



Elimu kwa Teknolojia

a BRIDGE *it* program

QUARTER FIFTEEN REPORT APRIL-JUNE- 2011

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On the picture is Jumanne Shauri (BridgeIT focal point at MoEVT) and Felix Manyanga(Assistant director Media Unit at MoEVT) facilitating school management committee’s workshop in Dodoma.

Background

In 2007, the International Youth Foundation (IYF) was awarded a two-year cooperative agreement by USAID/Tanzania in order to implement the BridgeIT program in Tanzania. This was after a successful initial implementation of the BridgeIT program in the Philippines. Following the two year “pilot” program, USAID/ Tanzania granted the project a 15-month extension through December 2010. Due to the general election which was held in Tanzania in October 2010, a lot of activities which were aimed at ensuring smooth transition from IYF and other implementing partners were not accomplished as many government officials were involved in the general elections in one way or the other. Following this challenge, IYF and other implementing partners sought a one year extension from USAID in order to allow for more time in handover the project to MoEVT. Following this request, USAID granted a one year extension through December 2011. IYF is implementing BridgeIT in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT), the Nokia Corporation, the Nokia Institute for Technology (INdT), Pearson Foundation and Vodacom Tanzania.

The main goal of the BridgeIT program is to significantly increase the educational quality and achievement among students at primary school level in mathematics, science and life skills through the innovative use of cell phones and digital technology. BridgeIT in Tanzania has been given a local name “**Elimu kwa Teknolojia**” and it is implemented in 17 districts in a total of 7 regions in Tanzania Mainland.

BridgeIT works to achieve three specific objectives:

- To deepen the collaboration with the MoEVT and local communities to build their management capacity, to expand and enrich BridgeIT in Tanzania and lay the foundation for long-term sustainability of the project.

- To create a system for integrating BridgeIT approaches into Tanzanian primary school classrooms, to improve teacher performance, as determined by changes within the quality of interaction and teaching and learning in the classroom; and
- To increase learning gains among standards five and six students in mathematics, science and life skills in BridgeIT classrooms, with a particular emphasis on girls.

This report covers activities which were implemented in quarter fifteen of the project (April – June 2011). This is the second report of the second extension of BridgeIT implementation under USAID’s funding in Tanzania. Key accomplishments for the quarter include:

- Regional and District Education Officers and School Inspectors Training
- School Management Committees Training
- Recruitment of two Outreach coordinators
- Completion of BridgeIT Evaluation Report

I. Description of Activities

A. Activities Implemented

A number of activities have been implemented in this quarter. Some took place simultaneously, while others are in the final stages of implementation in various zones. In this quarter, all activities focused on smooth project handover and capacity building to the local government and MoEVT. The activities involved key education stakeholders from national and local levels who will take over the implementation of this project after handover at the end of the year. The specific targeted audience for handover and capacity building are teachers, school committees, school

administration, district education officers (DEOs), statistics and logistic officers(SLOs), school inspectors, regional education officers, regional academic officers, counselors and Members of Parliament in all areas where BridgeIT is implemented. The main objective is to make sure that there is proper involvement of key education stakeholders for continuing support and, where possible, extension of BridgeIT at the regional, district and school levels.

Under this quarter, regional and district education officers and school inspectors trainings were finalized for all 17 districts, school management committees trainings are in the final stage and outreach visits are in the process of implementation as well. To provide further support on this activity, two outreach coordinators were seconded from Temeke and Bagamoyo districts. Also, the sustainability plan was reviewed so as to have clear direction towards handover.

Below is the list of activities which were implemented.

i. Regional and District Education Officers and School Inspectors Training:

From 4th April to 20th April, 2011 the IYF team and their MoEVT counterpart conducted multiple three day workshops at the regional level. The workshops were officially opened by the Director of Primary Education Mr. Zuberi Samathaba at Malaika Hotel in Bagamoyo. The workshops involved 7 Regional Education Officers, 7 Regional Academic Officers, 17 District Education Officers, 17 District Logistic Officers and 34 school inspectors. In those workshops a total of 82 senior officials were trained on BridgeIT. The workshops were conducted in three different centers where the participants from Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Coastal met in Bagamoyo, the participants

from Mtwara met in Lindi and the participants from Kilimanjaro met in Tanga.

During the workshop the participants developed “**Elimu kwa Teknolojia**” action plans. The goal of having a five year action plan, which were divided into short and long term objectives, was to make sure BridgeIT is integrated in their plans in terms of budget and follow up. During the training there was a session on how to develop plans as the guide for specific actions that will be taken in their respective districts. In the course of discussion, it was shown that the district education officers (DEOs) who are budget holders are ready to incorporate BridgeIT in their budget for the next government financial year. The DEOs which were ready to include BridgeIT in their budgets are from Bagamoyo, Kinondoni, Kibaha, Temeke and Chamwino.

These workshops are one of the strategies to make sure that the education managers at regional and district levels are actively engaged in the BridgeIT implementation and are ready to provide continuing support as well as extension to more new schools in their respective districts.

ii. School Management Committees Training.

In the process of handover of BridgeIT to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) and the local government, the strategy is to engage school management committees for the support of BridgeIT implementation, especially in the areas of security, maintenance and repair of BridgeIT equipment as well as extension and general support. Through these trainings, the participants learned how BridgeIT is implemented and understood what their roles and responsibilities would be after the handover at the end of the year.

The training for school management committees began on 16th May, 2011 and was officially opened by Director of Special Education Mr. Benjamin Kulwa on behalf of Commissioner of Education in Kinondoni at Kinondoni Primary School. The training involved five people from each school who are key persons in decision making at school level. The people involved were the school committee chair person, school committee secretary, one school committee member, school accountant and one member from village government.

In those trainings, a total of 750 members of school management committees were trained from all 150 schools. The trainings were conducted in clusters depending on the distance of schools in terms of accessibility from one school to another.

During the training the participants from their respective schools developed a five year action plan for each school that would be the strategy for the sustainability of BridgeIT. Most of the action plans were focused on the security of BridgeIT equipments, maintenance and repair, construction of BridgeIT classrooms and purchase of new BridgeIT equipment. The copies of developed action plans were handed to MoEVT and specifically to district inspectorate departments which are implementing BridgeIT for the future follow up. This will be done along with normal inspections by inspectors who will work closely with school management committees to make sure the plans are implemented.

However, there is a challenge in the area of cooperation between village local government and school management committees in some areas. The issue is the two organs have almost the same roles and responsibilities but are reporting to different people. For example, the village government reports to Municipal or district executive director as their

immediate supervisor but school management committees report to the community, although are recognized by the district/municipal executive directors.

iii. Recruitment of two Outreach coordinators.

As mentioned in the last report, BridgeIT was under-staffed due to restructuring which caused a gap in the outreach and training components. In order to address that challenge, IYF –Baltimore obtained approval from USAID to hire two staff from MoEVT under a secondment agreement. The hired staff were Michael Maige from Bagamoyo district and Anna Mtui from Temeke district. Michael and Anna were both trained as master trainers in the BridgeIT project in their respective districts. They are now working as BridgeIT outreach coordinators through December. The agreement is that Michael and Anna will continue to be paid by their employers and IYF will reimburse their employers according to government policy and regulations.

iv. Outreach and school visits.

The outreach began on 22nd June, 2011 in Dar es Salaam. The main target was to involve members of parliament, counselors and heads of department as they are the key people in the implementation of BridgeIT, both at the national and local level. The same people are involved in the preparation and approval of the budget and other development activities. The meetings conducted aimed at creating awareness among the education stakeholders at the local level. School visits aimed at physically visiting BridgeIT schools to assess the actual situation and support teachers and also verify the status of equipments in each school. The information obtained and observed will be incorporated in the final handover report to be submitted in December, 2011.

In this quarter we conducted the meetings with Counselors in 7 districts which include Ilala, Kinondoni, Temeke, Kibaha, Bagamoyo, Kibaha, Dodoma and Chamwino and currently outreach teams are in the field proceeding with the meetings and school visits in Tanga, Kilimanjaro Mtwara and Lindi.

The involvement of councilors is necessary because of their roles in the local government. During the meetings, we made a presentation covering all BridgeIT components and specifically insisted on the roles and responsibilities of counselors in the implementation of BridgeIT after the handover. Most of the counselors were excited with BridgeIT and promised to initiate the program in their areas. The major challenge during these meetings was insufficient time because we were given ten to fifteen minutes to present in the full council and the question of why BridgeIT is not in all schools with stable power was repeatedly asked in different places. Some counselors also wanted to know the cost of BridgeIT equipment, which we in-turn provided.

Also during the outreach visit in Dodoma, we had the opportunity to conduct Bridge IT orientation meetings with three members of parliament. The Members of Parliament we met in Dodoma were the Hon. John Mnyika from Ubungo constituent, Hon. Livingston Godfrey from Chamwino and Hon. David Mallole from Dodoma. Hon. Mnyika promised to take BridgeIT as an agenda to the parliament since he is the shadow minister for the Ministry of Science and Technology from the opposition in the parliament.

During the outreach visit, the outreach team evidenced some initiatives put forward by school management committees in fundraising. For example, Mtumba, Makutubora and Dodoma Makulu primary schools in

Dodoma held parents meetings and one of the agendas was how the parents and community will support BridgeIT in their schools in terms of general maintenance and the addition of new BridgeIT equipment. Also they have started taking steps to apply funds from corporate organizations such as Vodacom and Tanzania Breweries Limited.

In addition, the BridgeIT country advisor had the opportunity to conduct classroom observations at Mtumba primary school. From the observation, he was satisfied by the ability of the teachers to integrate the video clip with other teaching materials as well as the application of participatory strategies in the classroom. As to all other schools, the challenge was video downloading and use of the content interface, so the teacher had to choose a clip from the phone's gallery folder to use in the classroom during the observation.

v. Sustainability plan

In this quarter, the IYF Program Director from Baltimore , Pat Sheid, the IYF Program Manager from Baltimore, Samuel Suraphel and BridgeIT field staff had the opportunity to review the BridgeIT sustainability plan and outcome matrix to reflect the actual handover plan and strategies. The objective of reviewing the sustainability plan was also to make sure that there is a plan for smooth handover of the project to MoEVT. Both MoEVT and local government should be involved and make sure that appropriate technology, support systems, documentation and human resources are in place including all BridgeIT documents such as the teacher training guide, master trainers manual, school inspectors training guide technology guide and technology package.

With the handover process taking place, which is to be finalized in December, IYF and MoEVT as the principal

partners are also strategizing on the sustainability plan in terms of equipment, content development, content delivering system and teacher training. We are in discussion with MoEVT regarding manageable equipment packages and a stable delivery system which will be used by MoEVT. Content development and teacher training are the components which directly fall under MoEVT, which the BridgeIT staff are very sure will be done successfully. The only challenge is in terms of equipments, especially the phone and it's Nokia Education Delivery software (NED) and content delivery, which are critical areas that need the close consultation and involvement of Nokia and Vodacom.

MoEVT is aware that the current NED is not supporting video downloading due to technical issues and that this has become a major challenge in the implementation and sustainability of BridgeIT. Nokia is also aware of the challenge and Nokia has been trying to address the problem. Additionally, IYF will be organizing partner conversations with MoEVT that will examine what other support the major partners would be willing to provide the government after handover. Initial discussions have occurred, but more sessions will occur in Tanzania over the coming two quarters to finalize roles and responsibilities.

vi. Publicity:

The strategy in this quarter and all other quarters is to involve media as much as possible. The approach is to invite in potential media in all BridgeIT trainings and meetings. The media campaign together with outreach activities will help to reach our intention of making BridgeIT well known from the school level to the national level.

In this quarter several media houses were invited to attend BridgeIT activities to cover the events. The events covered by the media, both television and newspapers, were regional

and district education officers training, school management committees training and outreach meetings. For example, the government paper Daily news on 4th June wrote “**Video films improve students’ understanding**”, the Citizen on Friday, 10 June wrote “**Power generation vital for innovative skill**” and Majira(Swahili paper) on Wednesday, 8 June wrote “**Teknolojia yaboresha Elimu Pwani.**” Also BridgeIT was covered by television program “Tuwekana sawa program” on Tanzania Broadcast Cooperation (TBC) in and channel ten.

B. Activities Planned for Quarter Sixteen (July- September 2011)

Below is a list of activities planned for quarter sixteen which is based on the approved one year extension and its implementation plan.

i. Refresher training for all trained BridgeIT teachers in all 17 districts.

This major activity trains more than 1000 teachers from all 17 districts in 150 schools. During the trainings, IYF and MoEVT staff will work in partnership, with MoEVT taking on more responsibilities especially during the actual training. As a result, BridgeIT training model will be in the hands of MoEVT.

The training approach will differ from previous teacher trainings since no participant will be accommodated. The trainings will happen in each district so as to reduce travel distances and accommodation of participants. Master trainers will be involved in these trainings, as a part of building their capacity, after being given a one day orientation prior to actual trainings.

ii. Preparation for new Science Videos:

During the last extension which was granted by USAID, the production of twelve more videos was included the workplan in order to provide an opportunity for MoEVT staff from the media unit to produce these videos. The process of production of new videos allows the media unit to strengthen their capacity in video production. This has been delayed due to the fact that the same staff from MoEVT were also participating in school management committees training and outreach.

However, stage two of video production has begun and is involving script writing and shooting. The process will take almost one month under the support of PPT, local digital media consultants. The major challenge in this activity is ensuring the consistent availability of MoEVT and TIE staff since they have other duties apart from their roles in BridgeIT. So the completion of production of twelve videos might be in November and not October as was planned.

iii. Handover meetings and ceremonies:

In this quarter the plan is to conduct handover meetings and ceremonies at the local level. There will be two stages of handover meetings and ceremonies. The first stage is district handover. This will be a one day meeting whereby the education stakeholders at the district and school level will meet to share the successes and challenges of BridgeIT implementation in their areas. The second stage is zonal meetings. The meeting will aim at sharing the feedback from district meetings and this will be conducted in three zones; south zone, north zone and central zone.

iv. Publicity:

The plan in this quarter and all other quarters is to involve the media as much as possible. The strategy is to invite in

potential media in all BridgeIT trainings and meetings. The media campaign together with outreach activities will help raise awareness on BridgeIT from the school level to national level. Therefore publicity will be an ongoing activity through December.

v. Partnerships:

BridgeIT continues to obtain support from MoEVT, with ministry staff participating in most activities. Project planning, school and outreach visits, and video production have all been done with the MoEVT staff working closely with IYF. Now that the project is housed at the MoEVT premises, it has made the working relationship easier as teams spend several days working together. Also we have begun a discussion with the permanent secretary(Education) of the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administrative and Local Government(PMO-RALG) on how they can support BridgeIT in the transition period where by all primary school activities are managed by the PMO-RALG office.