



Press Release

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KiuFunza – thirst to learn – education policy intervention launched
Intervention in 2013-14 to improve learning outcomes for children in public primary schools

3 February 2013, Dar es Salaam: A new education intervention, named KiuFunza, which will send capitation grants directly to schools and pay teachers a bonus for performance has been launched. The program seeks to find effective means to improve learning outcomes in primary schools. The program will involve 35 schools per district in 11 districts randomly chosen from all districts of mainland Tanzania (Karagwe, Kigoma Rural, Geita, Kahama, Kondoa, Korogwe Rural, Lushoto, Sumbawanga Rural, Mbozi, Mbinga and Kinondoni) during 2013 and 2014.

KiuFunza is a collaborative undertaking of Twaweza, the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and researchers with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The initiative seeks to discover, through rigorous research, what really works in ensuring children learn. It will test a different method of implementing existing capitation grant policy and a new innovation that incentivizes teachers in public primary schools for improving learning and performance of their pupils.

Currently the main policies deployed to improve education focus on *inputs*: provision of teachers and the capitation grant (a per pupil allocation paid directly to schools of TZS 10,000 per year per primary school pupil). However, evidence shows that not all of the grant reaches schools—in full or on time; and in fact has been declining in recent years. In 2010/11, 28 percent of the grant reached schools (*Education Sector Performance Report, 2010/11*). Moreover, teachers are low on motivation and are not accountable for their performance. They spend less than two hours per day in class (*Service Delivery Indicators Survey, 2010*).

The research component of the intervention will test full implementation of the current capitation grant policy, by ensuring that the government prescribed capitation grant reaches schools in full and on time through direct transfers. An innovative approach of offering teachers incentives for performance (Cash on Delivery/Pay for Performance) of up to TZS. 15,000 per child, paid against actual achievement of basic literacy and numeracy benchmarks, will also be implemented and studied. On top of the teacher incentive, schools participating in the Cash on Delivery intervention will also receive up to TZS. 3000 per child as a bonus for each child who performs the literacy and numeracy exercises up to standard. In the third intervention, a combination of these two activities will be tested together.

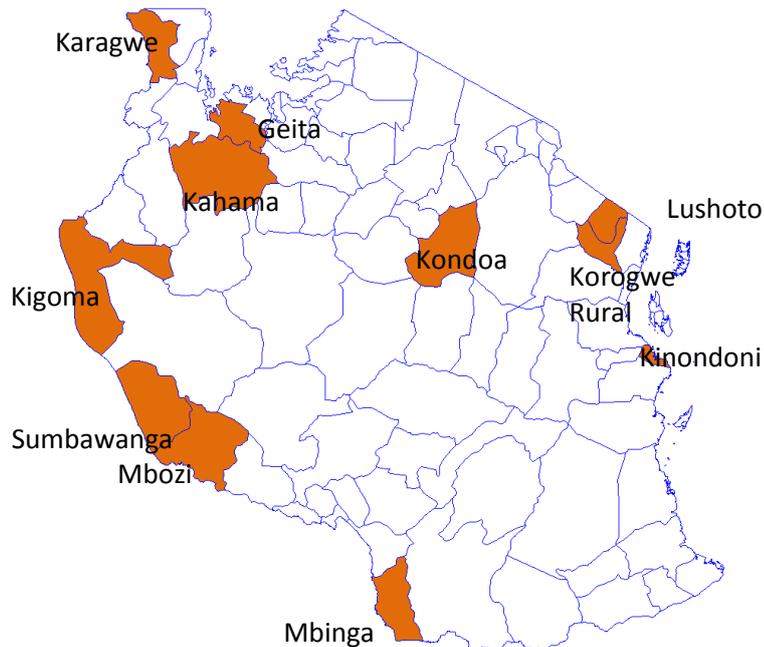
Rakesh Rajani, the Head of Twaweza, notes that *“Tanzania has achieved close to universal primary school enrolment and there is now gender parity in primary schools. The challenge now is to improve learning. KiuFunza seeks ways to address this problem through rigorous experimental research. This will generate useful evidence to inform national policy.”*

Gracing the event held at the National Museum of Tanzania, where the intervention was launched, the Minister for Regional Administration and Local Government, Hon. Hawa Ghasia (MP), welcomed the initiative and noted that *“The government is moving away from looking at inputs to education, classrooms, teachers, books and budget allocations, to look at whether children are learning... the*

underlying aim of KiuFunza is to understand what we can do so that children can acquire the basic skills that are the building blocks of a good education.'

COSTECH on its part praised the intervention and the experimental research methodology that will be used to evaluate its efficacy noting that the time has come to experiment with bold and innovative interventions. *"KiuFunza comes at the right time and will assist us finding answers to some of the complex policy problems around education financing in Tanzania."*

KiuFunza intervention districts, 2013—2014



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For more information:

Risha Chande, Communications Manager, Twaweza
e: rchande@twaweza.org | t: (+255) (0) 656 665 7559

Notes to Editors

1. Twaweza (www.twaweza.org) is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action. We seek to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account.
2. COSTECH (www.costech.or.tz) works to foster knowledge based economy through promotion, coordination of research, technology development and innovation for sustainable development in Tanzania.
3. J-PAL at MIT (www.povertyactionlab.org) was established in 2003 as a research centre at the Economics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since then, it has grown into a global network of researchers who use randomized evaluations to answer critical policy questions in the fight against poverty. J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is based on scientific evidence, and research is translated into action.