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THE ARTICLE ON  
**UNOBSERVED AND UNSEEN RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS**  
THE CASE OF ZEZE VILLAGE IN KASULU KIGOMA TANZANIA



COMPILED BY  
**MBONI YA VIJANA GROUP**  
REFLECTING FIVE YEARS (2014 – 2019) WORKS ON RURAL LIVES TRANSFORMATION

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## THE WORDS FROM MVG CEO



There is bright and shining wealth I see in the short future but there is no the best way I can make everyone sees and recognizes it than insufficient words I can put on here. Before education there should be determination in an individual receiving that kind of education qualified for. I have the compassion against the development gap between societies of the same territory after reaching various different regions in Tanzania toward even lives status however I know that is impossible as a short run plan.

At the Institute of Rural development Planning (IRDP) we learn all about resources and how to plan best use of those resources for the benefit of our nation and the world. When I graduated with the bachelor degree in environmental planning and management from IRDP, I saw the potential to adopt such knowledge and skills to the transformation of rural lives from extremely poverty to self sufficient and better environments. This kind of competences help us put Mboni ya Vijana Group on the right point of identifying, organizing and delivering the land potentials into solutions to the problems the Kasulu community face.

Since we founded Mboni ya Vijana Group there have been difficult and easies we passed through however they were, we become stronger and stronger. We are marking the symbol of tolerance in Kasulu and the region as a whole and we are looking forward younger person and those who have the passion in development to come and learn therefore contribute to the nation development.

*"Home is home. Wherever you may go on earth but Tanzania is the best home for us, still we have the debt to pay and build it"*

## An Abstract

This article is dedicated to the past five years (2014 – 2019) best practices took place in Kasulu District mainly at Zeze village on “**Socio-economic and environment problems solutions**” to make it a better place for lives. It relatively generalises what were and not available before establishment of Mboni ya Vijana Group in 2014 to the present after it came in responsibilities. The big deal is to provide lesson for replication other where would deem useful initiatives model for best solution to the needs of the communities and environments.

The rural poor communities in Tanzania lives depend much on what the environment provides, however, the balance between human needs, activities, environmental safety and sustainability, is the big question not only to rural Tanzania like Zeze village but to the whole world. Zeze village of Kasulu District is our main concern under this document as the point show of unobserved and unseen facts on economic and environment problems solutions. It is a very remote small village located at 46km (South-West) from Kasulu town at Rusesa ward lived by the poor peasants adopting shifting farming as the major means of income and food.

Mboni ya Vijana Group (the indigenous grassroot community based organization – CBO), recognizes environmental problems agents, magnitude and effects to lives those we need to comply with. This article is therefore showing strategies and responsibilities we are deploying to sustainable managing the income and food security for better environments and adapted community to climate change. The reader will overviews learn and grasp how economical and environmental challenges should together complement to. It shows the scale and the link improvement we made in livelihoods, marks the difference on environment. It finally presses together what we all need to get many young people and women involved in potential solutions cohorts.

Mboni ya Vijana Group believes, “Earth is the only planet inhabited naturally that its nature need to be better for better life to every natural creature”. We have the role to make that happening however it cannot be a complete “meet”.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We humbly thank all who prayed central role to making Mboni ya Vijana Group, Zeze community and Kasulu at large achieve much respected results. We would empathetically like to thank by mentioning every individual but we cannot, however, we value your contribution to our works.

Despite that we cannot mention all, we kindly thank Zeze community and village council for being all the time giving us what we wanted for the benefit of the schemes development, Kasulu District council for making us all active in many aspects, Kigoma Region Administrative, Institute of Rural Development Planning, Kawie Social Development Foundation Organization, Tanzania Women Chambers of Commerce and all the Tanzanian Government bodies which have in one way or another dealt with our concerns accordingly.

We thank and appreciate the support from the members of MVG Social Media for promoting our organization, GlobalGiving, Tanzania Development Trust, Wabia network, Bumble Hole Foods, The Pollination Project, Raincatcher Imperial College of London and other trustees for either funding or voluntarily supporting our works to get us here and we further looking to cooperate with you.

Special thanks to Janet who is the TDT Communication and Project Office/Manager for being all the years visiting and representing well our country and projects to the friends of Tanzania who then with her been financing small projects and linking them to others. You are very much acknowledged and keep that heart with us and Tanzania.

## 1. COMMUNITY DRIVING FACTORS TO OVER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSUMPTION



There are big and minus socio-economical problems the Zeze community encounters leading them to improper and over consumptions of environmental resources. Some of the most registered problems are presented in the table below;

**Table 1: Major factors identified challenging environments management at Zeze.**

SN	Factor	How it drive people to environmental deterioration
01	Income poverty.	Illegal burning of charcoal, timber, firewood and logging are severely done for households' income. Youth and adults are in these fields to the large number.
02	Inadequate literacy on environmental related matters and traditions/beliefs.	People falling trees, burning bushes/wild fire, killing trees by burning, trees uprooting and debarking for herbs and other needs, not replacing trees or planting, farming at stream banks, bushes as enemies for lives as attract other creatures to inhabit – so clear it. Threes facts are associated with lack of education and traditions and it stands the second among human driving factors to degradation of the environments at our local area. Shifting farming is poorly embarked to because of bad tradition and beliefs and as well poor farming and environmental management education.
03	Population increase	Increases the demands and consumptions of in such food, settlements, businesses, Noises, fuels, water, land and other related matters. In such situation, environmental deterioration is big.
04	Climate change (Not at local level only)	Change in rainfall calendar and amount, drought, increase of crop attacking diseases and insects, heat and winds speed, are causing poor agricultural production. To maintain food needs, farmers are expanding the farms and mostly are going to virgin land by encroachment and cause deforestation.

The overall environmental impacts associated with the factors stated on the table above are deforestation and loss of natural vegetation cover, land droughts and soil erosion, inadequate and unreliable rainfall in a year, the decreases of agricultural produces and increased poverty intensity, migration and unsettled families.



The photos showing the effects of shifting farming (left) and logging (right) to the environments - field picture

## 2. SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES TO MANAGE THE ENVIRONMENTS BETTER IN THE COMPLY TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEMS

Mboni ya Vijana set and implements sustainable small scale projects as the strategy to complement with environmental sustainability for the present and future lives. Basically we address the climate change problems which the community encounters in accordance with environmental management requirements to a gradual practical and attitudinal change. This section substantiates such initiatives we are imparting to the community.

### 2.1. Improving Households' Income and Food Status



#### 2.1.1. Microfinance Scheme

Basically the need for monies force people to encroach and misuse natural environments and cause the severity of environmental degradation. The microfinance is to enable unbanked Zeze community to access small loans for small businesses to generate monies for the families' livelihoods. The microfinance scheme teaches women and youth about the businesses and environmental linkage. It encourages all the beneficiaries to plant trees and not practising shifting farming which are as well environmental practical actions.

Since the start of this scheme in late 2015 to date, it has reached and benefited 713 direct beneficiaries who have the families. These beneficiaries are good ambassadors to other people in the community about good ways of generating income without causing adverse impacts on the environments.



*Women benefiting from microfinance reading and discussing the terms and conditions to adapt for the business for their better future*

### 2.1.2. Improved small scale farming (Sustainable farming):



Improved crop farming aims at reducing shifting farming by improving the quality of the soil and planting improved seeds. Also it trains the beneficiaries and community about sustainable farming and its benefits for the present and the future. By implementing this initiative we solve food and nutrition challenges, income as we increase yields per area and improve the environments. We supply as well trees to farmers to plant which ideally intend to give long lasting income generating opportunity in the future while improving the environments.



*A small farmer and her wife at Zeze village enjoying impressive yields after adapting improved farming - field photo 2018*

Improved small scale farming has improved yields per acre whereby the household who produce 21 buckets per year per acre, improved the yields to 140 buckets of maize. In the last two years, this scheme has supported 271 small farmers who then are no longer practising shifting farming, away from stream bank farming and adapting to other businesses for the sustainability of the environments.

### 2.1.3. Technical and local industrial production

Youth and women are trained and supported to develop various skills aiming at building them to produce goods those will support income generation and livelihoods. We train them in soap making, welding and carpentry which are creating employments and income growth. Women and youth are welders, carpenters and other are making soap to earn monies. The increase of money making skills is decreasing encroachments to the environments hence the regeneration of depleted vegetation is taking place.



*The photos showing women and youth at Zeze village leaning and making local water pump (left), furniture (middle) and soaps (right) - field photos*

## 2.2. Trees Planting and Natural Plants Protection



Local people require pleasant strategy to encourage them plant trees which they are not sure to eat in a short term future. Many people refuse to plant trees by claiming that they are going to die before benefiting from it. However, we are slowly changing the mentality of the majority of Zeze toward planting exotic tree species and protect natural vegetation for the sake of immediate and future results on income and lives as featured under this part.

### 2.2.1. *Moringa Oleifera*

The lesson aim at make people understand the health and nutrition values moringa has and people build the interest in it. Since 2012 we have been providing moringa seeds, planting and telling the community about benefits moringa oleifera species have. Such benefits include medicinal, nutritional, beekeeping and soil improvement values. In Zeze only more than a half of the population have it either at home or at the farms. Despite that it is not regarded as economical plant, it has an opportunity to be and people are ready to make it cash crop for the area.



Moringa seeds (left) ready for distribution to farmers and moringa packed powder (right) for use - field photos

Moringa oleifera is the best plant for the restoration of degraded land, greening the environment and provide many profits to the atmosphere and creatures. We provide moringa seeds, seedlings and education to farmers about its values.



Moringa Oleifera seedlings (left) germinated direct in the soil before transplanting and developed moringa trees (right) of the farm - field pictures.

### 2.2.2. Wood trees

We pursue people to grow trees for timber and firewood as the replacement of critical depleted natural woods. The depletion of natural vegetation around Zeze village is adverse while regeneration is very slowly. Trees like coniferous pines are the best replacement and are well accepted by the community so far there are more than 9700 tree planted since 2017 either from the nursery we established or bought and distributed to small farmers.



A visit to learn about trees germination and buying tree seeds photo (left) and the seeds germination at the MVG nursery (right) - field pictures

### 2.2.3. Fruits

We are improving the status of fruit trees growing through education and supply. Many farmers hadn't the culture of growing fruit trees for the reasons they take long time to produce fruits. However, people now understand that the trees are not only for eating but for shading before fruits. We have been providing palm trees, avocado and mango seedlings and individuals grow them as part of their involvement in the processes of managing the environment.



Palm trees distribution to youth small farmers (left) and palm tree transplanted progress monitoring photo (right) - field picture

### 2.2.4. Protection of natural forest

We set up beekeeping project whereby hives are hung on trees. Bees are the solders to arm against any person trying to harm the tree on which they are nesting. People are educated about the disadvantage fire burning is to the beehives and bees. Fire is decreasing to areas with hives. We show people how bees are so beneficial for the income, nutrition and environmental conservative so we better use the environments for the best lives. Since we started with 60 hives, there are more than 600 hives in bushes made locally by locals.



The photos showing how trees and other vegetations are protected through beehives hanging on trees - field pictures 2018

### 3. OTHER ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES TO COMPLEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEMS

#### 3.1. Energy Resources



Zeze village lacks grid electricity and gas networks to provide energy which make the community rely much on woods and kerosene as the main sources of energy for cooking, lighting and warming. We started supplying solar lights to the community and students at Zeze and train youth in wind turbine electricity production. All these strategies, aim at reduction of carbon production and deforestation to allow sustainable growth.



Training on wind turbine by LEI - UK, in the left are youth learning about conversation of rotations into power and soldering, in the middle designing wind turbine and in the right are youth experimenting light generated from wind turbine - field picture

#### 3.2. Water and Sanitation



Water is perhaps the only 100% compound needed by day to day situations whether for living or non living objects. Everything and every work need water of any amount however, the world experiences uneven supply of water. Mboni ya Vijana Group found Zeze and Kasulu as a whole facing droughts and certainly access to clean and safe water for domestic and production use. We have been also training the use and building improved toilets. In Zeze only we have built 3 compost toilets with the total of 21 holes for the institutions. The reason behind such situation is due to environmental behavioural change and human function on it leading to droughts and diseases. Therefore, Mboni ya Vijana undertook the responsibility to support the community mitigate the severity of droughts and improve health through the following initiatives;

### 3.2.1. Shallow wells water drilling

We learned, adapted and developed a manual mechanical drilling of wells that works with the combination of human power, local made drilling set, and water. Human smashes the land with harmer bits while flashing wastes out to the depth of up 60 metres underground. In the areas with high water table like Zeze and Kasulu at large, it has shown the efficiency to solve water problem. Since the adoption of such technology, we are done 27 shallow wells in our local region of which 24 are successfully while 3 of those 27 failed to provide positive results.



Smashing drilling taking place at Zeze in 2016 whereby the borehole of 24 metres was dug by MVG for the first time - field picture

### 3.2.2. Rope hand pump

This is the local technology model of manually pumping water from the wells without dipping the container into it. Rope hand pump is manufactured by our welders in our workshop using locally accessible facilities. It pumps water from up to 60 metres with the application of fair human power. The technology is the best water pumping solution to areas with no electricity to run motor pumps and we have made and installed 13 rope hand pump since 2016 as they are made upon need.



The borehole with rope hand pump benefiting people from accessing water, DED for Kasulu visited Zeze (middle) Kigembe Community enjoying water (right) - field pictures

### 3.2.3. Renovation of the broken water Sources

There are many boreholes drilled around Kasulu installed with India Mark II and Afridev pump technologies but most of these pumps are not efficient and sustainable. Zeze only has 9 boreholes with India Mark II and Afridev pumps but only three pumps were being repaired and broken often. We fundraised and encourage donors to support us build rope hand pumps and building water system run by solar power. For Zeze only we pursued Watermission International to renovate a borehole to supply water for the whole village through the use of solar powered grundfos pumps. The project is known as Zeze Community Safe Water which is supplying chlorinated water to serve the population counts to 9000+.



Kasulu District Commissioner led the Denmark Commissioner in Tanzania with other visitors from America and Denmark to the water source during the Zeze community Safe Water handover (left) and community members get clean and safe water at the tap (right) - Field pictures 2019

### 3.3. Climate Change Adaptation Trainings

Rural people and their leaders are less aware on climate change of being uneducated to such a level of understanding the world. We always do the works which are the means of adapting to climate change despite that they directly don't understand.

To make it clear to majority, we run sessions to educate the community and their leaders on climate change and adaptation means with the aim to improving land than shifting from exhausted soil to a virgin land. Trainings have been showing positive impacts to the majorities on improving the ways of production and improving the environments since we started it in 2017.



Poorly exhausted land used as an example during the training, Dr Francis Njau from IRDP demonstrating to the trainees how adaptation can improve the situation - Field picture 2017

### 3.4. Resources Mapping

Most of the villages in Tanzania are not on the map and it is difficult to access and manage the environmental aspects with the correct names and locations. We have been engaging and facilitating mapping (adding resources on the map) through OpenStreetMap (OSM) with the cooperation of Crowd2map Rural Tanzania. The map is very important use for locating and navigating to places and help in the management of resources. The access to the map, adding places and navigation at remote level, we use an app called Maps.Me (for Android devices) which works well in the absence of internet (Offline Application). However, there are volunteers who work online to validate the information which are uploaded to OpenStreetMap by all mappers. This scheme has made Zeze village accessible on the map through all platform accepting OSM.

## 4. THE INI POTENTIALS REGISTERED



A big thing is the change happening in the mind and attitude of the majority of Zeze community and neighbour villages toward sustainable development with environmental and climate change adaptation. The environmental and economical things which the community of Zeze did not practically do in the years past our initiatives are now practically happening on the good caravan with motivational. The progress and attitude change among community of Zeze are verified by;

- ❖ Adapted Sustainable farming and nutrition improvement are making families happy and energized,
- ❖ Trees growing mentality and practical planting are relatively expanding in the Zeze community which before were unable to plant trees,
- ❖ Development of small businesses and income status at family level are improving lives,
- ❖ Dry land is turning wetter and fishing farms providing income and nutrition for the community,
- ❖ Bare/degraded lands are regenerating new natural vegetation creating environmental green and inhabited by other creatures,
- ❖ Improvement in health and working time from clean and safe water access is praised by the community which before used much time and monies to get water and treatments,
- ❖ Knowledge and skills are improving among the community and looking to build a better society in a short future,
- ❖ Zeze village is then the reference village in Kasulu rural for the case studies from which Mboni ya Vijana Group in collaboration with the community, the government and development practitioners have made available, and;
- ❖ Unity among the community members on implementing development projects is raised leaving political faith aside which brought difference among them before the initiatives.



The picture in the left is vegetable irrigation alongside the fish pond and in the right are youth with fishes from the fish pond at MVG site in Zeze - Field photograph 2018

## 5. THE REALITY OF OUR STRENGTHS AND POTENTIAL



There is no something strong without components which make it be of any strength like that Mboni ya Vijana Group is at the present. We are strong because we receive many praised and distinguished support and cooperation from local level to cross boarder friends/partners making our works achieve a big.

- Strong and committed Mboni ya Vijana Group's leaders/managers who founded and lead the organization to the track of success. They have been volunteers and passionate to bring changes to Zeze village and on earth since their graduation of 2013 from the Institute of Rural Development and Planning (IRDP) Dodoma before adding some few more to help.



Adrophina (left) undertaking her secretarial activities in the MVG office and the MVG team (right) visiting a farmer as part of its projects monitoring plan - field pictures

- The cooperation and support given to Mboni ya Vijana by Zeze community, Zeze village and Kasulu District councils, Kigoma Regional Administrative and Tanzania government at large are special distinguished to the flourishing of Mboni ya Vijana Group. The cooperation and supports from those bodies have been very potential to making the initiatives get to the point they are today.



Kasulu District Executive Director Eng Kasekenya in the picture left (in dark tone shoes) led his council team to visit, learn and advice MVG, in the middle are Dr Fransis Njau the lecturer from IRDP and Mr. Almachius Njungani former Kasulu District Community Development officer at MVG facilitating climate change adaptation lesson and right are the Raincatcher Imperial (UK) MVG partner in District Executive Director's Office for introduction – field pictures

- Networking and partnership with local and foreign, individuals and institutions have the appreciated values to Mboni ya Vijana and Zeze community at large. The partners have been donating/funding, advising, training and motivating the functions of MVG to be of success.



Janet (left) is the Communication and Project Officer at Tanzania Development Trust (UK) visiting and talking to women at Zeze, in the middle are Wabia Network and Mboni ya Vijana officers meeting to build partnerships and Johanes (right) from Austria visited Zeze to see our works – field pictures

- Courage and motivations have been playing the great role to making MVG team stand strong to accomplish/to undertake its duties. Sometime we were seen like people who are mud by our clients but there have been the other side of people who encouraged us and motivate us. The government gave us; the land to work on, the loan to start the businesses, visited us and gave us the hope to success. There have been local and foreigners' individuals and organization played such a massive role to make us stand affirm and we respect and value such power given to us.

## 6. EXPERIENCING CHALLENGES?

Yes, part of our success are still associating the challenges however they cannot cause us divert from the main passionate to deal with. Some common challenges we face are;

- Yet the main power source is woods which makes heavy reliant on forest products and continue deforestation,
- Wild fire is keeping burning the bushes and cause big problems on the environments,
- Scarce finance to satisfy administration and community income generation needs give us the headache to the complete environmental problems solutions,
- Education about environment is still not yet covered many people as they would have got it hence keeping worst works on environment,
- We cannot do an outreach work because of the lack of transport facilities, enough staff and related materials

## 7. OUR FUTURE

The future of our works are promising brighter compared to the past as we have been learning about the situations and find out what would be the better solutions. We are putting many efforts on four areas to make sure the adaptive strategies are complemented as listed below;

### 7.1. Improving Income and Food Security

Noticed that the need for money and food security to families is the major treat of the environments to Zeze and surrounding communities. We need to improve those areas so people become the environmental ambassadors. Improved income and food security will improve the access to clean production and sustainable energy resources and finally provide healthier environments and the society.

### 7.2. Intensifying Environmental Literacy and Trees Planting Philosophy

Rural people especially at Zeze and neighbour villages have no awareness about environments and are not planting or protecting trees in their area. We need spread education through classes, posters, signs and strengthening the tree nursery from which we will be supplying trees to the communities.

### 7.3. Improving the Access to Water and Sanitation

Droughts and diseases are the target to solve to make the community feel environments friendly. Since streams are drying, we need continue underground water drilling and rainwater harvesting with the improvement and adapting technologies to make it effective. We want pursue families to build and use better toilets with water to avoid pollution of the environments and possible diseases.

### 7.4. Protection of the Existing Forests

Need more hives and guards to protect the trees from felling down at the protected areas. We need to expand the partnership so that we get support from the government through Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), other environmental agencies and foreign environmental practitioners who are interested in the environmental protection. We dream at protecting the environments by adapting technologies to identify/detect the event and agent of the threat so the actions be of quickly to the right place and agent. The use of secret cameras and flying cameras (drones) can play the central role to stop unplanned deforestation.

## 8. RECOGNITIONS, APPRECIATIONS AND MOTIVATIONS ACHIEVED

Our works have been recognized and motivated at local and international levels making us feel proud and concentrate on solution making to cause more vibrant impacts to the society. The most remarkable recognitions and motivations achieved by Mboni ya Vijana Group includes;

### 8.1. Kasulu District Council and Kigoma Region Administrative

The Kasulu district council recognizes our works and been involving us to participate in the big events and exhibitions. Apart from being appointed to represent the region and district council to big events, we have been referred to as an example among the other successful Community Based Organizations in Kasulu District and Kigoma Region at large. Some example to verify this include the participation to; the National Youth Policy Reform Forum in December 2017 in Mwanza for Lake Zone representing Kigoma region, Tanzania Women Chambers of Commerce Conference on Innovation and the Opportunities in the East Africa Community – Dar Es Salaam 2016, NaneNane Exhibitions in Tabora 2017 and 2018 representing Kasulu District are some events make us feel recognized, appreciated and giving us motive to keep our efforts ahead.



Kasulu district community Development officer Ms Vicky visited youth Camp at Zeze (left) to talk to the benefiting you and Kigoma region Community Development officer Mr. Msafiri Nzunuri (right) invited benefiting youth after he inaugurated youth camp at Zeze to visit his office at the region headquarter – 2019

## 8.2. Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) Dodoma

The Institute of Rural Development Planning recognized the worthwhile Mboni ya Vijana Group has and decided to spread our efforts around the country through the events it plans or has to present the products and impacts made from its training model (Competence Based Education and Training – CBET). Also it has been sending lecturers, students and partners to training, learning and cooperate with Mboni ya Vijana Group in any roles of desire. For example, Mboni ya Vijana has visited by Dr. Francis Njau, Dr. Domitila Bashemera and Mr. Haramba at different time all played the role of facilitation, monitoring and motivating. IRDP has invited MVG to participate to its and national events including Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) 2017, National Exhibition by all Collages under NACTE 2019, and the National Conference on ACT handover held in Dodoma 2019.



Mboni ya Vijana Group spoke to the Institute of Rural Development Planning management (left) and represented in the IRDP's Exhibitions (right) which is the best recognition and motivation to MVG - 2017-2019

## 8.3. The United Kingdom (UK)

Since we have been receiving small grants and the follow up from the people of United Kingdom, we have received recognition, appreciation and motivation from;

- Tanzania Development Trust invited the MVG Chairman to the UK to speak about MVG works to Britain Tanzania Society Annual General Meeting in London which were done in 2018.
- UK parliament also invited MVG present the initiatives and impacts we made to the Common House which was successfully performed and appreciated,
- Geology for Global Development gave as well the invite to share knowledge and skills used to the achievement we have registered during its annual general meeting held in London 2018.
- Wabia Network chosen MVG to facilitate about income generating schemes to the new grant applicants in Kagera region after the recognition of our works,
- Her Majesty the Queen awarded Benedicto with The Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his voluntarily work with MVG to transform lives through sustainable agriculture representing Tanzania. This came after the recognition of our work through the use of local knowledge and small amount of monies.



MVG CEO in the UK parliament (left) with MPs, In the middle is was after presentation during Geology for Global Development conference and on the right are Britain Tanzania Society members with Benedicto in London - 2018



Benedicto holding Commonwealth Point of Lights Award provided by Her Majesty The Queen of Great Britain representing Mboni ya Vijana Group and Tanzania.

These kinds of recognition and appreciations motivates Mboni ya Vijana Group to the hardworking for the better future of our earth. it is very important to the emerging young development activist in the fact that it gives energy and power to them to volunteers to send their creativities and innovations far and produce the difference in the community.

## 9. THE STORIES

There have been number of evidences substantiating that there are changes and good things happening at Zeze village and Kasulu at large as have been witnessed and delivered testimonies by either beneficiaries or the officers represented their institutions. This section is therefore presenting such testimonies.

Mr. Almachius Njungani is the Kasulu District Community Development Officer knows well Mboni ya Vijana Group from supervising and working with it. He has been very supportive and cooperative through his year as the head of Kasulu District Community Development Department. He says; "We (Kasulu District) proud of having Mboni ya Vijana Group in Kasulu. It is our vision and key point youth organization to refer anyone need to learn how rural development is set. We (the district council) dared say, the CEO of MVG (Mr. Benedicto) is nicknamed Dr. Morihiko Hiramatsu the Japanese who constituted wonderful development result to his country through his one village one product movement". The speech to media during the closure of climate change adaptation, he says, "I believe, Zeze will become the most attractive place to learn from in the short future and my office will work closely with Mboni ya Vijana Group because it inspires".

Meliana is the married mother with the family of 6 members lived her life at Zeze village. She lives on traditional farming to feed her family and other needs. Then she started improving her lives through benefiting from Mboni ya Vijana Group initiatives and here are her testimony;- "I am happy because I see the better life. I was unable to produce more than three sucks of maize per

acre and made me rarely fulfil the needs of the family. I was un-trusted women to get business loan from monetary institutions made me unable to even start small businesses. All these made me and my family heavily engage with shifting farming to secure the family needs. God is Good, he finally brought Mboni ya Vijana Group to Zeze and it became a quick solution to my life's struggle. I am among the other who learned and adapted its sustainable improved farming and micro business. I have improved the ability of producing agricultural yields especially maize from there sucks to twenty two (22) sacks per acre making me able to afford other livelihoods. I accesses business education and initial small loan and I make good profit from it and life now is smooth. I no longer bother the natural environments, I handle my family well and I am respected woman in the family. All these I am proud of Mboni ya Vijana Group for becoming the real solutions driver at out village". Meliana says.

Ivo Vedasto is the young married man and the member of Zeze village council. He sees and accepts to the initiatives and roles Mboni ya Vijana Group do at the village level. During the youth camp in July 2019, he got the time to say his feelings on MVG and here are some statements he makes; "To be honest since I born here at Zeze I have never seen the wonderful initiative like Mboni ya Vijana. At Zeze everyone knows, we did not have the hope to have clean and safe flowing water, access to loans, improving education, industries and big events like this at Zeze but they are now operates. Some people died without have shaken hands and eaten together with government officials and white people from the first world. We the present are every time getting to because Mboni ya Vijana attracts them to come and interact with us. I know many of my village people know how it is important to receive visitors, it changes our mindset like hosting English Language speakers, and students build the interest to be alike. We all see how lives and environments are improving from the efforts and support from Mboni ya Vijana. I personally appreciate this kind of innovation and commitment to change the home". He finishes.

Janet Chapman is the British feminist and Tanzania Development Trust project officer. She has been visiting Tanzania often and she gets to Zeze often. In her stories to Zeze she says; "I got to know Benedicto Hosea by chance when I was visiting Kigoma. Someone sent me a small camera to pass to Benedicto as when I met him I randomly asked him many questions and he was specific and perfect than I experienced from other. He seemed good person to talk to and decided to go and visit his home village. The village was very poor and he led me meeting the village council members and other community members before talking to the MVG members. Since then, I have been visiting Zeze village (the most loved and visited village in Kigoma) because of being impressed by the changes I find every time I go there. I real wonder and admire the work Mboni ya Vijana have done in a short time since I visited there for the first time in 2014 to present". She says.

Mr. Nzunuri Msafiri is the Kigoma Region Community Development Officer who was invited to inaugurate Solution Drive Youth Camp run by Mboni ya Vijana Group in 2019. He knew much about Mboni ya Vijana before coming to the village and the site. Mr. Nzunuri says, "There is the good things here and we cannot wait to help. For those have bad intentions with this initiative have to look other where to go as the government is strong encouraging solution making initiatives than conflict making ones. Having the CBO (Mboni ya Vijana Group) that help pushing the community to strive against poverty, is the thing that we are proud of and wishing to have more with the passion like it" He said.

These are some stories which people give to express their emotional to what they have been seeing value the organization (MVG) is and the community it serves.

## SOLUTION DRIVE YOUTH CAMP

Mboni ya Vijana started Solution Drive Youth Camp with the objective of delivering competence based skills and share the experiences among youth who are lacking those skills but in need. For the first time, MVG hosted youth camp at Zeze village involving youth from throughout the country and UK. The camp held from July to August 2019 and during the camp youth learned in practical soap making, borehole drilling, bricks making, laws, resources, rocks, financial planning and management, and other skills those aimed at making them competent to give solutions to the common economical problems in the community. The regions which were represented were Kigoma, Kagera, Lindi, Dar Es Salaam, Singida and Morogoro represented by 73 youth.



Youth participating in different events during the camp at Zeze 2019, the pictures are showing discussion on resources, use of soil resource for bricks making to help hostel construction at Zeze village and the speeches from government leaders – field photos 2019

This camp is the continues and will be starting every June to August every year through which time the youth will learn, share and play together

## 10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Economics and Environments are the two sides of the same coin which need empathetic plans and implementations from a local level to global one. To develop both sides need to be addressed in the manners that solve socio-economic problems in sustainable ways for the best of the environments. We all know that the world economies are set in different modalities depending on the past and present development structures of the countries' economy. In Tanzania the major means of productions are in the hands of the government, however, individuals have their styles and ways of earning daily life needs on the environments regardless how sustainable the means are.

At this level (local) we need to improve the status of income, food and energy security to the community so to make it friend with the natural environments. It is not a short term task that we need to expect but we need to invest in our knowledge, skills, financial resources, technologies and other thing we can to make it the work that will produce massive impact to both economic and environmental development. Business and income has the role to improve other sectors as the households will be able to adapt to the new means of production and serve the families hence the environments improve.

The disparities in knowledge, skills, economic power and technologies do not matter where people are experiencing natural and manmade problems. We recommending on bringing together all valuable resources we have and can use to help minimize if not to quit the magnitude of adverse impacts to underdeveloped earth especially rural Tanzania like Zeze which is the key concern of us to show the way to other communities.



***“Zeze is the home land for all and the present is for our next generations, we are building it for the present and the future”.***

