

Evaluation Summary: TEACH – Tanzania Education Alternatives for Children

Project and Evaluation Facts

Region/Country: AFRICA/Tanzania
Grantee: Winrock International
Project Duration: September 30, 2006 – September 29, 2010
Fiscal Year Funding and Funding Level: FY 2006 USD 5,090,000
Type of Evaluation: Midterm
Date of Evaluation: 2009
Mode of Evaluation: Independent
Evaluation Management: Macro International
Evaluator(s): Sue Upton

Background and Context

Summary of Project Objectives and Focus

TEACH is a four-year project that aims to reduce the incidence of the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) in Tanzania through improved access to educational services. The project targets children from smallholder farming families and operates within the following five districts: Igunga, Ilemela, Iramba, Kwimba, and Urambo.

The project is guided by the following Immediate Objectives:

- Expanding existing child labor reduction efforts through enhancing educational alternatives and opportunities within the education system both geographically and demographically;
- Improving educational infrastructure, environment, and quality for targeted children;
- Raising awareness and designing awareness campaigns that foster community-driven solutions and innovations;
- Enhancing the policy environment and strengthening the Child Labor Monitoring System (CLMS) data collection, data relevancy, and decision-making applications through capacity building efforts; and
- Ensuring sustainability of efforts through community ownership, participation, resource and asset mobilization, and capacity building.

The project is designed to work closely with government actors at the national and district levels as well as community-based volunteers, and the project is being implemented by Winrock International, with the Tanzanian Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and the Environment (TAWLAE) and Khulisa Management Services serving as key partners.

Purpose and Scope of Evaluation

The midterm evaluation examined project performance to date in relation to stated objectives. Specifically, the evaluation reviewed and assessed activities with respect to their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Further, the evaluation was designed to be a learning process that could serve to provide guidance as to revisions in strategy for the balance of the cooperative agreement to ensure project objectives are realized.

Methodology of Evaluation

The evaluation was based on a desk review of relevant documentation, followed by a field mission to the districts of Iramba, Kwimba, and Urambo conducted by the evaluation team from the 13th of November 2008 to the 28th of November 2008. The field work consisted of interviews, focus groups, and other information collection techniques with stakeholders including government representatives, NGOs at the national and district levels, children, parents of beneficiaries, teachers, and project staff. The evaluation was affected in accordance with the terms of reference (TOR), as prepared by Macro International with input from USDOL and other key stakeholders.

Evaluation's Main Findings & Conclusions

Performance Summary

Despite limited progress toward achievement of withdrawal and prevention targets, at midterm, TEACH remains a well-designed project that serves to support both the Government of Tanzania's National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty as well as the ILO-IPEC Time Bound Program for the Elimination of the worst forms of child labor (WFCL). In addition, the project has

Evaluation Summary: TEACH – Tanzania Education Alternatives for Children

worked well with government actors at the national and local levels, and has developed a management style that is both responsive and effective. Moreover, the project has had a notably positive impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries as well as on implementing partners.

The evaluator found that TEACH is measuring attendance of its beneficiaries with reasonable accuracy, but that tracking of children’s work status has been more problematic. Furthermore, the use of volunteers at the community level has proven to be a challenge, due to the high level of work entailed. Further, while the evaluator found widespread awareness of child labor issues among national and local government and project staff, awareness-raising action directed toward district and community-level actors has proved to be a challenge, resulting in “limited evidence of consistent grassroots community knowledge of child labor and its consequences.”

Implementation challenges notwithstanding, the evaluator contends the project has the potential to achieve its targets by the end of the four-year cooperative agreement. However, the evaluator recommends that definitions for retained, withdrawn, and prevented be revised so as to be more realistic.

- Encourage regular meetings at the village/ward level to engage local stakeholders in discussions regarding monitoring, awareness raising, and other child labor-related issues;
- Monitor measures taken to lighten workload of district teams;
- Actively engage parents of vulnerable children through targeted awareness raising initiatives to promote greater empowerment;
- Provide training to community activists to strengthen their capacity to work with parents of vulnerable children;
- Explore the potential to organize community activists into a recognized community group to enhance project sustainability; and
- Examine interventions at the district level to determine the degree to which their sustainability is assured and what remains to be done.

Recommendations

Key Recommendations

- Instigate effective work status tracking of direct beneficiaries;
- Conduct additional research and analysis to gain a greater understanding of the unequal gender balance among older project beneficiaries;
- Encourage inter- and intra-district exchange visits between district teams as well as community activists to share good practices and broaden individual experience;
- Leverage Khulisa expertise in database development and management to improve the project information system as well as to develop a robust monitoring system;