



## Back ground information.

Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania (EPT) is a Swahili word for “Education is a Light.” EMT is a non-governmental organization which was established in January 2014 and registered in September 2014. The organization is mainly working in Tanzania mainland, Kilimanjaro region in Moshi district. The organization aims to promote children’s rights, through its child protection and participation programmes in schools and around the communities of Moshi, Tanzania.

Tanzania’s National Costed Plan of Action (NCPA II) 2013-2017 indicates that all children are vulnerable to abuse, violence and exploitation. The Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) are at greater risk because of their circumstances and often less able to access the services they need. Most abuse and violence remain hidden and so reported cases are effectively just the “tip of the iceberg.”

During the period of January to June, 2015, the organization has directed its efforts in the following areas;

## Highlights for Jan-June 2015

**1. Child Protection:** The project has worked with children in primary school, teachers and local government officials at district, ward and village level. The organization engaged with children to discuss various issues and concerns of child protection. Children continue to inform the organization that issues of abuse and violence need to be addressed in order to create a safe and friendly environment for children. Corporal punishment, abuse and neglect in the families affect children’s development and welfare. The school still faces the challenges of lacking child protection, children’s rights education and mechanisms to address abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect.

The most success that the organization is proud of is the relationship it has with school authorities and the government departments. This is a good entry point for future projects and programs in the community and for the sustainability of child protection work. The school communities have shown great interest to partner with Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania to end the vulnerability of children. Moreover, the organization has introduced a sport project to help children enhance their health and their respect towards each other, and to address bullying and to strengthen unity among themselves. Over the last six months, Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania continued to learn that there is violence in schools and in the communities. Teachers still use corporal punishment contrary to the 2009 Law of Child Act, which stipulates the importance of preventing harm against children. Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania’s relationship with school authorities and the government department is necessary to address these issues.

## 2. Improving Quality of Education

The organization has been working with ChemChem Primary school to identify barriers to quality education. By meeting with children and teachers from the school, the organization identified various barriers to quality education, which have greatly contributed to school drop-outs and truancy. Some of the reasons include the school’s poor infrastructure such as poor classroom buildings, lack of a library, lack of learning materials such as textbooks, and a lack of scholastic materials for children from poor families. Moreover, some parents are not taking the responsibility to take their children to school, and instead take them for fishing and harvesting. Some girl children do not attend school due to health issues. When they are in their menstrual cycle, they have to stay home. At their school, there is also no female teacher that they could share their health challenges with. Due to these factors, children are not motivated to attend school. Even the quality of education they receive does not motivate children to attend school.

The organization continued to gather information on the status of education in schools including drivers of school dropout and truancy, which stands at 50% of 250 children. Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania in June visited ChemChem students and teachers. There were only 120 children who attended the school out of 250. The attendance rate was 50% girls and boys. Most children did not attend school and the reasons were not known. The organization’s visit was done one day after the opening of the school in July. Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania handed a donation of 7 footballs and 6 jump ropes to the ChemChem Primary School on behalf of Yardley Janvier, a Lecturer of John Abbot College, in Montreal Canada, and her colleagues from Canada.

In February and March, the organization supported vulnerable children with exercise books, pens and pencils, through the generous support from our friend Ms. Yardley J, a Lecturer from John Abbot College in Canada. In this school some

children do not attend school due to lack of school materials and other scholastic materials. The children and teachers were very much impressed by this support. However, there is a need to conduct Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and interviews with parents or meetings with parents to identify other factors that fuel truancy and drop-outs.

### 3. Child Participation

Child Participation is one of the rights of children as per domestic and international instruments that protect children, such as the Tanzania Law of Child Act of 2009, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). The organization is exploring better ways and tools to promote child participation. The organization is strategizing to establish child participation structures in schools, such as school clubs and to also build capacity of children themselves to understand the concept of child participation and the extent to which they can be part and parcel of bringing change in the family, schools and the community.



**Photo:** Children with their footballs and jump ropes from Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania, donated to them on behalf of Yardley Janvier a Lecturer from John Abbot College and her colleagues from Canada.

**Sport Project:** Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania introduced a sport project in ChemChem Primary School. The interview with a head teacher highlighted that, the last time children participated in sports in 2010. Since then children have not been playing sports. They lacked sport equipment such as volleyballs, footballs and jump ropes. In the past, the school organized sport competitions with another nearby school called Kiruani Primary School, but it was difficult to organize it again because of the transport costs to carry children and sports equipment. Then, they stopped playing. Teachers and children were very happy of the organization's donation and they thought that there should also be interschool and interclass competitions in order to improve sports and build relationship among students.

Moreover, the Focus Group Discussion with children found that sports and jump rope can build their psychological well-being, their social skills and make them more active. Sports will also motivate children to attend school and reduce truancy and drop-outs. The discussion also indicated that sport improves learning, performances, the collaboration between children and teachers, and children feel happier in the school setting. Likewise, sports will reduce bullying among children and will help children who come from poor families and who have learning difficulties, by giving them psychosocial support through interaction with others. They will also become more active and interactive and improve

their health and development. During discussions with children, they mentioned that before receiving the equipment, they were not happy and active. One child said that *“I was feeling bad and not happy when we go out for break because there was nothing to do, but now I will enjoy playing the footballs and jump ropes with my friends and others” (a child from ChemChem Primary School).*

#### 4. Governance and Management

##### (a) Board of Directors

The organization continues to work with the Board of Directors to support the vision of Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania. Board members were available for consultation during the period of January to June, 2015.

##### (b) Human Resources and Administration

The organization continues to be managed by the Executive Director and the Director of Programmes on voluntary basis. The organization will recruit a volunteer who will be an office administrator to support some office activities. Currently, the organization has no financial capacity to pay for their salaries and benefits of part time and full time staff. Lack of funds have affected the organization to employ a full time Finance Officer to support the organization’s financial management on a full time basis, the organization entirely depends on a volunteer part time finance officer. The founders continue to pay rent, buy office facilities and utilities through their own income base obtained from consultancy works. Lack of funds to pay rent, utilities and regular transport to the communities have posed major challenges in implementing the program.

#### 5. Fundraising and Communication

The organization has continuously spent massive time in identifying individuals, companies, foundations and donors to fund the programs. The organization was able to send funding proposals to Back lays Bank, requesting support for the most vulnerable children and Akiba Uhaki Foundation, Nairobi to support children’s rights education, awareness raising to the communities and advocacy. It is hoped that once this fund is received, it will support the organization’s work. With regard to communication, the organization is in the process of finalizing the website which will start to function in August, 2015. The website will help the organization to communicate its work and strategies of engaging with schools, families and the communities..

#### 6. Networking and collaboration

Elimu Mwangaza Tanzania is a firm believer of networking and collaboration as one of the essential strategies to eliminate violence against children. During the past six month, the organizations has been identifying the potential networking opportunities within and outside the country. The organization is a network of Tanzania Child Right Forum (TCRF) and Children Agenda. It is currently setting strategies to expand its networking for learning and linking where it will share the work and learn from others.

#### 7. Future Plans

The organization is planning to put in place different policies such as a human resource policy, and the strategic plan 2016-2020. To this end, it is making efforts to identify funders of a strategic plan of 2016-2020 to identify clear outcomes, objectives and outputs, and thus be a road map for the organization. Despite the insufficient funds, the organization will continue to conduct field visits to ChemChem village and ChemChem primary school. The organization is also planning to visit different organizations and companies for learning, networking and collaboration opportunities. Due to the challenges identified such as poverty, truancy, drop out and poor infrastructure, the organization needs to conduct community assessments focusing on economic, social and environmental barriers and how they affect families and children. The assessment will identify available resources and challenges within the communities and use the findings for programming