ORGANIZATION FOR CAPITALIZING COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES (OCCRI)

PROFILE

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Dar Es Salaam

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2018.

**INTRODUCTION.**

Organization for Capitalizing Community Resources and Initiatives (OCCRI) is a locally registered non-governmental, non-partisan community based organization. It was founded in response to support the alarming deficiencies of sustainable development goals in Tanzania. OCCRI focuses on sustainable economic development projects at the local level to empower communities to improve their lives infinitely. The Organization headquarter is located at Kivule in Ilala Municipality in Dar es salaam and operates in the Tanzania mainland and shall cooperate with other likeminded organizations and individuals within and outside the borders of Tanzania.

 **VISION**

To have sustainable community with empowered people who contributes to their development.

 **MISSION**

To promote sustainable economic development programs at the local level and empower communities to improve their lives infinitely.

**CORE VALUES**

The core values of the Organization shall be:

**EQUITY:** provide access to early childhood development, health, life skills and livelihood skills for youth and women.

**INTEGRITY:** Staff and Volunteers of the organization are expected to offer better, ethical and personified services to targeted group.

**RESPECT**: It is essential for our organization to be seen displaying respect to those whom we serve, we work with and we partner.

**TEAM WORK**: We value the synergy brought about by team work. We seek to broaden our collaborations across sectors as a means of enhance efficacy of our work and services.

**INCLUSIVITY:** We value diversity as a spice of life. We proactively seek to ensure that gender disparities do not place children, youth and women at risk within our organization.

  **OBJECTIVES**

 **Main Objective**

The main objective of the Organization is to empower community to participate in activities that will improve their socio-economic wellbeing.

 **Specific Objectives**

In support of our Vision and Mission, OCCRI has the following strategic objectives: -

* To promote the Health, Nutrition and increase access to quality, affordable early childhood education to poor and marginalized children in rural regions of Tanzania
* Provide children, youth and women with a safe and empowering environment to increase their knowledge and understanding of issues related to health, access to legal protection and household economic strengthening.
* Improve the capacity of formal and informal institutions to challenge the negative attitudes and restrictive gender roles in the community and be more responsive to youth and women’s (and other marginalized groups) priorities and accountable to upholding their rights.
* To raise awareness, knowledge and life skills by providing training, seminars, workshops on livelihood, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS awareness, nutrition programs, mental and physical wellbeing of youth and women

**FOCUS AREA**

In support of our Vision and Mission, OCCRI has the following strategic focus areas

* Children and women rights
* Early childhood development
* Youth and Women socio-economic empowerment
* Life skills and livelihood education
* Health service (Sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and GBV prevention and mitigation)

**METHODOLOGY**

**Official Language**

The official languages of the organization shall be English, Kiswahili and sign language which will be used for the deaf.

**STRATEGIES:**

* Advocacy and awareness creation.
* Integrated Early Child Health and Education Programme
* School clubs
* Community library and ICT center
* Vocational skills training program,
* Mentorship programs
* Community mobilization and participation campaigns
* Savings and lending groups for youth and women

**CURRENT PROGRAMS.**

1. **Kivule Integrated Child Health and Education Programme (KICHEP).**

KICHEP is an integrated child development programme that targets poor and marginalized children from zero to six years and their mothers. The aim of the programme is to promote the health and nutrition of women and young children in Kivule, and increase access to quality pre-school education to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. The objectives of the programme includes among other things advocating for children’s rights, mobilizing community members to participate in early childhood development through village door-to-door campaigns, providing information to mothers and parents in health and early childhood development, mobilizing resources and building networks to strengthen support of the programme. Currently the program runs a Little Millennium Nursery School located at Kivule ward.

1. **Youth Impact School clubs**

The organization provides trainings on life skills and livelihood education for in school youths through school clubs established in primary and secondary schools in Kivule ward with plan to scale up in other wards. The goal is to train youth to become agents of change in their communities and to develop the competences that empower them as leaders, active citizens and entrepreneurs, with special emphasis on Life skills and Employability. Currently there are 8 school clubs in 4 secondary school and 4 primary schools all in Kivule ward.

1. **Vocation training center (Ujuzi Hub)**

 Livelihood education for out of school youth, adolescent, girls and young women is provided through community programs conducted at the Ujuzi Hub Training center at the OCCRI headquarters. To enable youth and women to acquire skills necessary to enable them to start income generating activities, the center provided training on various vocation skills like tailoring, soap making, embroidery, cloth making (Batik), candle manufacturing, agri-business and food processing , waste recycling, computer skills and also link to other skills like carpentry, auto mechanics etc.

1. **OCCRI Community library and ICT center**

Access to books and computers for education and leisure reading is one of the problem facing most of the poor communities. As the result, many youth do not see the importance of reading. Most of them rely on social media accessed through mobile phone and very rarely on TV programs. OCCRI has initiated a community Library which will be equipped with books, magazines, newspapers, brochures and other IEC materials. The library will also include ICT hub which will be equipped with computer and internet services for surfing and accessing other web based resources.

1. **Community Outreach programs.**

The organization also conducts community outreach programs aimed at mobilizing the community to take part in activities that will bring their own development. The outreach program also includes sensitization and advocacy campaigns on importance of nutrition, environmental cleanliness, water hygiene and sanitation and addressing unfavorable social norms that affects women and girls’ rights.

**Resources mobilization**

OCCRI has so far managed to carry out programs through members’ contribution and on voluntary basis. The implementation of the activities is hindered due to limited financial resources. The organization will continue to seek support from well-wishers, individuals, organization, development agents and the government for resources to implement its activities.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

OCCRI collaborate with other stake holders like Local governments authority, especially departments of Education, Community Development, and Health. Other partners include YALI RLC EA, YALI NERTWORK, AFRICAN CHANGEMAKERS,

**CONCLUSION**

OCCRI programs cuts across many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Our focus is to empower community through Education and trainings believing that Education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved. When people are able to get quality education they can break from the cycle of poverty, reduce inequalities and to reach gender equality. It also empowers people everywhere to live more healthy and sustainable lives. Education is crucial to fostering tolerance between people and contributes to more peaceful societies.

At OCCRI we believe that when young people and local communities work together to create positive change, it empowers them and it’s the energy and motivation of empowered people that create lasting change.