

Spring 2024 Professional Fellow

Name: Shadrack Thomson Manyogote
Country: Tanzania
Job Title and Employer: Teacher/Pastor/Director, Child in Protection and Disabilities Foundation Tanzania
Project Title: “Darasa Moja Mwalimu Mmoja” (One Teacher One Class)

Issue: In Tanzania, progressive policies and an increase in knowledge and awareness within communities on the rights of children with disabilities has resulted in a steady increase in the enrollment of students with disabilities (Kapinga, 2023). However, the achievement of inclusive education remains elusive as enrollments are countered by high dropout rates. In 2020, children with disabilities made up only 0.5% of enrollees into secondary school (Basic Education Statistics in Tanzania (BEST), 2020). Barriers to inclusive education include insufficient funding, inaccessible infrastructure, community stigma, inadequate specialized experts, and lack of assistive technology (Kambuga & Mgonja, 2023).

Shadrack witnessed the high dropout rate through a project his organization, Child in Protection and Disabilities Foundation Tanzania, undertook to promote the enrollment of students with disabilities. Of the 300 students successfully enrolled, only 40 completed primary school.

Project Objective: Shadrack aims to address the high dropout rate by training teachers from 10 schools and providing them with a resource to aid in the implementation of inclusion in their classrooms.

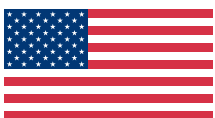
Project Activities: Shadrack will leverage his experience as an inclusive education teacher and, through this project, add to the current efforts of his organization. Shadrack’s organization has created a teacher training manual to encourage enrollment of students with disabilities. With this project, Shadrack will build on this work to ensure teachers have the skills to continue to meet the needs of students throughout primary school. Shadrack will develop supplemental material to accompany the teacher’s manual. He will seek input on this material from the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, through the Regional District Education Officer, Chama Cha Walelavu Tanzania (Tanzania Association for People with Disabilities), Under the Same Sun, Tusaidiane Disabilities Organization, and the Divine Hope Organization.

Shadrack and his team will lead teachers from 10 schools, all in one district, in a 1-day training and introduction to the material. Additionally, Shadrack will print his supplemental material with the 120 manuals set to be distributed to schools. Shadrack’s team will distribute these manuals through Head Teachers, who will hold sessions with the teachers in the school to discuss the content. Facilitators are available to support the efforts of the Head Teachers.

Shadrack will take a two-prong approach, focusing on (1) training and equipping teachers to manage inclusive classrooms, and (2) supporting this work with community awareness on the rights of children with disabilities to education. He will conduct community awareness through open space seminars, working with local government authorities to welcome parents of children with disabilities and invite experts to discuss the right to inclusive education.

References:

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- Kambuga, Y. M., & Mgonja, M. (2023). Empowering Special Minds: A Systematic Review of Government Support for Students with Disabilities in Tanzania. Indonesian Journal of Education and Social Studies 2(2), 95-108. <https://www.ejournal.unuja.ac.id/index.php/IJESS/article/view/7259>
- Kapinga, O. S. (2023). The Implementation of Inclusive Education in the Context of Fee Free Education in Tanzania. Theme: Contemporary Issues in Education: Linking Research and Practice 13th-14th January 2022, 248. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Odax-Lawrence/publication/367672135_Evaluation_of_Co-Operative_Education_for_Agricultural_Marketing_Co-Operative_Societies_Development_in_Sengerema_and_Ukerewe_Districts_Tanzania/links/649f2add95bbbe0c6e04f267/Evaluation-of-Co-Operative-Education-for-Agricultural-Marketing-Co-Operative-Societies-Development-in-Sengerema-and-Ukerewe-Districts-Tanzania.pdf#page=275



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