

Basic education, HIV/AIDS education and life skills for out-of-school children in Tanzania



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: United Republic of Tanzania

Duration: March 2004 to March 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Education and Culture

Budget: \$711,263.41

Key Words: Children; HIV/AIDS; access to education

BACKGROUND

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continued to impose a heavy toll on the people of Tanzania. Among those particularly vulnerable were school-age children and youth. Although they made up only 20 percent of the population, they represented 60 percent of new infections. One factor in their vulnerability was the number of school-age children not enrolled in school, which was estimated at an approximately 2.5 million children. Whereas the educational system in Tanzania was once seen as a great success, by 2004 it was in a

state of precipitous decline. Above all, an increasing number of children orphaned by the epidemic, as well as children from other poverty-stricken families, were unable to meet the tuition fees and therefore did not go to schools. The resulting lack of education meant that children were not taught the necessary skills to shield themselves from HIV/AIDS and other STIs. To combat the spread of the virus and to protect these unschooled children from the virus, community-based alternative educational systems were urgently needed.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to give marginalized and vulnerable youth outside of the educational system access to quality basic education so that they could gain the life skills needed to protect themselves from

HIV/AIDS. At the same time, teachers were trained in child-friendly methodologies in non-formal educational systems.

BENEFICIARIES

The skills of 180 teachers and 240 community facilitators were strengthened in order to increase their ability to retain children in the non-formal education system and to impart in them the ability to make sound

decisions and to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS and other threats to their health and welfare. As a result, the project reached 5,263 girls and 6,358 boys, all between the ages of 11 and 18.