

SPW IS NOW

RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

THE YOUTH-LED DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



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INVISIBLE IN TANZANIA

Updates from the youth-led development agency

MBINGA COMMUNITY BANK

Restless Development has worked in Ruvuma since 2010. There are few livelihood opportunities in the rural communities and supporting youth entrepreneurship is a key objective of ours. Through young national and community professional volunteers we have established 'Youth Entrepreneurship Groups'.

A key challenge faced by young people is accessing financial support for their income generation initiatives. The process is often complex and requires collateral and registration documents young people find difficult to access.

In 2012 Restless Development approached Mbinga Community Bank in Ruvuma. The bank officers agreed to work with our youth groups, providing field officers who would take them through on loan process and finance management. They have up to now conducted two meetings centrally organized by Restless Development (see photo above).

The bank has demonstrated belief in young people and our approach and has agreed to reduce restrictions for groups to access loan. Normally a group cannot access loans for up to three months after setting up a bank account, but the bank agreed that Restless Development groups could access loans after just one month of activating their bank account, as long as they met the minimum balance

This is a pilot project. Upon successful completion, the bank will seek to grow this model with Restless Development's support.

YOUTH VIEWS ON THE BUDGET

The national budget setting took place in Dodoma in June. In order to make sure young people were involved, we partnered with our alumni network at the University of Dodoma and facilitated their representation of Tanzanian youth in two parliament sessions (including the budget speech) on 14th June 2012.

On 15th June, we held a round table discussion between young people, young MPs and Development Partners (including DANIDA, the Finnish Embassy and the British High Commission) on the budget speech in relation to national and youth development.

The young MPs promised to raise these issues during the budget session to advise the government on improving the budget priorities and the development partner guests commented on how impressed they were with the alumni's informed and articulated points of view.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD

We are proud to introduce our new talented, dedicated and committed National Board.

Eliguard Dawson, our Chair, is a former Restless Development volunteer and an Associate Peace Corps Director/Environment.

Joyce Shaidi is the former Director of Youth Services for the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports.

Jones Mrusha is an ICT Specialist at Citi-Group.

Theresia Moyo is a former volunteer and the Senior Programme Manager and Gender Specialist at CAMFED.

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HELPING GIRLS BACK TO SCHOOL



“We are really happy because we are now back to school again. Our dreams and visions of becoming specialist and giving support to our families/ societies will now be succeeded.”

Young women and girls are exceptionally vulnerable in Tanzania due to the age and gender hierarchical society. Only 25% of girls transition from primary to secondary school in the Southern Highlands; 44% of girls are either mothers or pregnant with their first child by 19 years; and two thirds of the unemployed youth are young women. Although policies exist to support young women and girls (e.g. the Right to Return policy for teenage mothers to return to school), these remain widely unimplemented.

In 2012 Restless Development began work in new outreach areas in Iringa, identifying 36 new target villages across Kilolo, Iringa rural, Mufindi and Njombe. Uhambingeto ward in Kilolo district Iringa is a typical example of what we have observed the plight of young girls to be. We found that many girls between the ages of 14-17 had dropped out from school to work as housemaids. This is perhaps unsurprising in a culture that so often prizes girls as mothers, wives and income earners over potential scholars.

PARTNERSHIP WITH SEGA

We have established a new partnership with SEGA – Secondary Education for Girls’ Advancement – established in Morogoro. While we had noted a considerable number of young women and girls in the communities we work in who are highly vulnerable and require specialized support, SEGA had noted that the Southern Highlands was a region of great need but one which they had limited access to.

We agreed that through our partnership we would support SEGA to identify girls that we knew were vulnerable and who would benefit from attending the school in Morogoro. In May we hosted a visit from SEGA in the Uhambingeto and Idete wards to create awareness in the communities about the upcoming opportunities.

BACK TO SCHOOL

In June, Restless Development and SEGA returned to Uhambingeto to conduct interviews. Vulnerable young girls who had dropped out from school due to pregnancy, being orphaned,

extreme poverty or other situations were invited to meet with the team. The girls included those who had dropped out from primary, those who had not been able to transition to secondary and those who dropped out from secondary.

As a result of the interviews 40 girls have been identified from the communities and placed in SEGA’s specialized residential programme for vulnerable girls.

“My team and I just got back from Iringa and I wanted to let you know how very helpful Frank, Hamim, and Ignus and his team were to us in starting the process for our selection of new girls from Iringa.

The facilitation and introductions were invaluable to us, and indeed it was wonderful to see how much respect the community leaders have for your staff. Restless Development has made a big contribution to SEGA and we are very grateful.”

Polly Dolan – Founder/Director,

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