

# FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Lenka Drahá

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

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Dialogic booksharing

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 18 000 CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Tanzania

PERIOD: 1. 7. – 28. 11. 2023

## **Brief description of the internship:**

I spend my internship in southwestern Tanzania in a rural area called Utengule/Usangu. The non-profit organization Maendeleo had been working there since 2011. They had formed a partner organization called Wakulima Maendeleo Group (WMG). Farmers of Wakulima Maendeleo Group were divided into self-help groups, and they were given microfinance loans.

Maendeleo implemented new project called Dialogic Booksharing. This project started in September. The Dialogic booksharing programme is a special kind of interaction between an adult and a young child using a wordless picture book. Caregivers were encouraged to engage the child in an active exchange about a picture book, following the child's interest. The exchange is led by the child and supported by an adult. The programme consisted of eight weekly sessions of 90 minutes. The programme was usually delivered to groups of three to eight caregivers. In each session, parents learned specific techniques by watching and discussing videos with a facilitator.

My primary responsibility involved registering mothers for the project, which entailed visiting their homes, assisting them in completing questionnaires. Additionally, I contributed to organizing facilitator trainings, conducting data collection, monitoring project progress, managing logistics and helping with writing of grant proposal.

## **Description of the activities:**

During the first days, I was engaged in finalizing the registration process for Tanzanian NGO. This primarily involved acquiring essential documentation from local authorities. Additionally, we registered mothers across all villages slated for the Dialogic Booksharing project within a month, totaling 600 registrations. The registration procedure entailed completing a brief questionnaire with the child's primary caregiver. In August we

arranged training sessions for facilitators who would lead meetings with the mothers. These sessions were conducted by Karen from the Mikhulu Trust in South Africa. Organizing these trainings included securing suitable venues, providing necessary furniture, ensuring access to electricity, and arranging transportation for facilitators. Throughout the training, we assisted with various tasks as needed.

In September, we initiated data collection, which involved filling out questionnaires with mothers and conducting experiments to measure children's cognitive abilities. Throughout the Dialogic Booksharing project, we convened weekly meetings with facilitators where they returned books from the previous week and received materials for the upcoming week. These meetings also provided a platform for mothers to share their feedback and suggestions for improvement. In November, we did a second round of data collection and worked on gathering requisite documents to draft a proposal for the US Embassy grant.

### **Benefit of the internship for student and partner organization:**

The internship provided me with invaluable hands-on experience in the implementation of a development project. This practical experience will be beneficial for my future. From the initial stages of project planning to its implementation, I gained a holistic understanding of the process. Collaborating with our Tanzanian colleagues (translators), not only let me experience their culture up close but also helped me get better at speaking Swahili. Given the workload and limited manpower, I believe I made a significant contribution to the organization by multitasking and efficiently managing various responsibilities. Despite the mental and physical challenges, I always tried to give my best effort. Following the conclusion of my internship, I shared ideas for enhancing operations in the coming year.

### **Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:**

My colleague and I organized lectures at primary schools in Lučiče and Okrouhlice, where we shared our experiences. We want to continue with these lectures and present it in more schools.

**FINAL BUDGET:**

<b>Budget Item:</b>	Unit	Projected price per unit (CZK)	Number of unites	Projected total price (CZK)	Contribution from scholarship (CZK)
Vaccination (Hepatitis A – second dose)	pcs	1 600	1	1 600	1600
Insurance ( paid by ERV)	pcs	12 780	1	12 780	0
International flight	pcs	13 000	1	13 000	0
Visa	pcs	1 100	2	2 200	2 200
Transport Dar es Salaam -> Mbeya	pcs	580	2	1 160	1 160
Local transport (paid by Maendeleo)	day	50	105	5 250	0
Accommodation (electricity, gas, equipment)	day	50	180	9 000	5 000
Food (+ food for translators)	day	150	180	27 000	6 040
Telephone (calling, internet)	month	500	6	3 000	2 000
<b>Total</b>				<b>74 990</b>	<b>18 000</b>