

PROJECT PROFILE

December 2007



CREATE works to improve the quality of learning in Tanzania and Zanzibar in partnership with local communities, civil society, and the government.

PROJECT FACTS

Implementation Period

February 2007— December 2008

Total Budget

US\$ 3 million

History

CREATE extends and expands upon the initiatives of the Mradi wa Kuendeleza Elimu Zanzibar (MKEZA) programme (May 2004 to January 2007).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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COMPLETION, RETENTION, AND ACCESS FOR TANZANIANS TO EDUCATION (CREATE)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CREATE is working to improve the quality of learning in mainland southern Tanzania (Lindi and Mtwara urban and rural districts) and Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba islands). CREATE works in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and local communities. It provides learning tools to children with special needs, trains and mobilises communities in advocacy work regarding education, upgrades the teaching skills of secondary school teachers through training workshops, and promotes the study of math and sciences amongst children, especially girls.

CREATE is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Teacher Advancement Programme (TAP) and the Zanzibar Madrasa Resource Centre (ZMRC), in close consultation with local, district and national government organisations on both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The programme targets education delivery systems at local, district and national levels to:

Objective 1: Improve access to quality learning opportunities in pre-primary and primary schools for underserved children in Zanzibar and Lindi and Mtwara urban and rural districts.

Objective 2: Improve secondary students' performance in mathematics, science, and English language.

Objective 3: Provide strategic support to the education sector.

CREATE also aims to enhance government mentoring and training capacities, support communities in school management, strengthen teacher skills, promote participation of local civil society organisations in the education system, equip classrooms with learning materials, and improve educational access to vulnerable populations.

“Inclusive education is a means of reducing poverty and increasing quality of life. CREATE leads the way in integrating inclusion for all learners.”

-Member of a CREATE special needs technical team



INTERVENTIONS

CREATE focuses on the following activities:

- ◆ Working to achieve measurable improvements in enrollment, retention and quality of learning in 20 pre-primary schools and 170 primary schools in Zanzibar and 30 schools in Lindi and Mtwara urban and rural districts by training teachers, school management committees and parent teacher associations.

- ◆ Providing skills development to 200 pre-primary and 756 primary teachers through teacher training in creating no-cost and low-cost classroom learning materials.

- ◆ Working with nine Teacher Centres in Zanzibar and four in Mtwara and Lindi urban and rural districts; and one teacher college on Unguja island to provide in-service and pre-service professional development to more than 1,000 teachers.

- ◆ Increasing girl participation in science and math activities by raising awareness; and developing and disseminating teaching strategies and best practices in 250 secondary schools in Zanzibar and Lindi and Mtwara urban and rural districts.

- ◆ Informing development of national education policy by sharing project results, best practices and action research by working groups.

Photo: A blind student writes in Braille using one of many assistive tools CREATE provides to help children with special needs learn in schools across Zanzibar and southern Tanzania.

IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

CREATE focuses on several components to improve the quality of learning in Zanzibar and Lindi and Mtwara urban and rural districts:

- ◆ *Professional development for teachers and school management committees.* This includes working with partners to train pre-school teachers and school management committees in early childhood development practices and primary and secondary school teachers in instructional education in English, mathematics and science.

- ◆ *Supporting National Curriculum Development.* CREATE works with the Government of Zanzibar, Madrasa pre-schools and educational consultants to review and develop and/or update/strengthen the pre-primary, primary and secondary curricula to facilitate implementing new policies in education, like that of using English as a medium of instruction in standards 5 and 6.

- ◆ *Promoting studies in math and sciences, especially for girls.* Science camps and leadership training courses have been specially created to provide support for girls to strengthen their interest in math and science. Training in camp management and operation is also provided to secondary school teachers in this field.

CREATE also hosts a science and math festival where students from public schools compete on a variety of levels. The objective is to generate interest in these subjects and reward the efforts of students and teachers.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

In Unguja and Pemba, CREATE has revised, printed and distributed 17 educational modules for the Advanced Secondary Teacher Certificate Course, which provides training to over 70 secondary school math and science teachers in subject competency and English language instruction. CREATE has also conducted: (i) Girls science camps in nine Teacher Centres for 450 girls from 90 secondary schools; (ii) 31 community-based training workshops for School Management Committees and 40 for teachers focusing on Early Childhood Development education; and (iii) *Sensitization, Community Mobilisation and Advocacy* workshops for 217 teachers, 289 parents and 597 students to strengthen support for educating children with special needs on Unguja island. CREATE will also support the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar build a Special Needs Policy by organising policy development and dialogue activities, school visits and a needs assessment exercise.

In Lindi and Mtwara urban and rural districts, CREATE has organised four science camps facilitated by four Teacher Resource Centres (TRCs) to strengthen abilities in science and math for 100 teachers and 200 students in 40 schools at the upper primary level. In addition, CREATE will conduct in-service training in Inclusive Education for 60 teachers from 10 primary schools, host a gender conference with a focus on Science and Math for Girls, and equip the TRCs with windows, grills, ceilings and resource materials to improve the learning environment for trainers and trainees.