

SOCIAL ACTION TRUST FUND (SATF)



NEWS LETTER JULY- DECEMBER 2012

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the SATF newsletter issue no. 13 covering July to December 2012. The issue contains a summary of the interventions and results that were achieved in the last six months.

The newsletter presents program reports and success stories on three programs namely Education, Community Empowerment and Psychosocial Support. It summarizes the achievements based on the targets set to be achieved for the last six months.

We hope that you find this newsletter interesting and that you may join us either by providing your comments on how we can improve our work or supporting our interventions so that we can reach out more vulnerable communities.

Enjoy reading and warm regards!

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Overview of SATF Programs and Key Intervention Areas and Investments

SATF Program Areas Overview

Social Action Trust Fund is a Trust established by the United Republic of Tanzania and USAID in 1998. The trust's main interventions focus to mitigate the impact caused by poverty and HIV and AIDS. SATF's work responds to core services of the Most Vulnerable Children as stipulated in the National Costed Plan of Action (I&II) 2007-2010 and 2013-2017. The main programs are: Education, Health, Community Empowerment and Psychosocial Support.

Education Program

This program supports a range of educational projects for Most Vulnerable Children in Tanzania. Currently, SATF is 'working with 19 NGO partners to implement education projects in 14 regions of Tanzania. Every year SATF supports at least 5,000 MVC to access primary, secondary, vocational training and higher learning education.

Community Empowerment Program

This program empowers the community/ local NGOs/FBOs and CBO to be able to take care of growing numbers of MVC. Currently, SATF is implementing two projects; one on micro soft loans which empowers MVC and Caregivers in Songea to establish IGAs, raise their income, hence improve their livelihood; and animal rearing among MVC Caregivers under SATF NGO partners in Dodoma, Shinyanga and Kagera regions.

Health Program

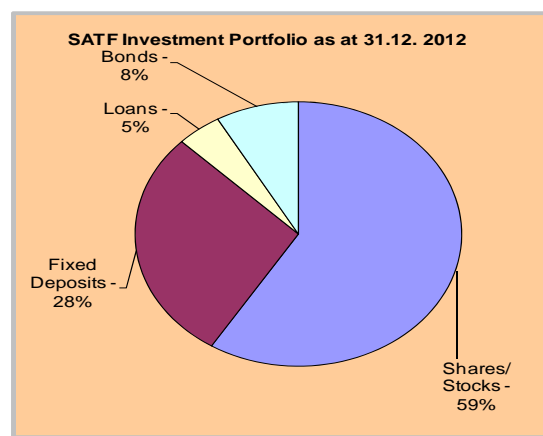
SATF implements two projects under this program; one focus at enabling MVC, Caregivers and communities to access primary health care under Community Health Fund (CHF) and another focus on reducing school dropouts due to adolescent pregnancies by empowering them on Life Skills, Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV and AIDS through SRH project.

Psychosocial Support

This project focuses at capacity building of NGO partners, Caregivers and District councils to improve in planning and implementation of PSS related interventions in their areas through trainings, raising awareness, lobbying and advocacy.

Performance of SATF Investments

Apart from donor funding, SATF supports its programs and operations through returns of its investments. The Trust investments stand as shown in the pie chart below;



Despite the volatility of the market, SATF investments have performed well during the year under review. The Endowment funds have grown by 18% as compared to the previous years' balance.

SATF concludes the Grand PSS Project with Advocacy Meetings, Care Givers Trainings and M&E Support in Southern Highlands Zone

Through FCS funding, SATF has finalized implementation of a three years project on Capacity Building on Psychosocial Support (PSS) in 21 Districts. The project included Advocacy meetings among the District Officials and Trainings of Caregivers on provision of PSS services to MVC.

Advocacy Meetings

During the period under review, SATF in collaboration with its partners conducted Advocacy meetings with District Officials from 3 Districts (Songea Municipal, Njombe and Makambako). The project aimed at sensitizing them on mainstreaming PSS interventions in their plans and interventions related to children within their districts.

Trainings for MVC Caregivers

Trainings involved 60 MVC Caregivers with the aim of building their capacity in PSS so as to improve in provision of PSS services to MVC. Trained Caregivers from Songea, Njombe and Makambako districts have revealed significant achievements in addressing fear, distress and building resilience among MVC with PSS related problems.



PSS participants role playing on how to listen to the Distressed Child during the Training

A Successful Replication of Vijana Simama Imara (VSI) Model in PSS

MVC have proved to have skills, knowledge and capacities that once acknowledged and encouraged by Caregivers can lead to great achievements. This is evidenced by two VSI project implemented in Karagwe and Lindi districts whereby; SATF provided funds to support 20 MVC in Lindi to engage in poultry keeping and 25 youths in gardening activities in Karagwe district



VSI Member Kelvin Chijoka feeding the chicken as captured during the monitoring visit in Lindi Municipality, Lindi Region

Key Issues Revealed from the PSS Monitoring & Evaluation Visits

- Existence of bigger PSS problems in communities which calls for greater PSS interventions
- PSS trained Caregivers have made significant efforts to provide psychosocial supports to MVC and their families
- Through PSS interventions, Caregivers have built mutual social relationship with children and their families

Final PSS Project Evaluation

SATF is in the process of conducting a 3 years PSS Project final evaluation with the aim of assessing the impact made by the project in promoting MVC wellbeing

.....SATF Improves Lives of MVC and Families through PSS Interventions.....

Romani Ndahani is a 3 year old boy. His mother committed suicide in 2011 in his presence presumably due to conflicts with her co-parent on custodian of the child as reported by his Grandmother. His brother died a few months later. Romani had to live with his alcoholic grandmother in a poverty stricken environment. Romani kept remembering his mother's incidence. For the first time when PSS Caregiver Mwamvita Sendege visited him, he was untidy, distressed and in poor health. He was also very reserved; keeping his thoughts to himself occasionally spoke and kept mentioning his late mother.

The PSS Caregiver, Mwanvita Sendeje provided support and encouragement to the boy; she also communicated with his grandmother her concerns on Romani's health; she liaised with health providers for support and counseling the grandmother to shy away from alcohol. She counseled, advised, encouraged and linked the boy to various playing groups and engaged him in peer group activities.



MVC Romani Ndahani (1st left) playing with peers during PSS monitoring visit in Dodoma – October, 2012

This has boosted the boys' confidence, cheerfulness and positive attitude. He has made new friends with proactive engagement in playing activities with his peers. His grandmother appreciated the power of PSS interventions that have made wonderful transformation to his grandchild.

It has been revealed from the PSS interventions that, most of the PSS problems affecting MVC are aligned to problems affecting caring families and their households. Therefore, Caregivers have been doing double roles to address all PSS problems among MVC and their caring families. As it has been a case with Romani's grandmother, she was alcoholic without support in any activity to earn her income.



Roman's grandmother has made remarkable progress towards reducing alcohol intake and improved her responsibility of caring the boy. The boy's grandmother has confirmed to have improvement by saying that *"Being a drunkard is the only way I knew on how to deal with family misfortunes and economic constraints frustrations. With the support from the Caregiver, I now realize that there are other families as poor as mine and I know that there is always somewhere else to go when things get hard hectic at home."*

.....SATF Continues to Support MVC to Access Education.....

Through implementing Partners, SATF has continued with its efforts of supporting MVC to access education in all levels (primary, secondary, Vocational Training and higher learning) in Tanzania and this has been one of the core functions of SATF since its inception.

Achievements from Education Program

- Increased school attendance among the MVC under SATF support in all 19 implementing partners.
- Increased academic performance among the MVC under SATF support
- Improved institutional capacity in organizational development, programming, and service delivery in the areas of governance, managerial processes, administration, financial management, strategic planning, public relations, coordination and networking
- Improved performance and wellbeing for distressed MVC students



Some students under SATF Education support



A group of SATF beneficiaries at Joseph Mbeyela Secondary School in Njombe during SATF field visit

Grants Disbursement

A total of TShs 163 Million was disbursed as 2nd Installment for the year 2012 grant to 18 Implementing Partners. This makes the total disbursement to be TShs. 435 Million for the year 2012.

Call for Proposals for Year 2013

SATF plans to increase its network of implementing partners in financial year 2013. This builds on the existing network which comprises of 18 NGOs. The 'call for proposals' was done from Mbeya, Rukwa, Njombe, Geita, Kigoma, Lindi and Mtwara regions and we have received 42 applications. The review process is underway; thereafter Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) will be conducted.

.....Investing in Education; A Source of Wellbeing for Children Living in Adverse.....

The life difficulties facing the families due to either death of parents or poverty have impacts to the children development and wellbeing. Lack of access to education is one of the major setbacks among many children in adverse in Tanzania. SATF has been supporting MVC to access their basic needs which include education, health, food and social security and protection through its partner organizations so that they become productive members of the society.

In 2012, SATF supported a total of 130 MVC to access education through KARADEA partner organization based in Karagwe district.



A group photo of Kihanga Secondary School supported MVC with KARADEA Executive Secretary Ms. Melania Bitakwate during M&E visit in October 2012



KARADEA Executive Secretary Ms. Melania Bitakwate (right standing) with SATF beneficiaries at Nyahanga Secondary School in Karagwe when visited at their school

During the interview with beneficiaries, MVC commented that 'We are very grateful for the support; This has made us stay in classes and concentrate on our studies; Comparing the 'Before and After' situation, we are so thankful to SATF for the intervention as now we have peace at school and our attendance has so much improved; Before that, we were sometimes disturbed and expelled from schools; Our Guardians were failing to pay school fees as a result of this, we had to stay to stay at home.

SATF Achievements under Community Empowerment Program

Under Community Empowerment Program, SATF implements two types of projects: animal rearing and accessibility to micro soft loans to establish IGA in agriculture, animal rearing and business establishments. The projects aim to empower the MVC Caregivers and Heads of child headed households so that they can support their families in a sustainable manner. The projects are implemented in Dodoma, Ruvuma, Shinyanga and Kagera regions

Achievements from Community Empowerment

- There is increased loan ceiling from TShs. 75,000 in 2009 to TShs. 210,000 by the end of 2012 per beneficiary.
- 100% of beneficiaries from Madaba zone (Ruvuma) have managed to repay their loans within the required time and have scaled up to third round of disbursement of soft loans.
- IGA beneficiaries from Dodoma have scaled up the number of beneficiaries from 47 in 2011 to 50 in 2012.
- IGA beneficiaries from Dodoma, Kagera and Ruvuma have been able to provide educational support to MVC under their care while fulfilling household amenities



A cross section of goats from IGA project beneficiary Mrs Peris Mnali in Dodoma captured during M&E visit

M&E Visits on IGA Projects

SATF has witnessed the growing of the IGAs and the projects have been scaled up to reach more beneficiaries which in turn support more MVC. In Kagera the project has reached 45 MVC caregivers from 30 in year 2011. On the other hand, the number in Dodoma has scaled up from 47 in 2011 to 50 in 2012.



Mr. Alex Nyigu who is one of IGA beneficiaries from Madaba (Ruvuma) looking at his bulls which he benefited from the Micro Soft loan project

Disbursement of 3rd Phase Micro Soft Loans in Ruvuma Region

SATF's Implementing Partner PADI, has managed to disburse 3rd phase of micro soft loans to 38 beneficiaries worth 5.5 million at Madaba zone, Songea district in October 2012 at Songea Municipal, following 100% repayment of their previous loans. The loan amount disbursed is part of 29.1 million injected in the project for both zones (Madaba & Lilondo). The loans will be used to scale up the already established IGAs. Also SATF disbursed a total of 5.3 million to PADI as project administration and M&E costs.

....Empowering MVC Care Takers; a Sustainable Support to MVC Children.....

Karagwe Development Association (KARADEA) is among SATF's implementing partners in Kagera region. SATF through KARADEA has been supporting the MVC Caregivers since 2009 whereby the 30 caregivers were provided with livestock. Each caregiver was provided with 2 goats and 5 chickens. The caregivers were also provided with iron sheets and nails for shed construction and labor charges for construction of sheds. The caregivers were required to pass on 2 chickens and 1 goat which in turn have supported 15 beneficiaries more; this makes a total of 45 beneficiaries to date.

"....with increase of needs at schools where my two daughters are studying, I did not know how to cater for the requirements, and this made me feel distressed. I thank SATF for supporting me with livestock as I am now resilient after knowing that the requirements are easily met..." this was said by Mrs. Jane Josephat

Jane Josephat who is one of beneficiaries in the IGA project in Kihanga village is the first round beneficiary who received 2 goats and 5 chickens and managed to return 1 goat and 2 chickens as per project requirements. Her two daughters are in secondary schools and depend entirely to their mother following the death of their father. Due to school needs of her daughters, Mrs. Jane sold 1 goat and 16 chickens and used the money to cater for the school requirements. She also obtains other benefits from the project such as manure which she uses in farming and raises her harvests. She gets eggs of which she sells some and eats others.



Jane Josephat with her Daughter Standing in Front of her Goat Shed

She further stressed that, *'When parents die children remain devastated, but with the IGA project SATF is providing, the children and their caregivers may still become resilient and happy. This increases happiness to the family and the community at large'.*

Though the project has its challenges such as theft, diseases outbreak to chickens, lack of other supplement livestock foods which are expensive, but it is still advantageous to have this project. She is so grateful for this support of livestock keeping.

.....SATF Extends Support to Visually Impaired Children in Songea.....

The Vulnerable children who are visually impaired are faced with more challenges as compared to other vulnerable children. They face coordination, emotional stress and difficulties in learning considering poor infrastructures in visually impaired schools. With the support from Bank of Tanzania (BOT), SATF was able to support scholastic and shelter support to 40 MVC pupils (i.e 20 Female and 20 Male) at Luhira Primary School in Songea Municipal through its implementing partner, PADI.

SATF's support has relieved the Visually Impaired MVC with a number of challenges within their school which include lack of visually impaired scholastic materials such as Braille reams, special ream papers, paper cutter and binding machine. Other challenges include poor accommodation facilities such as shortage of beds, blankets, bed sheets and other school based shelters.



Shame Yastin, Expressing his, Special appreciation to SATF



A Group Photo of Visual Impaired Children from Lihura after the distribution ceremony



Visually Impaired Children with albinism; Leonika Kwalo and Sospiter Nkata after receiving their support with SATF's staff Mr. Stanley Mongi (Right)

Acknowledgements and SATF Strategic Plan for 2013-2017

Acknowledgement

SATF would like to express its heartfelt thanks to all partners, staff and beneficiaries who made these semi-annual achievements possible. Equally important are the donors who support our work, these include United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Tanzania office for supporting SATF with the Endowment fund, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) for supporting education to students with special needs and Foundation for Civil Societies (FCS) for supporting a psychosocial support project.

Furthermore, SATF extends its appreciation to its business partners whose support was vital to ensure SATF yields maximum returns on its investments. This robust relationship enables the Trust to generate funds to meet its objectives.

SATF New Strategic Plan 2013-2017

SATF is striving to work towards addressing challenges faced by MVC, Caregivers and communities resulted by the impact of abject poverty and HIV and AIDS. Since 1998, SATF has been on the forefront as a National Fund complementing government's efforts in addressing the rampant MVC problem in Tanzania. To this end, SATF has already implemented various strategic plans including the just ended one (2008-2010). The implementation of these strategic plans has significantly contributed to improvement of lives of over 200,000 MVC, Caregivers and communities in the last 15 years country wide. In order to build on these achievements and attain a much wider impact, SATF has developed its new Strategic Plan to guide its interventions for 2013-2017.

The Trust plans to implement assorted interventions from the core services for orphans and vulnerable children as per NCPAI (2007-2010) and NCPA II (2013- 2017) subject to availability of funds. SATF will focus on education, health, psychosocial support and economic empowerment of caring families. Under each core service, SATF will implement a number of interventions whose focus is to address the challenges facing MVC and Caregivers from abject poverty.

The strategic plan document was developed in a participatory manner by involving all SATF key stakeholders including MVC representatives. The document is at final stages and will be available for public sharing by March 2013.

Key Priory Areas for SATF Strategic Plan 2013-2017

- Investment
- Programs and Resource Mobilization
- Human Resource
- Communication and Publicity

Recruitment and SATF Social Events

SATF Engages a New Program Manager

SATF is proud to announce and welcome Mr. Nicholous D. Ndenzako as its new Program Manager.

Before joining SATF, he worked with FHI360 Tanzania country office, providing technical assistance within ROADS II HIV Prevention project; a USAID/MCC/MCA-T supported HIV prevention project focusing on key populations. He has also worked with International Training and Education Centre for Health (I-TECH), Department of Global Health, University of Washington, US as a Training Design/Curriculum Developer and at Human Development Trust as a Program Manager.



The New Program Manager, Mr. Nicholous D. Ndenzako

Mr Nicholous holds a Masters Degree in Demography and Bachelor Degree in Sociology both from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Mr. Ndenzako brings in his experience in planning, designing and managing programs related to public health, community development, economic strengthening and Institutional development.

We are pleased to have Mr. Ndenzako on board and look forward to a prosperous future with him.

SATF Social Events at SATF



SATF staff in picture with Driver Mr. Athuman Hassan (1st left) looking at the cake during his birthday ceremony



It is delightful moment for Program Coordinator, Jerome Sam-De-Mwaya enjoying his drink during his birthday