

# People's Participation In Education

(WATU)

## Shiri-Mgungani Resource and Learning Centre Project Summary

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## 1 Project Information

### 1.1 Name of Project

The teaching and learning centre will be known as the Shiri Mgungani Resource and Learning centre

### 1.2 Background

Josiah Mchome, until recently the International Baccalaureate teacher of economics at The International School Moshi in Tanzania and Richard Heery, currently IB teacher of English at The International School of Geneva have been working together in the Kilimanjaro Region of northern Tanzania for more than ten years. With students from their respective schools they have raised funds to construct, renovate and equip classrooms, and to build toilet blocks, kitchens and teachers' accommodation in twenty-four rural and urban schools. A careful evaluation of these projects made in 2005 shows that the work has been very successful: Singa Boro Primary School, for instance, is one of the top five ranking schools in the Kilimanjaro Region whereas in 1996 the teachers admit it was one of the least successful. Similar progress has been made in the other schools we have been working with.

In May 2006 therefore, Josiah Mchome and Richard Heery decided to formalize their work and established the Registered Charity (no 14287) People's Participation in Education (WATU)

### 1.3 Project Location

This resource and learning centre will be located at Shiri Mgungani village which is 5 kilometres from Moshi. Shiri Mgungani, close to the Bonite Bottling Company, can be easily reached by road from Moshi and Arusha. The area is fertile, known for its horticultural production, with abundant water and shade.

## **1.4 Project Address**

People's Participation In Education (WATU)  
PO BOX 10045  
Mapara  
MOSHI  
Tanzania

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Office: THB Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 215, MOSHI

## **1.5 Management.**

The Centre will be managed by a Director to be appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Director may be assisted by other members of staff if and when there is the need..

## **1.6 Registration.**

The People's Participation in Education Trust Fund (WATU) is a registered non-Governmental Organization established in The United Republic of Tanzania under the Societies Ordinance of 1954, registered number 14287.

## **1.7 Project Contacts**

Josiah Mchome  
PO BOX 10045  
Mapara, MOSHI, Tanzania.

Richard Heery  
Chemin du Curson, 16,  
CH-1197 PRANGINS, Vaud, Switzerland.

## **2 Project Objectives**

2.1 Whilst recognizing the importance of school buildings, experience shows that the physical environment is only a pre-condition for successful learning. What is equally crucial for academic success is the quality of teaching and, in particular, access to information. However, many local teachers tell us that access to academic information and to new ideas on teaching methodology can often be limited. Very many schools can

not afford even standard textbooks for their students and teachers. Teachers tell us that they often use their notes from college which seldom are up to date and furthermore mostly prove to be pedagogically inappropriate; hence the need for a centre that will include the following important facilities:

- A well-stocked library. The Centre will offer a library of up-to-date textbooks and journals to cater for the needs of both teachers and students. We expect that most books will be donated by friends of WATU from within and outside Tanzania.
- A computer laboratory. WATU is aware that teachers in many schools do not possess sufficiently advanced skills to maximize the potential of the computer. The computer lab. will provide the facilities for such instruction as well as instruction in computer maintenance. It will also facilitate access to the Internet, thereby providing teachers with the information they need. The laboratory will be available for use by those schools which have no computer facilities of their own.
- A science laboratory which, like the computer lab, will be used by schools with no science facilities of their own and by experienced teachers who could give master classes to other teachers. It would also be used as a workshop/conference room for science teachers. Such a science facility becomes even more important in the light of the Ministry of Education's insistence on practical science in the secondary curriculum.
- A conference room for teachers, formally or informally, to share ideas and experiences

2.5 It is clear that there are many educational institutions which are willing to donate textbooks and computer hardware and other pedagogical materials. It will be the objective of WATU to facilitate the transfer of such materials from donor schools to Tanzania.

2.6 WATU is aware that some young people are unable to take up their rightful places in secondary school, and sometimes even in primary schools. WATU will be vigorous in finding sponsorship for such young people.

2.7 WATU will provide a consultancy service for any individual or group of individuals working to benefit education in Tanzania.

### **3 Project Impact**

WATU intends the Shiri Mgungani Teaching and Learning Centre to have a wide impact on education in Moshi urban and rural areas:

- Pupils in pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary will have ready access to textbooks, computers and other learning materials and tools. The Centre's consultancy facility will continue to improve the physical environment for students and strive to provide very needy students with the financial means to continue their studies.

- Teachers at all levels will benefit from the wider access to information, from a deeper appreciation of methodology, from the availability of shared experience and from the intellectual stimulus of visiting local and foreign experts.
- School administrators will benefit from an awareness of how better to exploit foreign donors for the improvement of their schools, and by sharing their problems with other administrators.
- The wider community will benefit from a renewal of interest and pride in their local schools and in education in general. The Centre will also provide adult classes particularly in computer education and will host conferences of a wider, more general education nature.

## **4 Project Costs**

4.1 The cost of phase one of the project which is about building the science laboratory, the computer laboratory, the library, the seminar rooms, the main office, the kitchen and dining room, the hostel, the installation of utilities such as water, electricity, the purchase of fittings and furniture etc is estimated at approximately 280,000,000 Tz shillings

The configuration of the buildings require a minimum of five acres. One and a half acres have already been purchased at a cost of 4,200,000 Tz shillings

The cost of building materials and related activities has been estimated by a registered and authorized surveyor, as has labour to be undertaken by local fundis.

## **5 Conclusion**

Our experience of working with schools in the Moshi area since 1995 has shown that even minor improvements to the school environment – physical, social or intellectual – can have surprisingly positive results. Time and again head teachers have reported significant improvements in examination results, in attendance and a larger enrolment, the consequence, they claim, of a greater pride and interest in school by children and parents.

We believe that the tranquil, comfortable, friendly location of the Shiri Mgungani Teaching and Learning Centre together with its educational facilities will encourage teachers and pupils to explore a wide range of pedagogical opportunities and thus to realize the immense potential for intellectual growth which we believe exists in the Moshi area.