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# **Mkwaja Chicken Project**

**Creating Alternative Food Sources  
for the People of Mkwaja**

**Final Report**

July, 2015

Funded by:  
Help Every Day, Denmark



***THE KESHO TRUST***

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# Mkwaja Chicken Project

## Creating Alternative Food Sources for the People of Mkwaja

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The development of a chicken rearing facility in Mkwaja emerged from the need to replace diminishing subsistence food sources resulting from environmental and land use change. A management group formed in the community to undertake the project with the guidance of staff of the Kesho Trust. A business plan was developed, group representatives were trained, a bank account was opened and the facility was built and stocked with chickens. The group held an official opening celebration in February, 2015.



Mkwaja is a traditional coastal fishing village on the Indian Ocean.

### **BACKGROUND**

Mkwaja is a traditional fishing village on the coast of the Indian Ocean in Pangani District. Fishing has traditionally dominated as a livelihood activity supplemented by coconut and cashew nut harvesting along with other subsistence agriculture crops. These traditional subsistence activities have been drastically diminished in recent years in part because of environmental conditions and in part because of the establishment of a national park immediately adjacent to the village, and including some formerly village land and important local fishing grounds. The park, with its wildlife protection policies, has increased the populations of animals in the area especially elephants, monkeys and baboons which impact the coconut and cashew trees. Mkwaja residents are struggling to find alternative livelihood activities that can be sustained alongside the changing conditions facing their community. As part of the Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Research and Learning Alliance [PAPR], a community research committee was set up with the support of the Kesho Trust. The committee documented these livelihood challenges and recommended finding alternative sources of basic food production for local people. They specifically proposed the development of a chicken rearing enterprise which would improve the quality and production of locally managed food sources.

### **THE PROJECT**

The purpose of this project was to establish a sustainable chicken farming operation in Mkwaja as an alternative food source for members of the community. A management group for the project was formed who took responsibility for constructing, stocking and maintaining the rearing facility where chickens will be raised in a protected environment on a sustainable basis. The sale of matured chickens and eggs will produce the income necessary to maintain the facility.



## ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

In the course of implementing this project activities were undertaken in four major stages:

### Planning

- the group developed a business plan outlining the construction and operating cost requirements for establishing the facility, the available market, potential revenue, use and distribution of profits and the management requirements
- the group identified key individuals to take on specific responsibilities for administration:
  - a chairperson [Mr. Masanga Kayumbo]: responsible to supervise all day-to-day activities regarding to the management of the project;
  - a secretary [Mr. Salehe Mwinjuma]: responsible for taking and keeping records of all activities to be undertaken as part of the project; and,
  - a treasurer [Ms. Halima Shabani]: responsible for keeping all the financial records to ensure transparency on all financial related matters.

### Training

- 2 representatives of the group [Salehe Mwinjuma and Halima Shabani] traveled to Dar es Salaam for the basic training on proper management of the farm/business;
- the training was offered by Inter Chick Company Ltd, Mbezi Beach, Dar es Salaam and addressed all aspects of raising chickens including their dietary and shelter requirements, life spans, and egg laying information;
- the training also included basic bookkeeping and business skills necessary in the operation of a rearing facility.

Standing (L-R): Mfaume Mohamedi,  
Maija Ayubu, Buluali Abdalah,  
Mwanangara Masanga

Below: (L-R): Halima Shaban, Salehe  
Mwijuma (small boy is Ramadhan  
Omari) and Masanga Kayumbo.



### **Construction**

- one of the group members, Salehe Mwinjuma, provided the land for the rearing facility;
- the group designed an appropriate facility – including a range area protected by wire mesh and an adjacent enclosed sheltered area;
- materials were ordered and assembled on site;
- construction was undertaken by group members with the assistance of contractors as necessary for special tasks e.g. roofing.

### **Implementation and Administration**

- the group stocked the facility initially with 190 chickens 90 were for meat and 100 for eggs along with the necessary supplies to maintain them such as food, medicine and feeding materials;
- members prepared required documents and applied to the National Micro-finance Bank (NMB), Pangani Branch and opened a bank account to administer the funds from the business;
- the group held an official opening in the community in February, 2015 when the project development was complete



The group members standing in front of the finished facility:

L-R: Salehe Mwinjuma (secretary), Mfaume Mohamedi, Halima Shabani, Mwanangara Masanga, Buluali Abdalah and Masanga Kayumbo (Chair)



### **CONCLUSION**

The project experienced delays in construction and some cost overruns based on rapidly rising prices of building materials and supplies but was completed successfully in early 2015. The group is keen and feels confident about the success of their enterprise. They especially appreciate the support from Help Every Day which made the project possible. The Kesho Trust continues to work in the community on other projects and so has an ongoing relationship with the villagers involved. This provides a continuity of support that is also appreciated by the group and will help to ensure that the operation can proceed as planned in the business plan that the group created at the outset.

There have been some challenges with the operation to date, specifically related to temperatures during the rainy season and a number of chickens died. The group has still made profit and is replenishing the numbers of chickens to maintain a sufficient quantity for successful operation. Regular monitoring and reporting on the progress of the enterprise to the Kesho Trust staff will be expected until the system of operation is well understood and implemented effectively.



**BUDGET SUMMARY**

The budget required for the project was shared among Help Every Day, the Kesho Trust and the community committee itself. The community committee's contributions were labour and other in-kind support for the development of the project. Help Every Day and Kesho Trust provided funds according to the expense summary provided below. A full expense accounting follows.

<b><i>Funding distribution:</i></b>		<b><i>Tsh</i></b>	<b><i>USD</i></b>
Help Every Day		5,201,592	\$3,251.00
training	640,000		
materials	3,923,092		
transportation and labour	638,500		
Kesho Trust		1,458,408	\$911.51
materials	1,258,408		
labour	200,000		
Mkwaja village		450,000	\$281.25
labour	450,000		
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>7,110,000</b>	<b>\$4,443.75</b>



A meeting of the group members.



Fencing around the facility.