

Jiongoze!

Community Mentors in Kibosho, Uru, Majengo and Machame

105 potential mentors who live in the target communities have been identified. The response has been overwhelming and a significant number of young people from youth groups, church groups and choirs and from secondary schools have shown an interest. Traditionally however conflict in village communities was mediated by Councils of Elders and so to ensure that these mechanisms are revitalized by the project rather than sidelined we have also made a strategic decision to recruit older mentors and to ensure a balance between old and young.

In August we will be presenting the rationale behind the project's focus on conflict mediation and the development of community mentors to school committees, teachers, community leaders (WEO's and VEO's) and churches and mosques during Sunday and Friday services.



In June Mkombozi celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring program by doing community service with vulnerable children in Arusha...join us in making a difference to these children's lives.

Mkombozi's Community Strengthening project will be evaluated during 2nd – 13th August. If you see a visitor asking questions about our work be assured that it is our evaluator.

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New publications!

Mkombozi has written two useful publications for people working with children:

Change Management:

How Mkombozi undertook the process of localizing management

Back to Basics:

An approach to creating democratic communities through child participation

Children in a Fractured Society
by Gichuki Francis

Health Education Lessons for Children and Youth

Download them free from our website

We're on the Web!
www.mkombozi.org

Info guide on service providers

The info posters have been distributed to 15,000 households. We still need to distribute 5,000 in Uru. Your child should have bought a poster home from school. If you still need one they will be available in VEO's offices from the beginning of August.

In August Mkombozi will be offering training to WEO's, VEO's and other Municipal and District officials on how to make referrals to the services. This will be on 19th August.

The info guide database is now on Mkombozi's website. You can search for services either by type of service or by name of the organisation.

We will be launching the info guide with a press conference and networking meeting with local government and NGO's in Moshi in September.

Mechanisms established within target communities to mediate conflict.

The target schools and their school committees have now been identified. This was done through face to face meetings with the head teachers in all schools in the target areas. Criteria for selecting the 4 target schools were the numbers of school dropouts, truants and exclusions. The schools that will participate in the conflict mediation training are:

- Manushi Chini primary school
- Kimanganuni primary school
- Mji Mpya primary school
- Sere primary school

Initial responses from the school teachers and committees to the prospect for training was very positive. The staff at Manushi Chini school were particularly keen to participate since the dropout rate for 2003 was 100 children (Total students in 2003 was 1,280, current population 1,084). At Mji Mpya school staff were particularly keen to become involved and showed this commitment by hosting Mkombozi's Big Brother Big Sister 100 year celebrations.

Peer Support Groups (PSG's) established at Mkombozi and in target communities.

8 Mkombozi children will participate in training between 26th – 30th July in peer support methodologies, so that they can form and sustain a peer support group at Mkombozi. This will be facilitated by Angaza Youth Works and will also consist of a component of Training Trainers so that Mkombozi staff can in future facilitate the training with the target schools.

The training will include Understanding Peer Support dynamics, Family and friends, Basic Counselling skills and Facilitation skills. The target schools have already been approached about setting up Peer Support Groups. The staff had a number of recommendations about the composition of the PSG's. These included that classes with a larger number of children have more representatives in the PSG's and that the classes with few dropouts and truants have fewer representation. These ideas have been agreed to by the project and will be taken into account in the selection of students.