



Destination Development

2012 – A Very Good Year

Mitengo Inauguration

Late November, in a rural setting with scarce power or water, the Mitengo Teacher Resource Center (TRC) was transformed into a modern learning center with 18 thin client computers, 2 Windows Multipoint Servers, 5 solar panels equaling 1,100 watts of power, wireless internet service via UhuruOne, EMIS capability and a special Education Appliance server. Wow. Outgoing USAID Mission Director, Robert Cunnane, & Mtwara Regional Education Officer (REO), Hipson Kipenya, opened the doors by cutting a ribbon symbolizing combined efforts between United State & Tanzania. This is the first intervention out of 27 Mtwara TRCs & 618 primary schools. The TZ21 interventions are a [Read more...](#)

Mtwara 2013: Issue 1



Mitengo TRC Inauguration, Mtwara.

2013 – Great Things are Happening



Students help out to clean the schoolyard.

School Readiness

Most schools have now cleared the ready list. Community contribution comes in the form of donated charcoal, rock salt, foundation improvements, metal bars on door/window, fresh paint in/outside, security & environmental cleanliness. Mtwara TZ21 staff are now visiting schools to check for installation readiness. It is quite an achievement and proof of dedication for the villages to donate their time and money to improve the schools and learning environment. [Read More...](#)

Ongoing Events

- Equipment Rollout
- Teacher Training
- E-Content Digital Tool Development
- TRC Coordinator Orientation
- Community Theatre
- ICT Education

Digital Teachers

E-Content

All newly installed computers are a hub of up-to-date educational resources for teachers and students. TZ21's main goal is to improve lower primary student learning performance in reading, math & science. Targeted needs come from school research and development with an outcome based on a strong focus for teacher training. Listening to the lessons will show the years of experience and wisdom put into this program. Teachers must know how to use e-content effectively in the classroom and create excitement for school. [Read More...](#)



In October 2012, IYF, Techno Brain, Creative staff & Peace Corps discuss details to develop a computer training program.

The Heart of TZ21

This project is compiled of people with more than skill-- they have a passion for development. Each month we will learn about team members' devotion to their job.



Photo taken by Jamie Salinas

Mitengo Primary School has 5 solar panels soaking in 1,100 watts of power.

Eric Youngren: CEO/President Solar Nexus International

Some are born with a soul destined to help others. Eric's practice of conscious business shines in the way he cares about the people, planet and communities that he brings light to. Based from Orcas Island, WA, in the past 10 years Eric has brought solar power to such places as the Caribbean, Kenya and Tanzania. On Chole Island in Tanzania, Solar Nexus is powering a health clinic, community hall & a learning center. The mission of Solar Nexus International is to bring high quality, long lasting renewable energy systems to the developing world. The power center is a special integration box to increase ease of installation in the field. Solar Nexus is currently working on a wireless monitoring system for tracking and system control. He trained a team of local solar installers that are installing TZ21 systems now. [Top](#)



Ken demonstrates internet connectivity to a technician he has trained.

Ken Stober: Project Manager & Network Systems Engineer Inveneio

Back in 1998, on a trek in Nepal, Ken noticed a large number of children were not going to school. Inquire4ing them, he found out that they were not getting an education because they couldn't cross the huge river to go to the school on the other side. What would you do? If you were Ken, you would built a bridge.; so that he did. Upon seeing porters' backbreaking working conditions in not one, but two countries; he established a porter system in Nepal and Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. This gives them a fair wage and proper working amenities like clothes and food. Last year Ken was in Haiti, installing internet & computers in remote schools. He was recently in Gulu, Uganda working with Internet Now, Oxfam funded. Ken is humble about his good deeds. He takes time to connect with locals, creating lasting friendships and reflecting on living conditions and individual lives. He is able to look into these hidden faces of humanity and find a way to help bring them some comfort. [Top](#)

E-Content Continued



This picture shows primary school students learning syllables by clapping hands with their neighbor each time they say one. They are being filmed for E-Content video production.



PPT Media films a reading lesson with local students & teachers at Naliende Primary School while the IYF team members give direction to the teacher on the current script.

Filming Phonemic Awareness

International Youth Foundation (IYF) has filmed sixteen lessons with local teachers and students from Naliende Primary School. A typical day starts with camera setup, light and sound checks. Forty-five students (23 girls and 22 boys) make up the class. The students that are participating are of all skill levels were chosen by the school teachers. They are quickly at ease around the cameras due to the genuine support from teachers and film crew. They are fine with the numerous cuts and retakes; it doesn't distract from the lessons they are learning. Teaching involves all students and many group/partner activities-- no tiring chalk & talk lectures going on here. [Top](#)

Destination Development

2012 — Good Year Continued



Within a few days Mitengo TRC is equipped with solar power, computers, speakers, projector and internet access.



Inveneo, Solar Nexus and Kicheko (L) set up the first TRC. Peace Corps Volunteer (R) tells Mitengo TRC Coordinator & Head Teacher about the internet.

result of a conversation between Tom LeBlanc, USAID Education Team Leader, & REO H. Kipenya in 2009. Tom asked what Mtwara needed from USAID. Kipenya replied “To improve performance in the lower education system by teaching teachers and students how to use technology”. Today this dream was brought to life by USAID, the Tanzanian Government, Creative Associates International, Peace Corps, & several Implementing Partners.

Within 3 days, Solar Nexus installed 5 solar panels & battery systems as 20 computers were networked by Inveneo & Kicheko. UhuruOne fixed internet connectivity compliance alongside Agile Learning, who tested EMIS applications. TRC renovations are funded by TZ21 grants and being carried out by local craftsmen using local resources and supplies. This boosts the local economy and creates community involvement and ownership.

Inauguration day finished with an ocean side farewell to Robert Cunnane for his retirement. He left us with these words, “We are working to develop Tanzania’s next generation of young leaders. The United States & Tanzania are mutually accountable for this project. The only way to achieve this is through dedication and commitment by each individual involved.”

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2013 — Great Things Continued



Mtwara Regional Steering Committee discussed the project’s current status, school readiness & the way forward.

Mtwara Regional Steering Committee

Steering committees are very important for information sharing across the board and contribution to make this project successful.

Teacher Reading Training

Reading materials are awaiting government approval before district wide training commences for STD 1 & 2 Kiswahili teachers. The first teaching reading task is to build phonemic awareness, followed by phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and reading comprehension.

“This project is a partnership from the presidential level down to a single villager.”

Tom LeBlanc, USAID

Educational Material Development

Teachers will use “big books” with stories written by local teachers and illustrations by local artist, as a teaching aid for Tanzania’s large classrooms; this will be paired with students’ matching small books. Emphasis is placed on how to utilize the new books and classroom materials effectively to encourage foundational reading skills. Alphabet posters, designed with input from local teachers, are also being printed and distributed to all schools. Teachers were consulted to decide pictures and words that would best aid students, based on local knowledge and comprehension. The TZ21 Project will reach an impressive 300,000 children.



COP Renuka Pillay displays a phonemic awareness poster.

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Questions, story ideas or comments? Email lisah@crea-tz21.com