

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION IN TANZANIA



in schools. The SAM exercise in Magu, Ukerewe, Nyamagana, and Ilemela between 2009-2012 has revealed the misuse of public funds, including embezzlement (Magu), use of fake receipts in collecting public revenues (Ukerewe), planning against community priorities and irresponsibility of some leaders. The SAM exercise proved to be beneficial in Magu district (Fogofogo village). It was resolved that local leaders who had embezzled funds meant for construction of a school building were directed to complete its construction at their own cost. The building was inaugurated recently after its completion. The Ukerewe district council summoned its WECs and VEO to immediately start using official receipt for collecting council's revenues and there have been many efforts to address priority projects including school toilets and following up school funds than was before.

The Friends of Education Movement and the efforts to Improve Education in Tanzania

What are *Friends of Education* involved in?

- Sensitising parents to participate

in education related activities (enrolment, retention, attendance, following up on pupils performance)

- Providing relevant information about education to community members (*Friends of Education* receive education and governance information from HakiElimu and other stakeholders at least twice a year)
- Establishing and management of community libraries
- Conducting public forums for awareness creation and influencing community participation
- Organising social events at local level to influence change
- Providing feedback to HakiElimu and other stakeholders on the experience of policy and practices at lower level
- Conducting social accountability monitoring and PETS and providing feedback
- Monitoring performance and education development in schools
- Demanding for quality service delivery, accountability, justice, equity and transparency in education

What is HakiElimu?

HakiElimu is a civil society organization that was established in 2001. Our vision is **“to see an open, just and democratic Tanzania, where all people enjoy the right to education that promotes equity, creativity and critical thinking.”** HakiElimu employs human-rights based approaches to education, emphasizing quality of learning, equity, governance and active citizen engagement. Our work focuses on achieving three major outcomes; 1) **Children are in school and actively learning;** 2) **citizens are informed, confident and actively engaging;** and 3) **the government is open, accountable, and responsive to its citizens.**

How do we Work?

- Providing space for citizens to actively engage and make a difference in education and democracy
- Mobilizing a grassroots network of activists (*The Friends of Education Movement*) as a change agent
- Conducting researches, policy analysis, budget work and advocacy
- Collaborate with partners to advance participation, accountability, transparency and social justice
- Making information accessible

to communities (e.g. on policies, budget issues in education) to raise awareness and stimulate participation and responsiveness.

- Stimulating imaginative public dialogue and social change

Community Engagement is done through:

- Mobilisation of a grassroots network, the *Friends of Education Movement* comprising about 37,410 individuals and groups that are spread all over the country who want to make a difference in their local schools and communities
- Promoting “Citizen Monitoring” of schools and education programmes in communities including social accountability monitoring to improve social service delivery and accountability
- Promoting community libraries as information sharing centres and for improving literacy and community awareness in education. 38 community libraries are in place supporting citizens, all under the supervision of the *Friends*
- Stimulating imaginative public dialogues on the state of education and take action starting from the community to the national level



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- Use research, monitoring and media to educate, raise awareness, inform and mobilize citizens to make a difference in their schools and hold their leaders to account

The Friends of Education Movement:

Initiated in 2003, the Movement has recruited a total of 37,410 members (individuals and groups) by October 2013. These are the people of different whims, and professions; including parents, students, politicians, teachers; who want to contribute and influence a positive change in the management and delivery of quality education. As the key facilitator and initiator, HakiElimu keeps informing the *Friends* on the policy and other national education issues to enhance their knowledge and community participation. A recent verification exercise revealed 19,933 of the 37,410 members are actively participating at local and national level to influence change as shown partly in the attached case studies

Case Studies on the *Friends of Education* advocacy and participation work

1. Community Libraries Enlighten Community members on Policy and Education Issues

38 community libraries have been established by *Friends of Education* in some districts across the country. They provide free library services to people. The libraries are linked to schools and

other learning institutions and have significantly contributed to informing and creating awareness among community members about policy and other developmental issues. These include enabling communities to pressurise the government to be accountable or fulfill its promises; filling the shortage or even actual absence of books in some schools (primary and secondary schools) as well as improving literacy among school children and out of school youths and adults

2. Friends campaigns for Girls' Education works in Serengeti

Educating girls in some areas of Serengeti district especially among the Kurya ethnic group has been a problem for many years. A woman in this ethnic group is only valued for marriage, bearing children and doing household chores. This attitude has been there for ages and it is instilled in the culture and taboos of the tribe. In this area, enrolment and retention of girls in school has always been a big challenge. Understanding how this traditional practice undermines education progress in these areas, a group of *Friends* in Machochwe Ward in Serengeti district started campaigns to influence change. Through meetings, visiting families, and using traditional leaders, they have been able to impact change;

Currently at least 80 percent of girls enrolled in primary schools are able to complete their education circle compared to 40 percent in 2003. The efforts have been expanded with the initiative of the *Friends* to organize resource mobilization events "Harambee" and raise fund within communities to support girls living in difficulties conditions and those with parents that are not willing to support their education.

3. Marafiki wa Elimu Dodoma (MED) receive support from Oxfam Tanzania to strengthen democratic processes in schools.

For the past five years, HakiElimu has been influencing *Friends* living in respective communities to form groups in order to have a stronger voice to influence change. As a result, many coalitions have been formed at district and ward and even village levels. MED-Marafiki wa Elimu Dodoma is a result of such efforts. The group was formed in 2009 and focused its engagement on democratising school management by supporting the formation and operation of students clubs in some schools around Dodoma municipality as well as sharing school information publically through their website (see: envaya.org/m-e-d-1-1/page/picha-za-matukio or google *Marafiki wa Elimu Dodoma*).

Their success in this engagement attracted Oxfam Tanzania to support them financially with (36,000 USD) to conduct their activities in schools. Later, Oxfam also appointed MED as the major player in receiving and distributing primary school books worth Tsh 300,000 000 (Three hundred million shillings) in Chamwino district primary schools. Their efforts have not only influenced change in the management and delivery of education, but also increased democracy and governance practices through participation of students in decision making in the schools they operate in.

4. Social Accountability Monitoring restore responsiveness among local government leaders

Embezzlement of public funds, irresponsiveness of local government leaders and poor service delivery have been the hallmarks of some local governments in Tanzania. Social accountability monitoring (SAM) was introduced by HakiElimu to help improve accountability, responsiveness and the delivery of social services to some of the communities through *Friends of Education*. This engagement is mostly targeted towards monitoring of education projects, holding leaders including local government officials to account for their actions especially