

FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Lenka Drahá

YEAR OF STUDY: 3rd year of a bachelor degree programme

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Volunteering on microfinance projects of Maendeleo, research about parenting

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 11 500 CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Tanzania

PERIOD: 27.08. – 24.10. 2022

Brief description of the internship

I spent 2 months in southwestern Tanzania in a rural area called Utengule/Usangu. The non-profit organization Maendeleo has been working there since 2011. It runs several microfinance projects in this area. No member of Czech Maendeleo is permanently present in Tanzania, so the farmers formed a partner organization Wakulima Maendeleo Group. Members of Wakulima Maendeleo Group are divided into self-help groups and they are given microfinance loans, which they can use either in agriculture or in business. My internship included visiting farmers and I was supposed to perform an overall screening of how this project is working, I also visited farmers who are no longer in the project. The second part of my internship was collecting data for my bachelor's thesis and the new project that will start next year. The project is called Parenting for Lifelong Health for children. It is a parenting programme that facilitates caregivers' stimulation of young children's cognitive and social development through focused engagement with picture books.

Description of the activities:

1. Wakulima Maendeleo Group

- visiting farmers

Me and my colleague were supposed to meet farmers at their homes and we did semi-structured interviews. We asked them about their harvest, because this year there was a lack of rains, so we tried to find out how many farmers were affected by this problem. We visited all the villages where Maendeleo operates: Malawatu, Mahango, Utengule and Iduya. We also visited leaders of Wakulima Maendeleo and checked cooperation or problems between farmers and leaders

- taking photos and videos

We took pictures and collected interesting stories, which will help to Czech Maendeleo promote its work for donors. This data will be also used for a fundraising campaign and for propagation.

- organising Family Day

When a volunteer is in Tanzania it is already a tradition to organize a Family Day. It's a day when the farmers and a volunteer/volunteers meet and the volunteer usually cooks them some Czech food. This year, three members of Czech Maendeleo met there together. It was the first Family Day in Iduya, usually, it is in Mahango or Utengule. We together cooked „šišky“ with sugar, peanuts and butter.

2. Research about Parenting

We did semi-structured interviews with primary caregivers. We focused especially on mothers with children 2-3 years old. The respondents were from 6 villages– Kajunjumere, Malawatu, Mahango, Utengule and Iduya. We at first filled out an ASQ questionnaire (Ages & Stages Questionnaires) and then we did an interview and after that, we filled out Multidimensional Poverty Index Questionnaire. This research also included measuring the child's weight and height. The data will be used in my bachelor's thesis and as a basis for the Dialogic Booksharing project scheduled to start next year. All interviews were conducted in the presence of a translator.

The benefit of the internship for student and partner organization:

Student:

I have been volunteer for Maendeleo since February. It is hard to imagine real situations, so I am glad that I have the opportunity to gain know-how about work of Maendeleo in reality. I could use my knowledge from my field of study and put in to practice. I learned how to live and work in a different environment. It was my first time being in a developing country and It was also my first time doing semi-structured interviews. Through the research and interviews with locals, I had the chance to get a deeper insight into the reality of the area Utengule/Usangu. I have chance to improve my language skills, especially in English, but local people spoke only swahili, I believe this provided me basis of swahili language, which is useful for my future career.

Maendeleo:

The collected data can be used as a basis for a new project of Maendeleo. The photos and videos will be used for the promotion of the work of Maendeleo.

Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:

I will present my gained data in my Bachelor thesis.

Maendeleo has a couple online/offline lectures per year in these lectures I will use the information that I collected.

Final budget:

Budget	Total	My own expenditures	Contribution from Vavroušek Scholarship	Maendeleo
2 months visa	1 213	1 213	0	0
International flight	18 200	8 700	9 500	0
Local transport	4 665	2 333	0	2 332
Accommodation	3 000	3 000	0	0
Food	3 600	3 600	0	0
Interpreter*	2 800	0	0	2 800
Vaccination	8 400	8 400	2 000	0
Insurance**	2 600	0	0	0
Telephone and internet	1 600	1 600	0	0
Total	46 078	28 846	11 500	5 132

paid by Maendeleo*

paid by ERV**