

Mpendwa Rafiki,

U hali gani? Ni matumaini yetu kuwa umzima mwenye afya tele pamoja na familia yako pia. Vilevile ni matumaini yetu kuwa mwezi wa Ramadhani ulikuwa ni kipindi kizuri sana kwa marafiki zetu waislamu.

Kama mnavyojua, tarehe 17 Oktoba, ambayo ni siku ya kimataifa ya kukomesha umaskini uliokithiri iko karibu. Ndio maana tunapenda kuzungumzia kuhusu tukio hili na maandalizi yake.

Hata hivyo, kama tufanyavyo, tutaanza na shuhuda ambazo zitatusaidia kuelewa vizuri jinsi gani vijana wanaweza kuyafanya mawazo yao katika vitenda.

Dear friend,

How are you? We hope everything is fine with you and your family and that you are all in good health. We also hope that Ramadan was a nice time for all our Muslim friends.

As you know, October 17th, the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty is now very close so we would like to speak again about this event and its preparation.

However as we usually do, we will start with a testimony that should help us to understand better how young people are able to transform their convictions into action.

Chini ya miembe

Hebu leo tuiangalie Bamako, mji mkuu wa Mali nchi iliyo magharibi mwa Afrika. Kwa miaka minne, kundi la vijana wadogo limekuwa likifanya shughuli zao kwa kutumia vitabu pamoja na watoto wanaoishi katika makazi ya kimaskini ya jiji hili. Kama ilivyo kwamba eneo hili lipo karibu sana na mto lenye miti mingi ya miembe, walipaita "Maktaba chini ya miembe".

Kila wiki, baadhi ya vijana wadogo huja na kuwa kusanya watoto, husoma vitabu na huongoza mijadala ambayo kila mtoto huwalikwa kushiriki. Lengo likiwa ni kuwaruhusu watoto kufahamu uwezo na ufahamu wao, kuwasaidia kupenda kujifunza na kujisikia kuwa ni wahusika wa maisha yao ya baadaye.

Salimata yupo katika chanzo cha shughuli hizi. Alitaka kufanya jambo na watoto katika Bamako: alikimbia Ivory Coast kwa sababu ya vita na hukumbuka maktaba ya mtaa ambayo yeye alikuwa ni muongozaji. Aliwaza akiwa anaunda shughuli hizo katika Bamako na kujaribu

**Under the mango trees...**

Today let's look at Bamako, the capital of Mali, a West African country. For about four years, a group of young people have been running an activity around books with the children living in a poor neighbourhood of this city. As the area is very close to a river with many mango trees, they called it "the library under the mango trees".

Every week, some young people come and gather children together to read books and lead discussions in which every child is invited to participate. The aim is to make the children aware of their talents and abilities, foster a love of learning and encourage them to play an active role in determining their future life.

Salimata was the originator of this activity. She wanted to do something with the children in Bamako. She had fled Ivory Coast because of the war and she remembered the street library there where she used to be a facilitator. She imagined creating a similar



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kuwakusanya baadhi ya marafiki zake kuzunguka eneo la mradi. Mwanzoni walifikiri amechanganyikiwa kidogo lakini kidogo kidogo alifanikiwa kwa kuwashawishi wawili kati yao. Kwa pamoja waliendelea kutafuta wengine: Sasa takriban vijana wadogo 25 wanajihusisha katika shughuli hii, wengi wao wanaishi katika maeneo hayohayo maskini ya Bamako na wengine wanaishi pahala pengine.

Mwaka uliopita, kundi hili la vijana wadogo waliamua kusherehekea siku ya kimataifa ya kukomesha umaskini uliokithiri ya Oktoba 17. Kwanza waliamua kusafisha kiwanja cha mpira ulio mbele ya chumba wanachotumia (kwa kuhifadha vitabu na vifaa vingine, kukutana panapokuwa na mvua) kwa shughuli yao. Eneo hili mara nyingine hutumika kuwakusanya wakazi wa eneo hili hivyo lilikuwa ni chafu sana. Kwao ilikuwa ni muhimu kuelezea kwa vitendo kuwa wanawajibika kwa jamii yote.

Kisha wakatumia eneo hilo kuonyesha baadhi ya video mbalimbali zinazoelezea jinsi vijana wadogo wanavyoendesha shughuli hizi pamoja na watoto katika nchi mbalimbali.

Siku ya pili ya sherehe, waliwaalika watu wengi wa maeneo yao kwa ajili ya kuifanya maktaba ya chini ya miembe ijulikane. Waliandaa shuhuda na michezo ya maigiza ili kuwawezesha majirani zao kuelewa zaidi kujitoa kwa vijana hao wadogo.

Kiongozi wa eneo lao alikuwako na kueleza kuwa anakubaliana moja kwa moja na vijana wadogo kuwa walikuwa wakifanya shughuli hizo bila ya malipo na kuwa ilikuwa ni zuri kwa watoto na kwa eneo lao.

Shukrani kwa sherehe hii, watu waliotaka kujitoa katika shughuli hizo walijiunga na kundi la vijana wadogo.

Tunapoelekea tarehe 17 Oktoba pamoja na vijana wadogo kutoka Mali

Tulikueleza kuhusu kujitoa kwa vijana wadogo waishio nchini Mali. Bila shaka, vijana wengi wadogo wanajihusisha pia hapa Tanzania. Ni muhimu kuelewa kuwa vijana wadogo wanajitoa katika nchi zote duniani:

activity in Bamako and tried to interest some of her friends in the project. They first thought she was a bit crazy but little by little she succeeded in convincing two of them. Together they continued to look for others and now about 25 young people are involved in “the library under the mango trees”, most of them living in the same poor area of Bamako.



Last year, this group of young people decided to celebrate October 17th, the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. First they decided to clean the football ground in front of the room they use for their activity (the room is used to store books and material and to

meet when it rains). This football ground was very dirty and, since the space is also used for neighbourhood meetings and gatherings, it was a way to illustrate their commitment to the whole community.

They then used this space to show some videos explaining how young people in other countries run activities with children.

On the 2nd day of the celebration, they invited many people from the neighbourhood. They presented testimonies and dramas to help the community members understand the “library under the mango trees” and their commitment to children.

The neighbourhood leader was present and he made clear that he completely supported the initiative of the young people. He emphasized that they were doing it for free, and that it was good for both the children and the community as a whole.

As a result of this celebration, the group of committed young people has been joined by others so they can strengthen their activities.

Walking towards October 17th with the young people from Mali...

We have told you about the commitment of the young people living in Mali. Of course, very many young people are involved in Tanzania, too. It is important to understand that young people are committed in all the countries throughout the

Wanaunda muelekeo thabiti wa kuupinga umaskini, wameunganishwa na dhana ya jukumu lao katika maisha ya baadaye ya wadogo zao wakike na wakiume.

Nini tunaweza kufanya kupitia uzoefu wa marafiki wadogo wa Mali?

Kuhusu maktaba chini ya miembe, tunaweza kukumbuka mambo matatu:

1. Shukrani kwa Salimata kwa uanzishaji wa tendo hili. Mwanzoni alikuwa peke yake lakini alikuwa akishawishika kuwa ilikuwa inawezekana kuwa kusanya vijana wadogo wengine kwa sababu walikwishaona shughuli kama hii huko Ivory Coast. Inasaidia kufahamu kuhusu nini kinafanyika mahala pengine na kubadilishana uzoefu wetu.
2. Mara nyingi vijana wako tayari kujitoa bila ya malipo katika miradi myepesi na inayoeleweka vizuri wakishirikishana ufahamu wao na watoto wadogo, kama kwenye maktaba ya chini ya miembe. Hicho ndicho mmoja wa vijana wa Mali aitwaye Samwel alieleza: "Kazi yetu ni kushirikishana kile tulichojifunza na wadogo zetu, hasa na wale ambao hawaendi shule."
3. Shughuli ya aina hii inaweza kuwezesha kwa kutumia vifaa vichache sana kama vitabu, mikeka, n.k.

Tuna wiki chache kabla Oktoba 17, na pia tupo mwanzoni mwa mwaka wa kimataifa wa vijana (Agosti 2010 – Agosti 2011). Ndio maana mwaka huu tume pendekeza kushere hekea Oktoba 17 tukilenga juu ya kujitolea kwa vijana katika mapambano dhidi ya umaskini uliokithiri. Marafiki zetu wa Mali wametupa mfano mzuri sherehe za Oktoba 17.

Tunaweza hasa kuchukua muhtasari katika mambo matatu:

1. Walisherehekea siku hii kwa kutumia vyanzo vilivyopo: hawakuhitaji fedha nyingi au msaada wa kifedha lakini waliandaa tukio zuri lisilo na gharama.
2. Waliruhusu vijana kuongea na kusikika, wakielezea kiviipi na kwanini walitoa muda wao bure, walitumbua matumaini yao ya kuchangia ili watoto wakuwe vizuri.

world: together they create a significant tide of resistance to poverty, united by the conviction that they are responsible for the future of their younger brothers and sisters.

What can we learn through the experience of our young Malian friends?

Concerning "the library under the mango trees", let's remember three things :

1. This action started through the initiative of one person, Salimata. At the beginning she was alone, but she was convinced that it was possible to gather other young people because she had already experienced a similar activity in Ivory Coast. It helps to be aware about what is done in other places and to exchange our experiences.
2. Young people are often ready to commit for free in simple and well-defined projects, for example sharing their knowledge with younger children, like "the library under the mango trees". This is what Samuel, one of the young Malian people, explained: "Our duty is to share some of what we have learned with our little brothers and sisters, especially with those who are not going to school".
3. This kind of activity can be facilitated with very few resources: some books, some mats...



We are just a few weeks away from October 17th, the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty, and we are also at the beginning of the International Year of the Youth (August 2010 - August 2011). That is why this year we propose to celebrate October 17th by focusing on the commitment of young people in the fight against extreme poverty.

Our Malian friends give us a good example of an October 17th celebration. We can take particular note of three points:

1. They celebrated this Day using their own resources: they did not need a lot of money or financial support, but they organised a simple and effective event.
2. They allowed young people to speak out and be heard, to explain how and why they give their time for free, to share their desire to contribute to their community so that the children grow up well.

3. Sherehe zao zilikuwa ni katika hadhara. Ilikuwa ni mahala kwa kila mmoja kugundua kujitolea kwa vijana, ilikuwa ni mwaliko kwa kila mmoja kujitoa wenyewe.

Kwa jinsi gani tunakwenda kusherehekea siku hii, katika maeneo yetu ya kazi, katika makazi yetu na katika maeneo yetu mengine? Katika mwaka huu wa kimataifa wa Vijana, inafaa kujitizama kugundua ni jinsi gani vijana wamejihusisha katika kujenga dunia yenye uadilifu. Siku hii ni mahala pa kufanya njia mbalimbali za kujitolea kufahamika na kuelewa umuhimu na thamani ya kujitoa kufahamu katika ngazi ya chini kabisa.

Kama tufanyavyo kila mwaka, tungependa kukumbusha kuwa maelezo yafuatayo husomwa kila mahali duniani ili kuwa na uhusiano na historia ya siku hii.

"Popote pale wanaume na wanawake wanapohukumiwa kuishi katika umaskini uliokithiri haki za binadamu zimevurugwa.

Kuungana pamoja ili kuhakikisha kwamba hizi haki zinaheshimiwa ni jukumu letu sote."

Joseph Wresinski
Mwanzilishi wa ATD Dunia ya Nne

Maelezo haya ndio mhimili wa sherehe hizi za Oktoba 17 kwa sababu hutukumbusha kuwa mapambano dhidi ya umaskini uliokithiri ni mapambano ya haki za binadamu, mapambano ambayo tutashinda tu kama tutaungana.

3. Their celebration was public: it was an occasion for everybody to recognise the commitment of the young people; it was an invitation to others to make a similar commitment.

How are we going to celebrate this Day, each of us where we are, in our working places, in our neighbourhoods, in our associations? In this International Year of Youth, it would be wonderful to look around us to discover how young people are already involved in building a fairer world. This day is an opportunity to highlight the many different ways we can make a commitment and to understand the importance and value of being committed at grass-roots level.

As we do every year, we would like to remind you, that on this day everywhere in the world, the following text is read during the celebrations in order to make a link with the history of the day.

"Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated.

To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty."

Joseph Wresinski,
founder of ATD Fourth World

This text is at the heart of the celebration of October 17th because it reminds us that the fight against extreme poverty is a fight for human rights, a fight we can only win if we unite.

Katika baadhi ya vijarida vya miaka iliyopita (Juni na Septemba 2008 na Septemba 2009), tulijaribu kutoa mawazo yetu/maeno yetu kuhusu njia za kuiangalia/tathmini na kusherehekea siku hii. Kama ungalipenda kupata nakala za barua hizi, unaweza kutafuta katika: www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Kiswahili-.html au tunaweza kukutumia. Usisite kuulizia/kutuuliza.

Tungependa kusikia kutoka katika sherehe zako za Oktoba 17.

Siku hii iwe ni mahala pa kukutana kwa furaha pamoja na vijana wengi.

*Wako, Timu ya ATD Dunia ya Nne
ya Dar es salaam.*

In some newsletters in the last years (June and September 2008 and September 2009), we tried to give some ideas about the many ways of observing and celebrating this Day. If you would like to get copies of these letters, you can find them at www.atd-fourthworld.org/-Tanzania.549-.html or we can send them to you. Don't hesitate to ask us.

We would love to hear about your October 17th celebration. You can use e-mail, phone or letter to tell us about it.

We wish you a very nice time during your celebration on October 17th. May this Day be the occasion of joyful encounters with a lot of young people!

*Your ATD Fourth World Team
in Dar es Salaam*