



# Elimu kwa Teknolojia

a BRIDGE *it* program

## QUARTER SEVENTEEN REPORT OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2011

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On the picture is Mr. Michael Maige, Bridgeit Outreach Coordinator giving instruction to regional and district education officers for Mtwara and Lindi during zonal handing over meeting. The meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 at Lindi

*Seventeenth Quarterly Report*

## **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 handing over 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 standard 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 seventeen of the project (October – December 2011). This is the fourth report of the second extension of BridgeIT implementation under USAID’s funding in Tanzania. Key accomplishments for the quarter include:

- Completion of refresher teacher training in central and south zones.
- \_ Zonal handing over meetings and ceremony.
- \_ Qualitative assessment
- Completion of video development process led by the media unit of MoEVT

## **Description of Activities**

### **A. Activities Implemented**

Four major activities have been implemented in this quarter. The first activity is refresher teacher training which were finalized in central and south zones, the second activity is zonal handing over meetings and ceremony which were conducted in four zones, third activity is qualitative evaluation and the last activity is completion of 12 science videos by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training’s Media Unit. In this quarter and all others, activities are focusing on project handover and capacity

building to local government and MoEVT. The activities have been and are involving key education stakeholders from national to local level who will take over the implementation of this project after handover at the end of the project. As mentioned in the last quarter report the specific targeted audience for handover and capacity building are teachers, school committees, district education officers (DEOs), statistics and logistic officers (SLOs), school inspectors, regional education officers, regional academic officers, school management committees, teachers, counselors and Members of Parliament in all areas where BIT is implemented. All have been involved in the trainings and meetings in clusters to increase capacity to support the program.

The main objective is to make sure that there is proper engagement of key education stakeholders in all levels for continuing support and, where possible, extension of BIT at national, regional, district and school level. Also to prepare Ministry of Education and Vocational Training as well as local government to take over the implementation of BridgeIT program.

Below is the list of activities which were implemented:

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

On 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2011, the refresher teacher training began in Dar es Salaam and was officially opened by the director of primary school, Mr. Zuberi Samathaba. This is a huge activity both in terms of cost and time, and the aim is to train more than 1000 teachers from all 17 districts in 150 schools. As mentioned in the last report, the engagement of MoEVT especially in the local level is very high. We have given many responsibilities to master trainers as well as our

counterparts from MoEVT as a means to equip them with BridgeIT program management skills.

As mentioned in the last report, refresher teacher training was successfully completed in Kinondoni, Temeke, Ilala, Kibaha, Bagamoyo, Tanga, Muheza, Korogwe, Mwanza, Moshi, Bagamoyo, Kibaha and Hai. In that phase a total of 722 teachers from 99 BridgeIT schools were trained. In November, 2012 the refresh teacher training was finalized in Dodoma, Chamwino, Mtwara, Lindi rural, Lindi urban and Kilwa. In this phase a total of 301 teachers were trained from six districts.

Likewise the participation of teachers in the trainings was really encouraging. The attendance sheets showed that participation was almost one hundred percent. This was influenced by a number of factors, which include usefulness of the program in the classroom, and proper engagement of education stakeholders at regional, district and school level.

The completion of refresher teacher trainings in central and southern zones marked the end of BridgeIT teacher training in all 17 districts. The lesson learnt during the training is that such kind of trainings are very useful to the teachers. Through these trainings, teachers sharpened their knowledge and skills in terms of participatory methodologies as well as integration of educational video clips with normal teaching aids in the classroom, therefore the refresher teacher trainings should be sustained even after the handing over of BridgeIT to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

## **ii. Preparation for new Science Videos**

Production of twelve Science videos for grade V and VI is one of BridgeIT's capacity building strategies designed to

strengthen the capacity of MoEVT for video production. From this strategy five staff from Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has been effectively participating in video production process in all stages. The process of video production has been taking place in stages under supervision of PPT group as the consultant. In this quarter, the final six videos have been completed and this makes a total of 12 science videos which will be uploaded to our main server immediately. This exercise also went hand in hand with re-editing of eight old videos and re branding of all Bridgeit videos. This is to make sure that all Bridgeit videos are in a very good condition before the handing over of the program in December, 2011.

Therefore the whole process of Bridgeit video production has been successfully completed and required skills have been transferred to MoEVT staff for them to continue to support Bridgeit.

### **iii. Zonal handing over meetings**

On November 18, 2011 zonal handing over meeting and ceremony was started in Kibaha. The meetings and ceremony was conducted consecutively in Kibaha, Tanga, Dodoma and Lindi. The meetings involved key stakeholders from regional, district and school levels. The participation was in terms of representation from each category in the local government. In those meetings regional education officers (REOs), district education officers (DEOs), school inspectors, Bridgeit teachers and school management committee members were attended.

The main objective of the meetings and ceremony was officially to mark the handing over of Bridgeit program to local government and from there all responsibilities will be in their hands in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

During these meetings we had a chance to share Bridgeit information in detail. It was the final orientation to implementers in terms of application and expansion of Bridgeit program at regional district and school level. A lot of issues were clarified in the meetings to make sure that each of the participants is clearly informed and knows very well the way forward in the implementation of Bridgeit program.

#### **iv. Bridgeit evaluation**

Bridgeit summative evaluation was conducted by international consultant in collaboration with local consultant in 2011 and scientifically stipulated that there was significant increase of quality of achievement in learning Science and Mathematics in most of Bridgeit schools, although in a few schools the achievement was relatively below the standard. As a result, the International Youth Foundation together with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training thought to conduct specific qualitative evaluation among Bridgeit schools to depict factors influenced high performance in some schools and low performance in some schools.

This research was conducted in ten schools and two schools from each zone namely coastal, central, north and south. In order to gauge the difference in terms of performance ten sampled schools were divided equally into two groups that is schools with outstanding performance and schools with low performance.

This research was conducted by a local consultant from Open University of Tanzania. The evaluation report is in the final edit then to be shared with stakeholders for the future betterment of Bridgeit program.

#### **v. Publicity**

Bridgeit publicity is an ongoing activity to make sure that the whole community and education stakeholders are

informed about BridgeIT initiatives especially in the areas where BridgeIT is implemented.

The approach for publicity was also to meet with education stakeholders face to face to discuss the implementation of the BridgeIT program in the meetings. Therefore, we conducted the meetings with heads of educational departments during refresh teacher training and zonal handing over meetings.

## **B. Activities Planned for Quarter Eighteen (January to March 2012)**

Below is a list of activities planned for quarter eighteen which is based on the approved three months extension and its implementation plan. This extension was approved so as to have a room to accomplish all activities in acceptable manner. One of the most important activities is documentation of instructional materials. This could not be accomplished before the feedback from other activities such as refresh teacher training and zonal handing over meetings.

### **i. Training for Local Fundis**

The feedback from the field especially during outreach and refresher teacher training has shown that there are needs for having specific local fundis that will support the schools in the repair and maintenance of BridgeIT equipments. The suggestions from school inspectors and district education officers are to train district technical staff on BridgeIT and how they can mobilize local fundis to continue to support it. The local fundis will mainly be used to support Brigeit in terms of hardware and not software programs. The whole idea is each district to have a local technician who will serve Bridgeit schools within his or her area in collaboration with school management committees as well as the Ministry of

Education and Vocation Training. The fundis training has been schedule on February 26 -29, 2012 in Dar es Salaam

**ii. Handing over meetings and ceremony**

This is the meeting which will mark final and official Bridgeit handing over at national level. This will involve all BridgeIT implementing partners, education stakeholders and the representative from Prime Minister's office and Regional Administrative and Local Government (PMO-RALG).

This meeting will be held on Feb 7, 2012 at Double Tree Hotel and among expected participants are Commission for Education, Education Team Leader from USAID, Director of primary Education, IYF staff from Baltimore, Bridgeit implementing partners, regional and district education officers, school inspectors and Bridgeit teachers.

### **iii. Instructional materials documentation.**

International Youth foundation together with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training are preparing instructional materials which will be used as reference and support for the next phase of Brigeit implementation which will be under the Ministry of Education. The materials include; teacher training manual, master trainer guide, lesson plans, tools for quality assurance and teacher resources center guide.

### **iv. Partnerships:**

BridgeIT continues to obtain implementation support from MoEVT, with ministry staff participating in most activities. Project planning, school and refresher teacher training, zonal handing over meetings 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)-PMO-RALG on how they can support BridgeIT in the transition period whereby all primary school activities will be undertaken under the auspices of the Prime minister's Office, Regional Administrative and Local Government(PMO-RALG).

Moreover we have established good relationship between Vodacom and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. The discussions are going on about how best the two will keep on working together after the handing over of Bridgeit in March, 2012.