jobs;

- Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Kagera Region,
- The General Manager of Kagera Cooperative Union (KCU)
- The General Manager of Karagwe District Cooperative Union (KDCU).

Further, the President is reported to have ordered tax relief for coffee growers, provision of assistance to farmers during farming, and a price increase for the crop to enable the farmers get more profit.

### **What was the impact of the stories to the farmers?**

The TMF independent verification team conducted a number of interviews to ascertain the impact of the stories, including one with the Secretary of Magata Primary Cooperative Society, Mr. Abdin Rwakibanda. The team also interviewed the Kagera Regional Trade Officer, Mr. IsayaTendega, and the Agriculture Field Officer from Karagwe District.

The Magata Primary Cooperative Society Secretary noted that, *"Before the stories were broadcasted, there were a number of challenges in the coffee growing sector in Kagera, including low prices, illegal trade and smuggling. However, the situation has now changed a bit as the Government pays more attention to the issues that affect coffee farmers. Cooperative unions have also found their voice and enjoy wider recognition from different stakeholders. Notably, coffee farmers have also been receiving training for more effective farming of coffee."*



Grantee in Cap

The Kagera Regional Trade Officer confirmed that the stories had some impact on the coffee growing community as issues of crop smuggling have alerted authorities to intensify efforts to combat the problem. He added that, *"the President's intervention to help the coffee farmers benefit from the crops was good news to them and will help to accelerate actions being taken by the local authorities. The stories helped to attract the President's attention on the matter."*



Verification officer (left) during an interview in Kagera Region

For his part, the Field Extension Officer for Karagwe District noted that, *"the stories have had a great impact in terms of increasing public awareness on issues and challenges facing the coffee growing community in Kagera Region, including low coffee prices and smuggling."*

### **Conclusion**

It cannot be a coincidence that immediately after the stories were aired that the relevant authorities, including the government took the necessary steps to make the coffee growing business a profitable one. It is therefore correct to say that the stories triggered a series of positive events that have resulted in the activity to now yield good results for the farmers. Besides the monetary results, the training provided has definitely made the farmers better.

## 8. Rising Incidents of Rape and Sodomy in Iringa Urban District - Iringa Region

### *What triggered the stories?*

Rape in any form is one of the most degrading and dehumanizing actions a human being can do to another. Not that it is any better when it happens to adults, but it is certainly more alarming and disturbing when you hear that a child has been raped or sodomized. It is therefore not a surprise that many victims of rape choose to stay quiet about it because they not only find it embarrassing but they also fear stigmatization.

One of TMF's grantee, Ms. Irene Mwakalinga got word that rape and sodomy were prevalent in Iringa Urban District, Iringa Region. She decided to do a further investigation to establish the causes of increased rape and sodomy as well as to find out whether the authorities were aware of this and if they were, what they were doing about it. In addition to this, she wanted to find out what the effects of this inhuman practice were to the society.

### *How did TMF participate in this?*

To make it possible for her to carryout this investigation, she sought the assistance of TMF, who supported her by offering her a \$2,000 rural dispatch grant. Under her mentor Mr. Jeff Shelembi, she was able to successfully carryout the investigation and filed the report you are about to read.

### *What happened in the field of journalistic work?*

Having received the grant from TMF, Ms. Irene left for Iringa where she conducted her investigation in Nyororo, Kiwele and Semtema areas by talking to parents whose children had been raped or sodomised.

She also interviewed the regional police, doctors, court officials and social welfare officers. Among the interviewees were Josephine Mwaipopo, a social welfare officer; Christine Mgongolwa, a witch doctor; David Ngunyale, a resident magistrate; and Ave Kihaule, a member of the village security committee at Kiwele village. Four programs on the stories were aired by the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) Television in November 2016. The program was aired on Mondays and Wednesdays during that time period.

### *What impact did the stories have on the victims?*

To verify the impact of the stories, TMF engaged an independent verification team. The team visited and interviewed the Iringa Regional Commissioner, Amina Masenza. The team also visited the regional hospital and talked to a health worker. Due to the sensitivity of the matter, the team did not conduct interviews with parents of the victims.



Iringa Regional Commissioner confirmed that incidents of rape and sodomy in the region have receded ever since TBC 1 aired the program.

A health worker at the regional hospital stated that *"before the airing of the stories the hospital used to receive and treat on average 15 rape and sodomy victims per month, but currently the cases are much fewer."*

The stories prompted the Regional Commissioner to visit the regional hospital, where there were complaints that medical personnel were mistreating the victims seeking medical attention.

In his own words, *"I masqueraded as a patient and saw how the victims were being mistreated by one of the nurses at the hospital and thereafter I ordered for her termination. I commend the efforts made by Mwakalinga to expose the problem. I personally took the initiative to meet with various women and discuss the ways to combat violence against women and children. I call upon TMF to continue funding investigative journalism to uncover and address the various problems we have in the society."*

### **In Conclusion**

Based on the interviews conducted with the Iringa Regional Commissioner and the health worker at the Iringa Regional Hospital, it can be concluded that the stories indeed had remarkable impact to communities in Iringa Urban District as they invoked immediate action by government authorities to address the problem.



## 9. Shall there be Sustainable Food Aid for Starving People in Ngorongoro, Arusha Region?

### ***What triggered the investigation?***

Arusha is known as one of the most fertile regions in Tanzania, with good weather patterns and very healthy soil. After all, this is the region that is home to the highest mountain in Africa, Mt. Kilimanjaro. It would therefore come as a surprise to many to hear that there were claims over prevalence of a food crisis in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region

It is this realization that caused Mr. Julius Laizer of IDEA FM Radio to start conducting an independent investigation by talking to community members in three wards, with an aim of establishing the authenticity of those allegations. After confirming that there was some truth, he then approached TMF for assistance to carry out an in-depth investigation.

### ***What role did TMF play in this investigation?***

Armed with the findings he got after doing the preliminary investigation, he went to TMF seeking for assistance to complete his investigation. TMF offered him a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000, and with mentorship from Mr. Josephat Mwanzi, he was able to successfully complete this assignment.

### ***What happened in the field of journalistic work?***

After receiving the grant from TMF, he intensified his investigation by interviewing more people, including leaders.

The leaders interviewed included the chairperson of the Pastoralists' Council and ward councilors, Enduleni Village Chairperson, a doctor at Enduleni Hospital; the conservator of Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA); Arusha Regional Commissioner and officers of CSOs around the area, including the Pastoralist Women Community (PWC).

He also interviewed a number of citizens, who claimed that they had not received any food aid for about ten months.

With this information, Mr. Laizer prepared and aired four programs on the subject, on IDEA FM Radio, based in Arusha. He also sent the stories globally where BBC Radio under its *Dira ya Dunia* program aired the same.

According to the journalist, the impact was immediate, as the Government, through NCAA, entered into contract with the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to purchase food and since September 2016, the pastoralists in Ngorongoro District have received food aid twice.

### ***What was the impact of the stories to the affected victims and the affected area in general?***

The TMF independent verification team interviewed the Chairperson of the Ngorongoro Pastoralists Council, Edward Maura, who is also a ward councilor; Daniel Lormujie, who is the councilor of Misigiyo Ward; and Dr. Joyce Memiri from the Enduleni Hospital.

Unfortunately around the same time the verification team was conducting the verification exercise there was a rhinoceros that had gone missing (Rhino John). This posed as a big security risk for the team to visit the district.

Ngorongoro Pastoralists Council Chairperson noted that previously the food situation was very bad but things improved when the stories were aired. According to him, *"Bags of maize were brought to save people from starvation."*



The Misigiyo Ward Councilor made similar claims, but added that, *"Though the contract with NFRA has brought back hope, the problem has not been completely resolved because the price of maize is still high."*

On her part, doctor Memiri noted that, *"the stories have indeed helped to get the attention of the Government on the matter, but affordability is still a problem because the price of maize is still high."*

### ***Conclusion***

Overall, though the price may still be high, at least there is food and the Maasai have been exchanging their cattle with food. Thus, it is safe to conclude that the impact is very evident that the problem has received the attention it should.

## 10. Dumping of Human Waste in Lake Victoria by ships and Boats and its impact on Health and the Environment – Mwanza Region

### **What was the story about?**

A journalist with *Tanzania Daima*, SittaTuma, pursued an investigative story on the impact of human waste (urine and faeces) by marine vessels on Lake Victoria to people and the environment. The aim of the story was to educate the stakeholders on the dangers of this behavior, while at the same time looking for environmental friendly solutions to this problem, for the health of the public and the communities found around the lake.

### **How did TMF assist in this?**

The journalist received a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000 from TMF, and under the mentorship of Mr. Samson Kamalamo, he was able to successfully carryout the assignment.

### **What were his findings?**

Most ships and boats sailing on Lake Victoria have toilets but do not have holding tanks hence human waste goes directly into the lake waters. Fishermen also have their part in dumping human wastes in the lake. Pollution of the lake waters has affected treatment of water for domestic use by Mwanza Urban Water and Sewerage Authority (MWAUWASA), causing the utility to spend more than Tshs. 400 million per month for the work.

A report by World Health Organization released in April 2016 revealed that lake pollution is mainly caused by human waste. Owners admitted that vessels do not have holding tanks but blamed the Government for not putting in place the infrastructure for dumping human wastes at the ports.

Research by Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) has revealed that water pollution has also caused the decline in fish population. Apart from environmental pollution, the dumping of faecal waste has caused regular outbreaks of cholera.

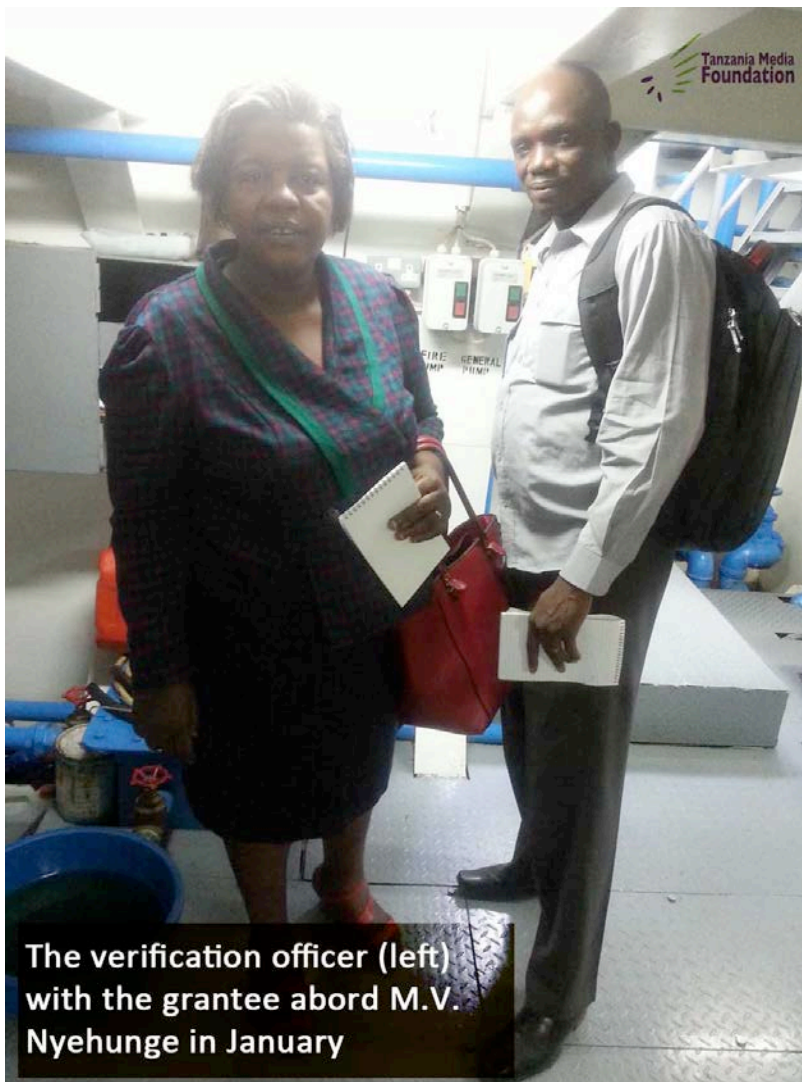
The information was revealed during the grantee's interviews with vessel owners and officials from MWAUWASA and the Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA). The grantee also visited the Vice President's Office and regional authorities' offices.

He won an award from the Government titled WASH award for his story and received a cash prize of Tshs. 500,000/-.



### ***What was the impact of the story?***

The TMF independent verification team conducted interviews with authorities from Sumatra, as well as the Regional Commissioner, District Commissioner and vessel owners on the impact of the story.



**The verification officer (left)  
with the grantee aboard M.V.  
Nyhunge in January**

Nyhunge Company, which owns three passenger ships operating on the lake, has bought a new ship, which has a waste holding tank; and efforts to install tanks on the other ships are underway. The story thus led to installation of sewage tanks in some of the ships, as attested by Julius Joseph, an engineer with the company.

Another interviewee, Michael Rodgers, who works for Sumatra confirmed that the release of human wastes in the lake was a major problem, but the story has helped to alert ship owners on its impact on human health and the environment.

On his part, Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella, stated that, *"the story has prompted action by authorities responsible for management of Lake Victoria and influenced owners of vessels operating within the lake to address the problem of human wastes."*

## **Conclusion**

The story was such a success that the grantee won an award from the Government titled WASH award for his story on Lake Victoria and received a trophy as well as cash prize of Tshs. 500,000/-

Other than that, visible action has already started as some of the shipping companies are now buying vessels with waste holding tanks, while existing vessels are being modified to accommodate the same.

## 11. Mtwara Rural Residents Not Benefitting Anything from the Mnazi Bay Gas Project – Mtwara Region

### *What triggered the story?*

This story was covered by **Ms. Mary Godfrey**, who is a reporter with **Nipashe Newspaper**, following claims by residents of Mtwara Rural that they were not benefitting anything from the Mnazi Bay Gas project, which is in Mandimba Village in Mtwara Rural.

### *What support was offered by TMF?*

To enable the journalist to write the story, TMF provided her with a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000 and under the mentorship of Mr. Ebenezer Mende, she was able to complete her assignment.

### *What were the findings and subsequent impact?*

The impact of the story, according to the grantee, is that the Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan paid a visit to the district and suspended five directors of Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) on the allegations.

During the verification exercise, the team visited Mandimba where it interviewed the Village Chairperson, Mr. Mohamed Madiva, and the Village Executive Officer (VEO), Mr. Said Ngumba.

The two leaders noted that Ms. Mary Godfrey went to the village and conducted interviews with several people on the subject, including the local leaders and about ten other villagers. She also visited the village dispensary and assessed the water project partly funded by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

The Village Chairperson claimed that he heard about the news of the story during a village meeting where TPDC had sent a representative. During this meeting, the corporation's representative stated that the village leaders should not have rushed to talk to the media on the matter, but instead they should have discussed it with TPDC officials first.

The Chairperson made some positive remarks on the work of TMF, stating that the story had some impact to his community. He added that it was a good idea to have journalists from different parts of the country doing coverage on gas and development in the area, but there was a need to consider using or involving local (local to Mtwara) journalists as well so as to enjoy more cooperation from the villagers. He stated that there was also a need to consider having in the budget some allowances for the interviewees since many of them leave their activities to attend the interview sessions.



**The verification officer (centre) after an interview with the village chairperson of Mandimba**

## **Conclusion**

After conducting interviews with relevant authorities and citizens in Mandimba village, the verification team did not attribute the suspension of the five TPDC directors to the story as a direct impact. The suspension was a coincidence.

Instead, the team stated that active participation of TPDC in linking the local community to the gas sector in the village assembly was more appealing as an impact.



## 12. Boundary Dispute between Kikulyungu Village and the World's Second Largest Game Reserve, The Selous in Liwale - Lindi Region

### ***What triggered to cover the story?***

There has been a boundary dispute between Kikulyungu Village and Selous Game Reserve that has existed for eleven years prior to the stories being published. The journalist's objective was to bring to light this dispute so as to attract the relevant authorities to intervene and solve the matter.

### ***How did TMF support the journalist?***

As with all the rest of the journalists, TMF gave a rural dispatch grant of \$2,000 to the journalist, and under the mentorship of Mr. Allan Lawa he was able to successfully finish his assignment.

### ***What happened in the field of journalistic work?***

After receiving the grant, Mr. Abdul Mitumba covered a story and had it published in Nipashe Newspaper. The assignment was conducted in Liwale District, Lindi Region, where the journalist looked into the decade long dispute.

The journalist published four feature articles on the issue, following the adjustments that were made thus hindering the villagers' access to a fishpond known as Kihurumila.

### ***What were the findings and subsequent actions?***

The verification team visited Liwale District where they met and interviewed government leaders at district and village levels. Among them were the Chairperson of the Kikulyungu village, the Village Executive Officer (VEO), Liwale District Commissioner, and the Secretary of the Member of Parliament (MP) for Liwale Constituency.

During her interview with the verification officer, the newly appointed Liwale District Commissioner, Sarah Chiwamba acknowledged that she was aware of the ongoing boundary dispute after receiving a feedback from the former District Commissioner.

She visited the disputed area and Kikulyungu village and conducted a public meeting with the villages and the Selous Game Reserve management.

*"Ever since I visited the disputed area and held meetings with both parties, the relationship between them has improved, and now the game reserve staff can even do shopping in the village without any worries, unlike in the past eight years when tension existed,"* she said.

She noted that the report on the boundary dispute will be referred to the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources for final determination and the re-drawing of the map.

She also encouraged the villagers to join the Kikulyungu Wildlife Management Authority (WMA) so as to mutually benefit from protection and conservation efforts being made at the Selous Game Reserve.

Lastly, she acknowledged reading the story on the dispute and commended the TMF work of promoting investigative journalism, especially in the rural areas.

The verification team also visited the office of the MP for Liwale Constituency, Zuberi Kucharuka. The lawmaker's secretary confirmed that the MP visited the disputed area after the stories were published and conducted meeting with the villagers on the matter.



Liwale MP, Hon. Zuberi Kuchauka (centre) during his meeting with the villagers at Kikulyungu Village

## Conclusion

The stories thus had an impact on the local community because they prompted action by the authorities in Liwale District to address the problem and forward the matter to the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources for final determination of the disputed boundary.

The village elders said they remain hopeful that the boundary conflict will be resolved so that the villagers can enjoy the normal life they had by having access to the fishpond.

## CHALLENGES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Challenges

One of the major challenges that the verification team faced was insufficient funds, making the carrying out of the verification exercise difficult in some places. For instance, in Shinyanga Region, during the interviews, the verification officer had to meet the travel and meal costs for the victims to bring them to areas that are safer, given the fact that the areas around the mines where they reside are not safe for journalists to visit. These costs were not included in the grants budget.

The team also failed to visit some of the areas such as Tarime and as well as other grantees who were in Mwanza Region owing to resource limitations and timeframe.

Lastly, the team failed to get some financial details from the Zanzibar Revenue Board due to bureaucracy as they were told to write an official letter subject to scrutiny, something which would have taken ages to sort out.

### Concluding Observations

Media houses do not pay journalists on time. For instance, a journalist in Shinyanga claimed that he received his last payment in 2015. Another journalist in Mwanza claimed that the last time he was paid was in August 2016. These anomalies affect their work and the capacity to expose issues that are evils in society.

The grants from TMF enabled them to make an impact in the society through investigative stories.

Tanzania is very much endowed with committed journalists who are dedicated and ready to risk their lives to make a difference in the society. Most grantees were able to create an impact in the areas they visited, but the only challenge is that they did not know how to capture the real essence of the impact in their reports. These exposed a loophole that should be sealed by empowering and adding report writing skills to the journalists.

### Recommendations

1. TMF should increase grants for community media journalists as they are closer to community members and their work directly impacts on the people at the grassroots level, most of whom are marginalized and cannot speak for themselves;
2. Grantees who feel that using their real names on investigative stories poses a great risk on them should be allowed to just use the term 'Correspondent' or 'Reporter';
3. TMF should facilitate grantees to enable them join the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THDRC) for their protection; and
4. The Foundation should include a budget for ground transport to facilitate movement from one place to another of its verification team as the exercise can at times be very costly.

## CONCLUSIONS

The verification team would like to thank TMF for giving them the opportunity to undertake this very important assignment, to verify the impact of stories submitted by the grantees. The team further commends TMF for its efforts of promoting investigative journalism in Tanzania as it helps to bring to the forefront issues affecting the marginalized and voiceless members in the society, prompting action to be taken by both public and private entities, as well as the authorities in general.

Based on this report, the verification team can conclude with authority that the grants disbursed to upcountry journalists by TMF brought greater impact than was actually reported, as most grantees failed to tap into the in-depth aftermath of their reportage.

TMF should continue collecting success stories through a verification process as was done by the appointed team. However, they should also invest in training the grantees to take note of every detail of every impact brought about by their work.



## PHOTO GALLERY [MORE PHOTOS]

**Reference Story on Page 9: No. 1 - Effects of Coal Mining to residents around Ngaka Coal Mine in Ruvuma Region**



**Hon. Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa inspects Ngaka Coal mine during his visit in January 2017 after which he issued a strong statement on water and air pollution in the area.**

**Reference Story on Page 11: No. 2 - Illegal Oil Trade and Operations and their Impact on the Economic Development of Zanzibar – Zanzibar**



**Reference Story on Page 19: No. 4 - Poverty among Villagers of Mwendakulima around Buzwagi Gold Mine in Kahama District - Shinyanga Region**



## LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

Name	Position	Region
John Haule	Ntunduwaro villager	Ruvuma
Edmond Nditi Ruanda	Ruanda Ward Councilor – Mbinga	Ruvuma
Oswald Ngonyani	An Editor of Mwenge Publications – Mbinga	Ruvuma
Shaaban Yahya	An officer, Zanzibar Revenue Board	Zanzibar
Salum Beka	Resident of Nungwi Area	Zanzibar
Anonymous illegal oil trader		Zanzibar
George Joseph	Villager – Maganzo Village, Kishapu	Shinyanga
Michael Ngusa	Villager – Maganzo Village, Kishapu	Shinyanga
John Challya	Village leader – Nyamikoma Village	Shinyanga
Boniface Butondo	Chairperson, Kishapu District Council	Shinyanga
Vicent Ndesekio	Ward Executive Officer – Kahama	Shinyanga
Joel Rugemalila	Manager – Kahama Water Supply Authority	Shinyanga
Rtd. Col. Denis Filangali Mwila	District Commissioner – Missenyi	Kagera
James Melusoni	Ten-house cell leader – Ngaramtoni	Arusha
Joseph Ole-Lenoi	Chairperson - Lemanyata Village	Arusha
Abdin Rwakibanda	Secretary – Magata Primary Cooperative Society, Karagwe	Kagera
Isaya Tendega	Regional Trade Officer	Kagera
Amina Masenza	Regional Commissioner	Iringa
Anonymous health worker	Iringa Regional Hospital	Iringa
Edward Maura	Chairperson - Ngorongoro	Arusha
Daniel Lormujie	Ward Councilor - Misigiyo	Arusha
Joyce Memiri	Doctor Mnduleni Hospital	Arusha
Michael Rodgers	Officer – Sumatra	Mwanza
Julius Joseph	Engineer - Nyehunge Company	Mwanza
John Mongella	Regional Commissioner	Mwanza
Mohamed Madiva	Chairperson – Mandimba Village	Mtwara
Said Ngumba	Village Executive Officer – Mandimba	Mtwara
Sarah Chiwamba	District Commissioner – Liwale	Lindi
Nyabanga Talaba	District Commissioner- Kishapu	Shinyanga