

Arusha Rural District

Arusha District Council is one of seven Local Authorities of the Arusha Region of Tanzania. According to the 2012 National Census, the district has a population of 315,173. The main economic activities by residents of the district are agriculture and livestock keeping.

Our program in the district focuses on four primary schools, namely: Umoja, Naurei, Engorika and Olosiva and 4 secondary schools, namely: Einot, Ngiresi, Mukulat and Olturumet.

Among the challenges facing public schools in the district include a shortage of qualified teachers, water services, lack of sanitation facilities, poor state of classrooms and inadequate learning and teaching resources. Also, the nomadic pastoralist lifestyle of Maasai communities in the district contributes to low enrolment and attendance rates of children in schools.

Among the major changes we have observed as a result of our work with stakeholders in the district include increased attendance of children in schools, a reduction in the number of children with difficulties in basic reading, writing and numeracy (from 226 in 2013 down to 72 in 2014) in the 4 primary school. There were also improvements in pre-primary enrolment as a result of availability of child- friendly classrooms and improved instruction methods by trained pre-school teachers. At Murutanga the numbers were from 90 to 156; Nansole 90 to 130; Buzegwe 100 to 129 and Nkilizya 98 to 128.

Also, improved leadership and performance by School Committees led to an increase in parents' contribution and participation in school development. For example, at Umoja and Olosiva primary schools, parents provide food for all students while at Naurei Primary School; parents collaborate to provide food for pre-primary and Std.7 pupils to improve attendance.

At Umoja Primary School, collaboration between HakiElimu and the community saw the completion of a functional community library.