

# Education in Tanzania

Background Summary



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION



# Raising Education Standards in Tanzania

Aga Khan Foundation in Tanzania was established in 1990 as a permanent institution dedicated to long-term investment across all six AKF focus sectors to improve the quality of life for marginalized communities across Tanzania. AKF is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network that invests in all sectors of the formal education systems, from pre-primary to tertiary, as well as in other formal and informal life-long learning opportunities, including teacher professional development.

In education, AKF is committed to ensuring girls and boys, women and men, are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to help them interact effectively with the world and be contributing members of a pluralistic society. AKF assumes a holistic and systems approach to education programming ensuring all interventions are globally informed, locally rooted, are embedded in government and community interests and structures, and work to promote social inclusion, equality, and pluralism.

Over the past 32 years, AKF has generated investment and delivered high quality, high impact programming to improve learning outcomes for boys and girls. By taking a systems approach, AKF partners with government and other education actors to integrate into the broader system and reach children across Tanzania. These include, but not limited to:

## ACCESS IN UNDERSERVED AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

In 2015, under EQUIP-T, AKF provided technical advisory support to the Tanzanian Institute of Education (TIE) to develop the School Readiness Programme, a condensed 16-week intervention targeting children aged 5-6 with no ability to access preschool. Widely regarded as a success story for Tanzania, the SRP reached over 300,000 boys and girls across more than 3,000 communities demonstrating impact equal to or better than a lot of full pre-primary provision. In partnership with UNICEF and the TIE, among others, AKF helped to develop and finalise the Satellite School framework and guidelines. In 2017, AKF partnered with Kilwa District Government and 40 of the most underserved communities to practically implement, adapt, and improve these national documents to increase impact and sustainability across Tanzania.

## TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AKF are focused on delivering demand-driven, needs-based professional development opportunities for teachers and educational leaders. In collaboration with TIE, three local district education departments, Nachingwea Teacher Training College, and 150 primary schools, AKF worked to test and iterate the evidence-based Reading to Learn and its applicability to the Tanzanian context. The positive impact demonstrated through 2,000 teachers and over 50,000 boys and girls and further proven through an independent assessment provided the evidence TIE needed to formally finalise the RTL teacher training curriculum and approve for in-service TPD. Currently, AKF is again partnering with TIE, as well as Aga Khan University and EdTech Hub, to generate evidence the new CTPD process begins to roll-out. Using a Designed Based Implementation Research approach, this research will identify what works, what we can learn, and potential adaptations as part of the evidence that informs the growing ambitions and implementation of these national plans.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Drawing on work done in Kenya, AKF collaborated with local government and community institutions and structures to deliver the Whole Schools Approach (WSA), an intervention designed to increase community participation and leadership in education to drive school development and improvement through process of social responsibility, social auditing, and social accountability. This has enabled schools and local education ecosystems to become more self-resilient and leaders on improving their school and learning outcomes of their children. In Lindi, of the 150 schools AKF was working with, all had Schools Development Plan (SDP) and, on average, had achieved 60% of the deliverables two years into a three-year plan. From this, WSA has further demonstrated scalability in partnership with 13 district councils to implement with over 800 schools.

## INNOVATION, EVIDENCE, AND DIALOGUE FOR CHANGE

AKF collaborate with teachers, schools, communities, and the broader education sector to design, test, adapt, and develop globally informed, locally rooted evidence-based solutions. Schools2030 is AKF's flagship programme in this respect with Tanzanian solutions being spotlighted in the RewirED event at the end of 2021. To maximise the ability of these to reach and positively impact children across Tanzania, AKF leverages a strong history of effective dialogue for change, in collaboration with AKDN sister agencies and other value aligned organisations, to influence and integrate these evidence-base solutions into the broader ecosystem.

## AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN TANZANIA

For more than a century, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has been contributing to poverty alleviation, education, health care, economic development, and cultural restoration in Tanzania, both on the mainland and in Zanzibar. In recognition of the Network's long and substantial contribution to the socioeconomic development of the country, an Agreement of Cooperation was signed with the United Republic of Tanzania in 1991 and subsequently revised and endorsed in 2001. The Agreement, which facilitates the effective utilisation of both financial and human resources, today stands as a commitment to accelerate development that brings the greatest benefit to Tanzanians.

To date over 54,000 smallholder farmers in Mtwara and Lindi have improved their productivity and income by at least 100 percent. Over 120,000 women and men participate in community-based savings groups, saving over US\$2.4 million annually. More than 150,000 children are benefiting from quality pre-primary and primary education, and over 28,000 women and children have improved health and nutrition practices. AKDN hospitals and clinics provide over 460,000 outpatient visits annually, including nearly 1.2 million lab tests. The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development operates project companies ranging from insurance companies to agro-processing; in 2007, it helped launched SEACOM, the under-sea cable, which provides Internet connectivity to many East and West African countries, including Tanzania.

