



GRASSROOTS COMICS WORKSHOP

March 28 - April 3, 2004, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



World Comics Finland
TAPOMA
TANGO



World Comics-Finland/TANGO/TAPOMA-Tanzania workshop and seminar 2004.

Workshop purpose: To train both NGO activists and comics artists to run workshops for producing grassroots comics for development information.

Expected results: Increased readiness and ability within the NGO community to use the highly attractive medium of comics in their information work, e.g. advocacy, public education, or internal NGO communication.

The participants were instructed in how to run comics workshops for the NGO community, how to focus on the issue, turn the message into stories, the stories into comics in different inexpensive formats. After the workshop the participants, activists and comics artists alike, should have the ability to start grassroots comics communication projects within the NGO community in Tanzania and also work as resource persons in comics workshops.

Organisations:

World Comics-Finland, (MaaIlman sarjakuvat - Världens serier ry.) Vanamontie 4 E 156, 01350 Vantaa, Finland. Telephone +358-9-8736751
e-mail: leif.packalen@worldcomics.fi web: www.worldcomics.fi World Comics-Finland is a registered Finnish NGO, which promotes the use of comics as a communication tool in development work.

Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO), Box 31147, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
telephone 255-2-22762208 e-mail: tango@africaonline.co.tz TANGO is the major NGO umbrella organisation in Tanzania and a major cooperation partner to KEPA (Finnish NGO umbrella organisation) in Tanzania.

Tanzania Popular Media Organisation (TAPOMA), Box 14894, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania e-mail tapoma94yahoo.com TAPOMA is an association of the comics artists and cartoonists of Tanzania.

This cooperation has received 80 % funding from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGO Development cooperation. The remaining 20 % has been covered by the World Comics own fundraising and additional support from Sarjakuvantekijät ry (the Finnish Comics Professionals organisation).



Participants on the stairs of the National Library in Dar es Salaam, where the workshop took place. Photograph: Tarmo Koivisto.

Resource persons: World Comics-Finland: Tarmo Koivisto (how to teach comics), Leif Packalén (comics as an NGO communication method) and Ville Tietavainen (artists' marketing, visual communication).

Local resource persons: Katti Ka-Batembo, Morogoro and James Gayo, Dar es Salaam.

Participants, tutors' group: Francis Bonda, Godwin Chipenya, Bishop J. Hiluka, Mathias Kimiro, Willy Lyiamba, Mosses Luhanga, Popa Matumla, Athman Mgumia, Fadhili Mohammed, Nathan Mpangala, Ms. Mariamu Mrisho, Sammi Mwamkinga, Shima Sago, Ms. Zaituni Saeedia.

Participants, test group: Mike D. Jr. (Micky), Ms. Rose Dauda, Chris Katembo, King Kinya, Kasanzu Kitwana, Peter Mambo, Nick Mtui, Ms. Salma Ndomi, Ms. Digna Rocky, Atakelo Solo.

**IF YOU WISH TO RUN A WORKSHOP FOR
PRODUCING GRASSROOTS COMICS, GET
IN TOUCH WITH TAPOMA!**





Programme:

Sunday, 28.3. 11.00 - 16.00 **Marketing seminar** with 23 TAPOMA members in National Library Conference Hall. Lectures on portfolio structure and contents. Exercises in making storyline proposal together with a writer/expert. Schedule of the artists' individual marketing promotion meetings with the resource persons during the week was agreed upon. 21 artists took part in these sessions (about 1 hour each), which were conducted by Tarmo Koivisto and Ville Tietavainen.

Monday, 29.3. Comics tutors' workshop starts.

Comics communication basics - why it is clever to use comics in NGOs.

The basic requirements for a comics workshop set-up
Teaching participants to stress visual storytelling
How to plan a comics workshop

Tuesday 30.3.

NGO-inputs needed in a comics workshop
Artistic inputs needed in a comics workshop
Steps in the production of inexpensive comics formats

Wednesday 31.3.

The test group arrived. The tutors were divided into two groups and each group was given responsibility for teaching in turns. While one group taught, the other was practising the production of 8-page stories and accordion formats.



The accordion is made by reducing a 8-page story to 7,4 cm by 5,2 cm page size, assemble four of them on an A3 sheet, photocopy it and fold it into an accordion, then cut it into four mini-comics. Four 8-page stories for the price of one A3 photocopy! See also page 15. This sample was made by Mariamu Mrisho and the story tells about how an industrious lady makes business in order to school her children.

Test group programme:
 Focus on the issue, messages and desired results
 How to choose appropriate comics format (wallposter)
 Making the stories
 Turning the stories into visual scripts

Thursday, 1.4.

Finalising scripts and starting wallposter artwork.

Friday 2.4.

How to give individual feedback and support to participants

How to arrange critique sessions

Feedback discussion with test group participants.

Test group departed.

Saturday, 3.4.

Project document writing lectures and exercises. The participants were divided into three groups and each had to present a project proposal which was discussed. Each group had both NGO and artists participants.

TAPOMA's annual general meeting. The new Board: Sammi Mwamkinga, Chairman, Katti Ka-Batembo, Vice-chairman, Willy Lyamba, Secretary, Members: Ms. Salma Ndomi, Mosses Luhanga, Nathan Mpangala, Ms. Zaituni Saeeda.

The following week, the Finnish team had several meetings with TAPOMA's new board members, TANGO's Staff, the Finnish Embassy and with individual comics artists.

Conclusions: The training of the tutors went well beyond expectations, it seems they all achieved a very clear understanding of what could be done with grassroots comics and how to instruct people to make them. In the future, it will obviously be more important to promote the grassroots concept within the NGO community than to train the grassroots comics workshop resource persons more.

Handouts to the participants:

Marketing and portofolio (English and Swahili) 2 pages

How to run a comics workshop (English and Swahili) 2 pages

Grassroots comics - a great tool for activists, 20 pages

Komiki - Hadithi kwa njia ya michoro, 30 pages

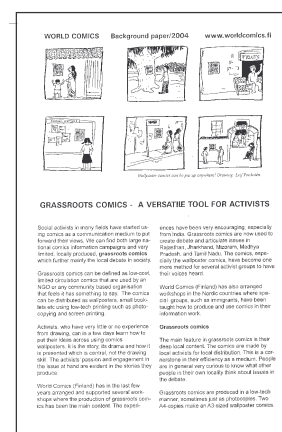
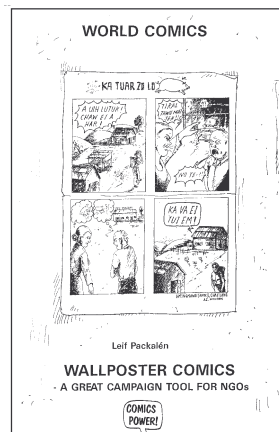
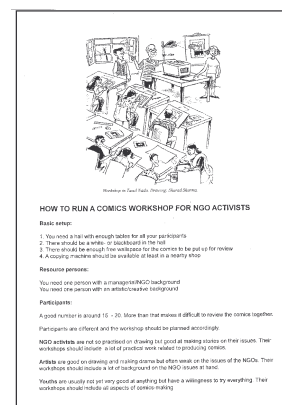
Wallposter comics - a great campaign tool for NGOs, 24 pages

Grassroot comics - background document, 2 pages

Project document samples, 12 pages



Leif Packalén



TUMIA UMEME WA JUA



BY: SHIMA SAGO

"Use solar energy", A villager complains that the government will never bring electricity to his village. His friend advises him that solar energy is an option and urges him to go to TATEDO (an NGO for energy alternatives). Later the villager tells his friend that solar energy has greatly improved his life. *Story and art: Shima Sago of TATEDO.*

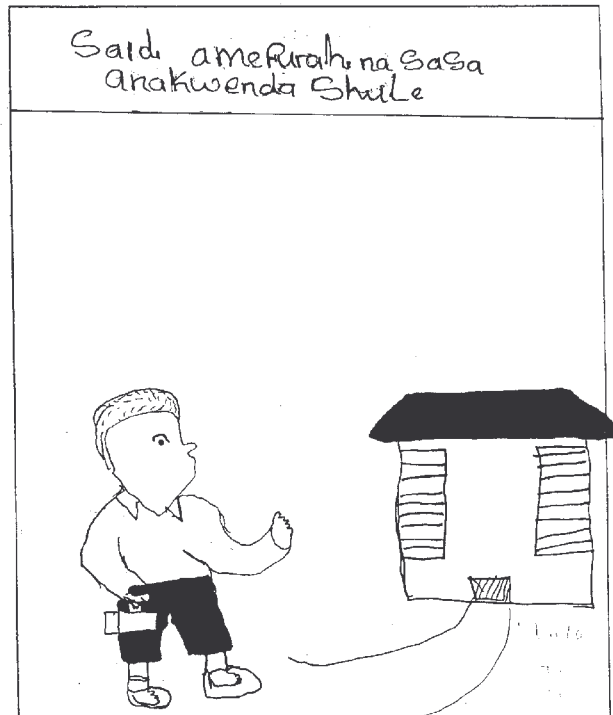
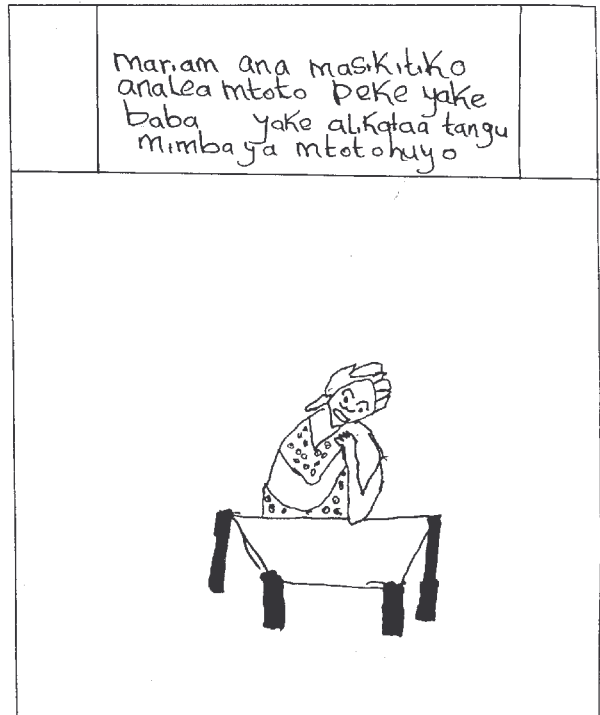


"Use solar energy" (as an 8-page booklet) by Shima Sago.

The participants were requested to also make an 8-page booklet of the same storyline as in the four-panel wallposter.

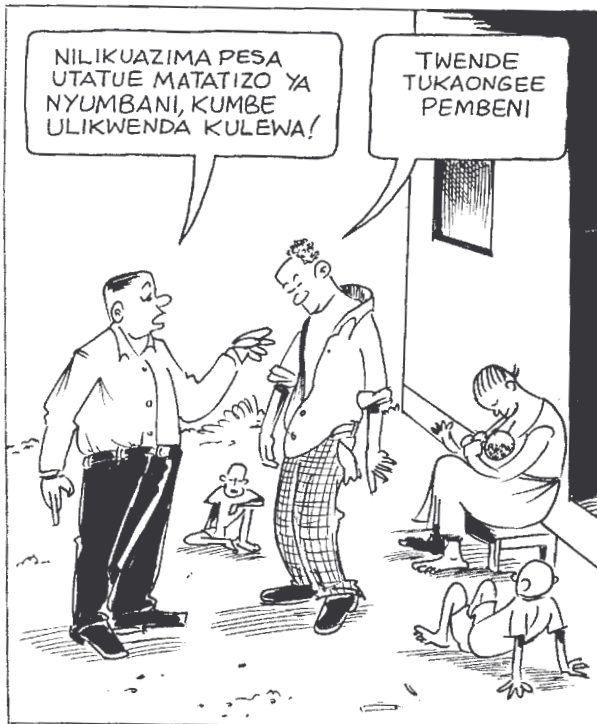
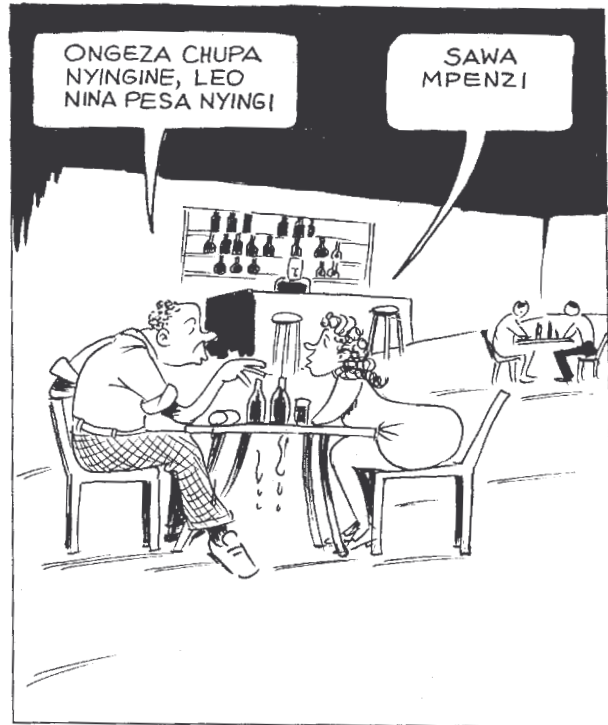
Here you can see how Mr. Sago added a lot to the story by having his main character discuss the energy issue with his wife and her views could be included in the story.

ELIMU YA MOTO



“EDUCATION OF THE CHILD”, Mama Mariam tries to solicit help to educate her son, Saidi. After failing to secure any funding, she decides to go into business and earn money so that Saidi can go to school. (See this story also in an 8-page minibooklet “accordion” on page 4).
Story and art: Mariamu Mrisho of Kinondoni Intermediate Gender Network.

TUZITUNZE FAMILIA ZETU



TUTIMIZE WAJIBU

NA WILLY LYAMBA

"Take care of your family matters", The father in the family explains to his friend that he has a big family problem and needs to borrow some money urgently. He immediately goes and squanders the money on drinks and bargirls. When his friend finds out he complains bitterly and says that a father in a family should take responsibility for family matters first. *Story and art: Willy Lyamba.*

ASIE SIKIA LA MKUU



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1st 4-2004

"You must listen", Two friends size up girls from their school. The other says that school girls cannot carry the hiv/aids virus. Later when he approaches one of the girls, she informs him that the school doctor has called for him. The doctor tells him that he is hiv-positive. *Story and art: Ms. Digna Rocky.*

Mwana mke ana haki°



"Women have rights!", A village woman is widowed and the late husband's relatives chase her away from the property owned by her husband. She does not accept this and takes the case to court, which decides that the property must be inherited by her, not the husband's relatives.
 Story and art: Ms. Rose Dauda.

TUACHE KUKEKETA..

MAMA YOYOO NI MWANANKE WA KIHASAI
ANAEPINGA UKEKETAJI WA WATOTO WA KIKE.



MAMA YOYOO ALIAHUA KUWASHAURI
WANAWAKE WENZAKE KUJUSIANA NA SUALA
HILO...



VIFO VYA MARA KWA HARA
YILIONGEZEKA KUTOKANA NA UKEKETAJI

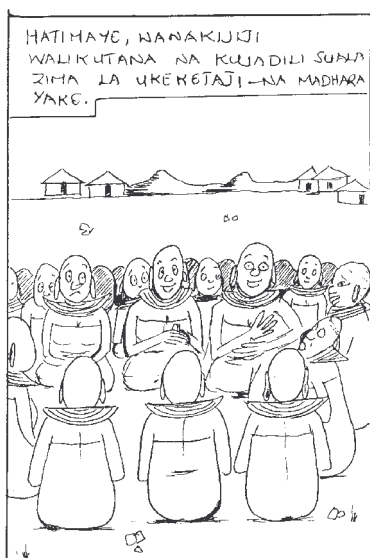


HATIMAYE JAMII ILIUNGANA
PAMOJA KUPINGA UKEKETAJI.



KUNA MADHARA

"We must stop FGM - it's bad", There is a deep division in the village on the issue of FGM (female genital mutilation). A villager, Mama Yoyoo lobbies vehemently against the practise, and in the end she turns the opinion of the others. Story and art: Ms. Zaituni Saeedia.



“We must stop FGM “, same storyline, but now as an 8-page booklet.

By adding four pages, Ms. Saeedia has been able to deepen the drama of the story considerably by showing the actual procedure and the subsequent discussion between the women in the village.

Some samples from the 8-page booklets:



Last page from Fadhili Mohammed's story against tobacco smoking.



Cover from Francis Bonda's story on women's right to inheritance.



From Kasanzu Kitwana's story about water and sanitation.



From Athman Mgumia's story promoting the use of fertilizers.

GRASSROOTS COMICS

Grassroots comics can be defined as **low-cost, limited circulation** comics that are used by an NGO or any community based organisation that feels it has something to say.

The comics can be distributed as wallposters, small booklets etc using low-tech printing such as photocopying and screen printing.

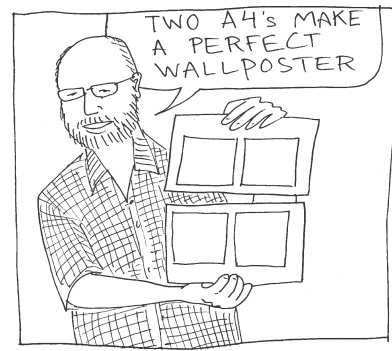
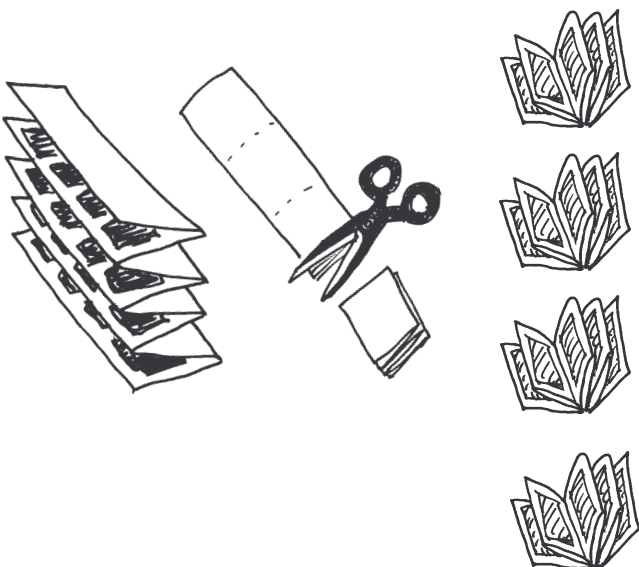
Activists, who have very little or no experience from drawing, can in a few days learn how to put their ideas across using comics wallposters.

It is the story, its drama and how it is presented which is central, not the drawing skill. The activists' passion and engagement in the issue at hand are evident in the stories they produce.

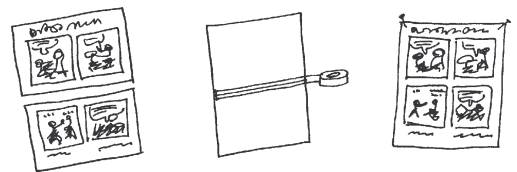
The main feature in grassroots comics is their deep local content. The comics are **made by local activists for local distribution**. This is a cornerstone in their efficiency as a medium. People are in general very curious to know what other people in their own locality think about issues in the debate.

Grassroots comics are produced in a low-tech manner, sometimes just as photocopies.

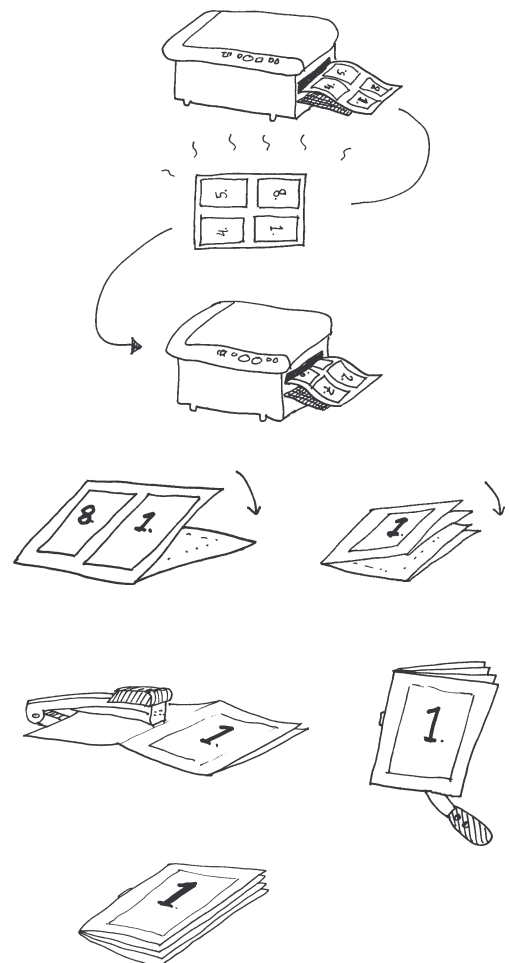
Four 8-page accordion-type minicomics can be made from one A3 photocopy.



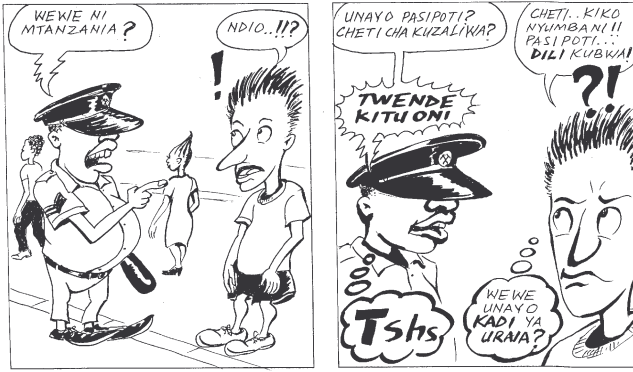
Two A4-copies make an A3-sized wallposter comics.



An 8-page booklet can be made from a doublesided A4 photocopy.



URAIA DILI



The wallposter format is multi-purpose: The normal wallposter comics size is A3 (420 x 297 mm), which can easily be read on a wall.

But sometimes it is nice to publish the same comics in a small publication or a newspaper and then the strip is a more convenient format.

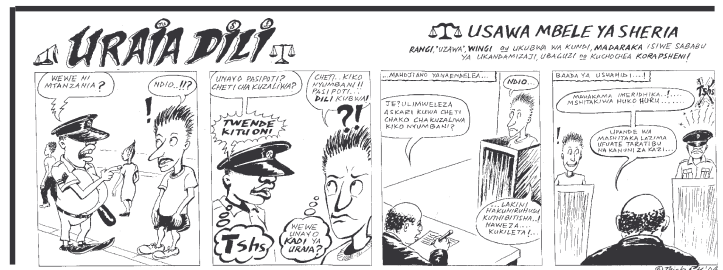
A wallposter can be converted into a newspaper-type strip by reducing the size about 50 % and then rearranging the panels in a strip, as below.

Further below you can see the strip in its natural size as it would appear in a newspaper.



USAWA MBELE YA SHERIA

RANGI, 'UZAWA' WINGI BU UKUBWA WA KUNDI, MADARAKA ISIWE SABABU YA UKANDAMIZAJI, UBAGURI NA KUCHOCHA KORAPSHENI!



URAIA DILI



USAWA MBELE YA SHERIA

RANGI, 'UZAWA' WINGI BU UKUBWA WA KUNDI, MADARAKA ISIWE SABABU YA UKANDAMIZAJI, UBAGURI NA KUCHOCHA KORAPSHENI!



This story "Deal on citizenship" is about a policeman who demands a passport from a Tanzanian citizen (with a foreign appearance). The policeman thinks he can get a bribe, but in the police court the judge decides he had no right to demand it. Story and art by Micky.

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**COMICS
POWER!**

always!

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