

Kilwa District

Kilwa is one of the 6 districts of the Lindi Region of Tanzania. It has a population of 171, 850 (2012 Tanzania National Census). The main economic activities of Kilwa's residents include small-scale fishing, subsistence farming and some livestock keeping.

HakiElimu's program in Kilwa District focuses on 4 primary schools namely: Masoko, Mnazi Mmoja, Singino, Njinjo and Kikanda.

Among the challenges facing schools in Kilwa District when the HakiElimu program strategy commenced in 2012 included ineffective School Committees, poor mastery of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, little attention by parents to school development needs.

We have noticed significant improvements in the quality of leadership and performance, as well as innovation in solving school problems. For example, in Masoko Primary School, the School Committee worked with parents to establish an income generating activities to help bolster resources needed to deal with emerging problems. At Mnazi Mmoja Primary School, they have established a *Makuti Project* and in Singino, they have set up a water selling business to boost school income. At Njinjo and Kikanda Primary Schools, school committees and head teachers worked together to obtain funds from development agencies to improve the conditions of their schools. For example, such initiative saw Plan Africans drill a water borehole for the school at Kikanda Primary School received books worth Tshs. 2,780,000 from Songas following a request from the head teacher.

These innovations are important as they responded to a real problem of low household incomes that contribute in to low capacities by parents to contribute to school projects whenever called upon.