

**ELIMU
MWANGAZA**
Tanzania



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Introduction

This report highlights the progress of Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania for the period of January to June, 2016. The six months have been of its kind due to the organization's experience of implementing its first strategic plan of 2016-2020. The strategic plan serves as a road map for effectiveness and consistence. Over the period of six months the organization reached different milestone in supporting children in accessing education and working towards increasing their safety, as detailed below.

The organization is proud of achieving the progress made thanks to the efforts of different stakeholders, locally and internationally, who have the passion of seeing and hearing children live a happy life and realize their full potential. The organization has also participated in different forums for the purpose of learning and linking.

The organization ensured the quality of its work by complying with local and international instruments that safeguard children. Of particular importance are Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), which Tanzania is a signatory. Nationally, the organization complies with the Tanzania Law of Child Act, Child Development Policy, National Costed Plan of Action (NCPA) II and Education Policy.

Quality Education

In the period of Jan-June, the organization supported 127 vulnerable children with educational materials and footballs thanks to the support of Ms. **Lucia Plescia**, a Lecturer of Concordia University, Canada, **Backlays bank, Moshi** branch and **Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania**.



Photo: Children holding the donations received from Ms. Lucia Plescia, a Lecturer of Concordia University, Canada.



Photo: Backlays Bank representatives with children and teachers during their visit to ChemChem Primary School, Moshi district.

Due to the vulnerability of the ChemChem community and the children themselves, the demand for protection and educational materials is increasing compared to the capacity of the organization. In this regard, the organization is working hard to balance the need based approach and rights based approach. The rights based approach will be the major focus of the programming of the organization. This approach helps the rights holders such as children and the community demand their rights from the duty bearers, the government and the duty bearers to fulfill their responsibilities. Our monitoring visits found that, educational materials have contributed to positive outcomes for children, such as reducing truancy and drop outs, motivating children to regularly attend school, increasing the love and care that children feel, increased enrolment of 32 children (2015) to 52 children (2016) for standard 1 (Primary 1). Likewise, teachers mentioned that the educational materials helped them to prepare lesson plans.

In relation to that, the organization recognizes the need to focus more on **outcome** rather than **output**. Such a focus meets the needs of children in a sustainable fashion. For example, while a one off - donation of educational materials is useful; it does not address the actual root cause of children's vulnerability. Therefore, more work needs to be done in mobilizing resources for strengthening child protection and family strengthening through livelihood programmes and economic empowerment. The more resources are obtained, the more systems and structures will be strengthened to protect and care for children.

In addition, in order to respond to households' highest demands, there is a need to introduce economic strengthening for households with the most vulnerable children. This approach would contribute to the National Costed Plan of Action 2013-2017 which calls on stakeholders to strengthen interventions to improve income and assets through livelihoods.

Child Protection and Participation

The organization introduced an essay competition in ChemChem Primary School for children to identify the main causes of truancy and drop outs. In their essays, children mentioned child abuse and exploitation, poor school infrastructures, poverty, lack of food programmes in schools, bullying and pressure from parents to participate in agricultural and fishing activities instead of attending schools. Girls mentioned lack of female teachers as a challenge for them, as well as their need for regular health support and advice for their reproductive health and sexual rights. The school has a high level of truancy and drop outs: most of the time it stands at 50%.

There have been challenges in rolling out child protection awareness raising and workshops due to a lack of funding for programming. The organization continues to mobilize resources locally and internationally in order to have programmes that respond to the issues raised by children in their essays. The ecological model will be used to make sure that issues that face children are addressed holistically by targeting children, families, community members and government departments. For the purpose of this work, ecology means the relationship and interaction among child protection actors and their environment in addressing child protection concerns and issues. For the interventions to be sustainable, these actors should be engaged in a structured and sustainable way.

Children continue to participate in sports, thanks to the support of **Ms. Yardley Janvier, a lecturer of John Abbot College, Canada and Backlays Bank, Moshi** branch who provides sports equipment like footballs and jump ropes. Girls also continue to take part in jump rope games and they have established their own drama group where they strengthen their relationship and increase their fun. They raised a demand for drums for their group. In this regard, Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania will support them when the resources are available. The organization will continue to monitor sports through regular visits to the school.



Ms. Yardley Janvier (standing right), a Lecturer from John Abbott College (Montreal, Canada) during her visit to ChemChem Primary school (Moshi, Tanzania) and Upendo Ally Ramadhani, Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania's Director of Programme (left) (Photo 2015).

The organization plans to systematically help the girls' group with skills and knowledge on children's rights and child protection where they can perform and educate others on the effect of child abuse, exploitation, violence and the importance of education. The same group will be used for girls to discuss issues that affect them including sexual and reproductive needs and rights and their unmet needs. Due to the sensitivity of the issue, a girls' club and a child rights club will be a good fit for them, in order to create a

space for child participation. Sports continue to build motivation for children to participate and attend school. They also improve love and collaboration and reduce bullying among themselves.



Photo: Children receiving footballs as a donation from Backlays representatives, Moshi branch, Tanzania.

Government Engagement and Partnership

The organization partnered with government at district and ward level in view of the preparation of the day of African child. The day is commemorated every year on June 16th, to remember the death of children in Soweto, South Africa who were killed during apartheid when they demanded quality education and to be taught in their own language. Hundreds of students were shot, and more than hundreds were killed. This day also raises awareness of the continuing need for improving the education provided to South African children and other children across the world.

The 2016 theme was **"UBAKAJI NA ULAWITI VINAEPUKIKA, CHUKUA HATUA KUMLINDA MTOTO - RAPE AND SODOMY CAN BE AVOIDED, TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT A CHILD."** Elimisha Pamoja Tanzania contributed financial and technical resources during the preparation. The Moshi District Council engaged NGOs such as TUSONGE Community Development(CDO), Child Reach Tanzania, Gabriella Rehabilitation Centre, Tanzania Women Research Foundation (TAWREF), World Education Incorporation (WEI), CCBRT (Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania), Amani Center for Street Children, and KIWAKUKI. The event brought together children from Primary and Secondary School, and government at regional, district, ward and village level. The venue for the event was Ghona disability college in Moshi.

Linking and Learning

Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania is a member of Implementers Partner Groups (IPG) of Moshi District Council. It is a new forum that was established by the department of health and community development to bring together organizations to discuss and share their experiences on children rights. The first meeting was conducted in May and supported by World Education Incorporation (WEI) with funding from United States Agency for International Development USAID. The IPG helped the organizations to get to know each other and the work they do, and to figure out how to support each other. This opened up a room for collaboration and experience sharing between among stakeholders.

The organization is also a member of Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF) which has about 200 member organizations across Tanzania. The organization attended an Annual General Meeting which aimed to share the progress made by TCRF in children rights. The activity was held in the Morogoro municipality from June 15th to 17th, 2016 and it brought about 120 members of the forum.

The forum's aim was to bring together all organizations who are members to discuss the achievements of the country and TCRF in the children sector, challenges and ways to address the challenges holistically. Tanzania is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). Therefore, it has the obligation to report to these two bodies by preparing a report which these bodies use for review. The alternative report is prepared by NGOs, and currently Tanzania Child Rights Forum is preparing an alternative report to the ACRWC with input from members.

The major issues discussed were alternative reports to the ACRWC, TCRF Strategic Plan and Inauguration of TCRF new logo. The event was officiated by Ms. Sihaba Kinga, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Children and Elderly.



Photo: Ms. Ms. Sihaba Kinga, The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Children and Elderly giving a speech during the TCRF meeting in Morogoro, Tanzania.

Another milestone was the opportunity for capacity building. Three themes were proposed whereby each member organization had to select one theme and attend the session. The thematic areas were Organizational Development and how to work with children and child rights programming. Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania representatives selected Organizational Development because the organization is still new and it needs skills and knowledge to grow.

Lastly, members indicated a high satisfaction with the work of TCRF to support the efforts to realize child rights. However, NGOs still face some challenges regarding fundraising and programming. Results based management is key for programming and NGOs have to understand what results they want to achieve.

The last day ended with the election of board members for a tenure of 3 years. The process was participatory and the result was very democratic. Amongst the 5 members, 3 were old and 2 were new. Two posts were reserved for women because they rarely apply for these positions.

The TCRF secretariat and board members will make sure that forum members meet and participate effectively in child rights.

Communication and Fundraising

The organization continues to mobilize resources for the implementation of the strategic plan. The resources are mobilized locally and internationally. The Financial Institutions have been part of the mobilization of resources for the organization. The organization approaches individuals and foundations to seek support for its programming. Backlays bank responded positively and supported the organization in kind by helping children. The organization also received support from Ms. Lucia Plecia, a Lecturer of Concordia University. More efforts and follow ups are in progress to reach more individuals, foundations and donors.

The organization distributed its annual report to government departments in Moshi District Council, such as the department of education and community development, in addition to Arusha Chini ward leaders and the ChemChem Primary School. The organization also posted the reports on the website to increase access to them.

Organizational Development

Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania staff attended an Organizational Development training which was offered by the Tanzania Child Rights Forum (TCRF). The training was offered during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in order to build the capacity of the forum's member organizations to better manage their organizations. The 2015 AGM went along with capacity building. It came at the right time, when the organization is growing and the knowledge will be fruitful.

Human Resources, Policy Development and Practice

The Executive Director, Mr. Michael Reuben Ntibikema continues to lead the organization's vision and strategic direction in collaboration with Ms. Upendo Ally Ramadhani. Late in October 2015, the organization recruited a volunteer, Ms. Consolatha Tarimo who supports the organization's logistics, office maintenance and documentation. In relation to that, a part-time volunteer accountant continues to provide guidance on financial planning and management. We also extend our great thanks to Ms. Victoria Cichalewska, a Law Graduate of McGill University, Canada and Enitha Msamba a Lecture in the department of Communication of Moshi University of Cooperatives and Business Studies (MUCCOBs) Moshi, Tanzania who have been working tirelessly to assist us with editing our documents including reports, policies and other key documents.

Over the past six months, the organization developed policies to guide its practice. One of the policies developed was Child Protection Policy, which aims to safeguard children in all of its programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes. All of these activities require a guideline for working with children which is reflected in the document. Other policy developments and reviews include the Financial Policy which aims to provide an internal control process and procedure, which thereby improves the organization's financial systems. The organization's Human Resources Policy was also developed and reviewed this year. It is hoped that the policies will strengthen and improve the organization's systems.

Major Challenges

One of the major challenges that the community, the children and the organization faces is the lack of a bridge to use during the rainy season. When it rains, the community is disconnected from other parts of the village populated by children. These children consequently face numerous hardships to go to school, and community members cannot access services from other villages. Worse enough, even the Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania which is interested in supporting the school and the community, cannot reach them

easily. The last monitoring visit in May with Backlays Bank representatives was challenging. This situation happens every year from April-June. This river needs a bridge and the organization will continue to share this challenge in order to inspire motivation to support children and the entire community by building a bridge and allowing these individuals to cross the river any time of the year.

Therefore, in May this year, we had to cross a river to reach the school by using a wooden traditional canoe.



Photo: Mr. Michael Reuben Ntibikema, the Elimisha Pamoja Executive Director crossing in the river by canoe during his recent visit in ChemChem Village, Moshi district.



Photo: Backlays staff, Mr. Abdallah Sufiani (left) and Mr. Said Borakupata (right) accompanied by ChemChem Primary School head teacher, Mr. Wilbard Chuwa (infront) during the recent visit.

Next Plan

Building on the milestone achieved over this period of six months, the organization will continue to strengthen its partnerships for child protection, its relationship with government departments and partner organizations in Moshi, and other regions in Tanzania and solicit support from other partners across Tanzania. A partnership for resource mobilization is an opportunity that the organization should investigate. Issues regarding children with disabilities, marginalized groups, gender mainstreaming and girls education will be considered for resource mobilization due to the direct impact of these issues on children in local communities.

The organization will also continue to mobilize human and financial resources in order to continue implementing its strategic plan. In this regard, the organization is putting its energy and time in local and international fundraising fronts. The key thematic area of child protection, quality education, child participation and research requires resources for implementation. It is hoped that interested individuals, foundations and donors will collaborate with Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania in one of, or all thematic areas.

"Let us work together in creating a safe environment for children."