

FACT SHEET

WEKEZA Project

World Vision



“I stopped going to school because my family needed help, and I could earn money herding cattle. But now I am back and I really enjoy learning!”

WEKEZA is a Swahili acronym that stands for Supporting Livelihoods and Developing Quality Education to Stop Child Labor. With over 1.2 million orphans and many rural families in deep poverty, Tanzanian children often work instead of attending school. WEKEZA fights child labor by helping families increase their incomes while seeking out vulnerable children and ensuring they are enrolled in appropriate schooling. Experience has shown that when families climb out of abject poverty, they tend to send their children to school. WEKEZA is implementing economic innovations such as Savings Groups, collective marketing of crops and alternative livelihoods like beekeeping and soap making. Vulnerable children are proactively identified; parents are encouraged to keep them in school and those children who cannot afford the expense are provided free uniforms and school supplies. WEKEZA provides vocational training for older children, establishes special education centers to help former dropouts catch up with their peers, trains teachers to mentor vulnerable children and fosters student-empowering classroom environments.

Project Goal

To reduce the incidence of child labor in the agricultural and domestic service sectors by promoting school enrollment, creating supportive educational environments and improving family livelihoods.

Key Results

- **134** Savings Groups were created with 2,765 participating households and a lending capacity of \$122,500.
- **75%** of Savings Group participants used a portion of their savings to support their children's education.
- **72** Commercial Producer Groups and 54 Commercial Villages were established, increasing farming incomes through collective production and marketing of crops.
- **1,589** households launched new non-agricultural businesses such as beekeeping, soap and detergent production, handicrafts and chicken farming.
- WEKEZA has paid school fees for 284 children and has provided school supplies for 1,213 children.
- **3,870** children were newly enrolled in primary school, secondary school or Complimentary Basic Education in Tanzania (COBET) centres.
- School attendance has increased from 50% to > 75% in project areas.

- Saving Groups are useful for increasing household incomes as accrued funds are invested back into income generating opportunities.
- Savings Groups have the added benefit of enhancing cooperation within communities by providing a forum for regular social interaction.
- Commercial Producers Groups are effective in spreading best practices amongst farmers and for negotiating better prices with buyers.
- Diversification of incomes with alternative livelihoods like beekeeping increases household resilience.
- Teachers can be effective advocates within villages on issues of child labor and child wellbeing.

Lessons Learned

- An integrated approach is most effective in combatting child labor, combining WorldVision's livelihood interventions with efforts to promote school enrollment and appropriate education.

Life-of-Project Spending through September 2015



Project Timeline

December 2012

October 2016



“My job is to reintegrate children who have missed out on school. I started with twenty-eight students, and in one year twenty-three have already rejoined regular classes!”

- Strong relationships and regular meetings between teachers, school administrators and parents are key to school improvement.
- While providing school uniforms and paying school fees are helpful for promoting attendance for reintegrated students, the most important factor is a conducive learning environment which embraces child safety, health, hygiene and sanitation.
- To retain high quality teachers at the COBET centres, it is necessary to pay an honorarium.



“Since joining a Savings Group I’ve been able to save enough money to fix up my home and wire it for electricity. My son is back in school and is ranked in the top 20% of his class! I’m now saving to start my own retail store.”

Project Partners

- International Rescue Committee
- Kiota Women Health Development
- Foundation for Civil Societies
- Tanga Youth Development Association
- Institute of Development Studies
- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania

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