



Most Vulnerable Children
Education Support Program

Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation Most Vulnerable Children Education Support Program

Background

Tanzania is amongst the poorest countries in the world, currently ranked 159 out of 177 on the UNDP Human development index. Tanzania's population is approximately 40 million people with an annual growth rate of 2.09%. 70 % of the population relies on the country's natural resources to sustain them. Tanzania's economy is almost entirely cash based, with the result that the pressure on natural resources is growing exponentially, and they are being utilized faster than they can be replenished. Education is a fundamental tool for ensuring that rural Tanzanian children have access to opportunities that elevate them beyond a subsistence existence and subsequently alleviate the unsustainable pressure on the country's natural resources.

The Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation (RHWF) has been operating in Tanzania since 1992. The Foundation aims to conserve and protect the country's natural heritage – its wildlife and wilderness - through enabling and facilitating sustainable Natural Resource Management. The Foundation currently works with the communities in thirty three villages bordering some 21,000 square kilometers of Protected Areas throughout Tanzania. Emphasis is given to capacity building of government and community institutions and services - enabling them to better plan, finance and implement policies and strategies in the field of natural resources management. There is a strong emphasis throughout all of the projects undertaken by the Foundation on the linking of conservation of wildlife through sustainable utilization to poverty reduction. This is realized through undertaking community-based development projects within the villages such as water projects (Rainwater harvesting tanks at schools and health units and earthen and charcoal dams. Others are educational facilities that include schools/classrooms construction, sanitary facilities and teacher's housing; Medical facilities (dispensaries, hospitals, staff houses and rehabilitation); Food production facilities (maize mills, tractors and emergency relief - basic supplies of maize and water) and numerous other projects, including a long established Anti-Poaching Patrols program inside the Protected Areas, operated, coordinated and overseen by RHWF, but conducted by members of the communities that border those areas.

Location and History of the proposed Project Area.

The proposed Project Area is in the Arusha Region of Tanzania - Monduli District, Burko Area. Burko is 1,547km sq (382,200 acres) in size and the target area is beset with challenges such as isolation, limited infrastructure, high unemployment and poor health and education all impacting on development. The Area consists of 13 villages - Noondoto, Mfereji, Eluwai, Enguiki, Emaireti, Olkeswa/Lashaine, Mti Moja, Lendikinya, Alkatan, Alkaria, Lepurko, Losimingori and Mbaashi. RHWF has been working with these communities since 1997 through both conservation and community development activities.

The Community Health & Wellness Education Program (CHWEP) is a relatively new activity within Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation. The program is three years old, and was established with the following goals:

1. Help local communities realize the value of their natural resources, both in terms of cultural heritage as well as long-term economic value;
2. To raise awareness of conservation in general and to develop linkages between livelihood security and sustainable utilization of natural resources;
3. To promote individual and community health and wellness by addressing critical issues, which threaten the wellbeing of people living adjacent to wildlife areas.

In 2008, RHWF expanded its health and wellness program in the Burko area to augment RHWF objectives. The Burko Area is part of Maasailand. The Maasai are, by tradition, pure pastoralists. In recent years however land use change in the form of agricultural expansion in the Maasailand has been observed, leading to the conclusion that the Maasai are no longer pastoralists in the truest sense (pure pastoralism being where agriculture plays little or no role in subsistence) but rather, have evolved into agro-pastoralists.

Whilst resource needs have changed, the importance of cattle as measures of wealth and an indicator of status within society remain. The continuation of this measure of status is an important driver of new pressures affecting the

Maasai way of life. The 'have-not's' now migrate away from their traditional lands searching for employment in urban centers throughout East Africa, for money to enable them to purchase livestock back home. While in urban centers, they acquire temporary sexual partners (Sex Workers) while their full-time partners stay behind in their villages. These types of interactions have caused a dramatic increase in the rates of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS which, on returning home, are passed on to their full-time partners. The situation is aggravated by some of the cultural practices and the lifestyle among the Maasai which include polygamy, sharing of wives between husbands, wife inheritance, as well as traditional "esoto" dances between girls (5-15 years) and young men (teens - early 20s), all of which promotes and results in unprotected sex.

Program Description

As a result of the conditions described above, the area is experiencing a spike in the deaths of younger parents, who are leaving behind orphans with little or no support or help in their daily life including education support.

This project seeks to address the needs of the extremely needy children - commonly known as Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) - in the area, with greater emphasis on young girls. The program seeks to contribute in the long term to the reduction of poverty in the area, through enabling MVCs to undertake their much-needed secondary education.

The program will be implemented as part of the Health and Education program of RHWF that started in 2006. Through this program, RHWF has developed a strong relationship with the communities and local government in the area. Community members themselves, with input as needed from RHWF and local government representatives, will select beneficiaries to be supported (orphan-headed families or other needy households).

The program will pay the school fees directly to the beneficiaries' schools, whilst other school requirements will be procured and handed to the beneficiaries, to include: bedding, uniforms, school books and other scholastic materials.

Objectives and Goals

The project will be implemented as a component of the Community Health and Wellness Education Program (CHWEP) of the RHWF with the following goal:

"To provide support for the educational needs of Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) in the target area, with specific emphasis on young girls."

A core objective is to secure block funding for individual students that supports their secondary education for the entire **4 year period**, thereby removing the insecurity and upheaval to their education that often results from attempting to fund larger volumes of students on a term by term basis.

Beneficiaries

All thirteen villages in the Burko area are hoped to be reached through this intervention. The primary target beneficiaries will be children who have just completed their primary education but fail to continue with secondary education due to poverty within the family and lack of support. The program anticipates supporting an average of five (5) children per village per year that is about 65 children.

In the first year, the program will cover the villages of Mbaash, Noondoto, Mferegi, Losimingori, Arkaria, Mti-Moja and Eluwai. These villages are in the forefront of wildlife conservation and as such need to be motivated in their efforts, as well as being the villages with comparatively fewer educated community members.

Reporting

RHWF through the CHWEP will work closely with donors in monitoring the project. RHWF has assigned its program officer to be responsible for the day-to-day program management and will monitor and report all financial implementation. The monitoring system under the CHWEP database, will be established using QuickBooks software. The program will use the existing structure of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training to monitor progress and performance of the students twice yearly. This data will be collated and will provide the basis for biannual and annual reports, which can be sent to, and reviewed by, our donors. These reports will be shared with local government officials and community members during village meetings where and when necessary. Stories and best practice will also be shared locally and internationally through facilitation by RHWF Manager. Program audits will be conducted at the end of the funding period in line with RHWF standards.

The program will monitor and report on the following indicators:

- Number and names of MVC supported to attend secondary school education;
- Number and names of supported MVC attending school;
- Amount of money spent to support each MVC per support category (Fees, Uniforms, scholastic materials and others).
- Performance and attendance records of supported students.

Term

The support covers four years of the O – Level education. The approximate amount required to support one student for the entire four years is USD \$ 750. This covers registration costs, school fees, scholastic materials, and uniforms but does not cover personal needs and fare. The program would like to ensure that the beneficiaries participate to some extent to their development by contributing the rest. RHWF will cover program running costs (Transport and salaries of program staff, stationeries, banking and other related costs).

Depending on the donor decision, the support could be donated at one or several installments. Options for donation are as proposed hereunder, and represent funding per individual student:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total USD
Option 1	750	-	-	-	750
Option 2	510	-	240	-	750
Option 3	390	-	360	-	750
Option 4	390	120	120	120	750

Budget

1. For the first 7 students @ USD 750 = USD \$5250.00
2. For all 65 students @ USD 750 = 48750.00

In future, it is intended that the program will be expanded to other Robin Hurt Wildlife Foundation (RHWF) areas.