

# SHULE BORA

Quality learning for all children

PROGRESS

# BULLETIN

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**Shule Bora is a UK-Tanzania Government partnership to support quality education for all children in primary schools. It works at a national level to support Government's multi donor Education Programme for Results and at a local level supporting education delivery in nine regions.**



August has seen Shule Bora conduct several studies and prepare materials to support programme delivery at Local Government Authority (LGA) and school level. Shule Bora has taken a catalytic role, bringing together stakeholders to work on the Safe Schools Programme and has continued to strengthen Parent Teacher Partnerships. Close working relationships with government meant Shule Bora was able to manage and adapt its work to accommodate national events and the population census.

## Delivering equitable teacher deployment through EPforR

Since 2021, Education Programme for Results (EPforR) has incentivised government to deploy teachers based on a protocol that strengthens the institutional process for assigning new primary teachers to schools with greatest shortages. Last year, this led to 78% of all new teachers being posted to schools in greatest need. New data now shows that this year the percentage has improved to 95%. Over time, all new teachers will be deployed systematically and transparently to schools with the greatest need. With this year's improvement, subject to independent verification, the Government will receive an incentive of USD 3.6 million.

Under EPforR, the Tanzanian Institute for Education has now completed a five-year Teaching and Learning Materials (T&LM) replenishment plan. The aim of the T&LM plan is to ensure new T&LMs reach those schools facing the greatest shortages, thereby tackling shortfalls and textbook inequality experienced in schools.

The Education Programme for Results (EPforR) is an innovative systems improvement programme implemented nationally, supported by international donors including UK aid, designed to incentivise equitable access to quality learning in pre-primary and primary education in Tanzania. Through its technical assistance, EPforR supports evidence, planning and resource allocation so that, by meeting targets related to sector performance measures and reform, the Government of Tanzania can ensure more funds are released into the education system.

## Strengthening Parental Engagement

Parent Teacher Partnerships (PTP) are an essential forum designed to engage parents in school development, learning and child welfare. In August, Shule Bora supported a rapid assessment of existing PTPs to assess how they can be strengthened. Conducted in three regions, Shule Bora used Kobo and WhatsApp to engage District Academic Officers (DAO) and Ward Education Officers (WEO). Before Shule Bora, a PTP guideline only existed for secondary schools. With MoEST, Shule Bora led the adaptation of the PTP guideline for primary schools which is now with the Commissioner of Education for approval.

## Delivering Education for All

Inclusion for girls, children with special educational needs and those living in challenging areas is at the heart of Shule Bora. To provide a sound evidence base for government-led interventions, Shule Bora conducted a Gender Equality, Disability & Inclusion (GEDI) study to identify barriers to access and retention for girls, boys, and children with disabilities (CWD) in Tanga, Mara, and Katavi regions. Respondents included regional and district officials, parents, children, village government and organisations representing people with disability. Findings from the GEDI study will contribute to planning for the foundational year of government's Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) on Inclusive Schools.

## Sharing Best Practice in School Leadership

Well run schools are essential to inclusive, quality learning and in August Shule Bora conducted a small study to identify best practices in School Leadership and Management in seven of its nine target regions. The exercise identifies schools and headteachers that display superior results and impact despite constraints – to identify the reasons for their success. Learning from the study will be used to inform school improvement across the country.

District Education Officers (DEOs), WEOs and Head Teachers (HT) working with or in high performing schools contributed and these cadres and will be vital actors in using the findings. Preliminary results will be reported in September.

## Getting Children Ready to Learn

Preparing young children to learn is known to improve their performance when they get to school. Shule Bora's support to the School Readiness Programme (SRP) will provide a strong start for hundreds of thousands of children starting their education journey. Planning for the establishment and development of School Readiness Centres – local centres of excellence - is well underway in Pwani, Rukwa and Simiyu, with Shule Bora supporting the identification of 76 initial centres and Community Teaching Assistants (CTA). Shule Bora has now printed 1,920 copies of the 12 Big Books and 220 School Readiness Programme training resource manuals.

## Supporting High Standards in Teaching and Learning

Shule Bora and the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) have made good progress developing two important new resource manuals – for Community of Learning (CoL) peer facilitators and School Readiness Programme (SRP). The CoL peer facilitator manual is designed to support the performance of communities of learning - teachers working together to address teaching challenges locally. The SRP manual helps apply high standards to this vital pre-primary programme across the country. With Shule Bora's support, TIE has reviewed the SRP resource manual ready for roll-out training in three regions. The draft resource manual for CoL peer facilitators is ready for pre-testing in 25 LGAs.

## Making Schools Safe

Safe schools are a basic right and a core commitment of Shule Bora. Shule Bora responded to a request from the government to support the adaptation of materials for a national primary level Safe Schools Programme, holding a workshop to adapt best practice developed in a safe secondary school manual for primary schools. The manual provides guidance on how the school management and wider community can make schools safer by working together. Shule Bora will continue to help government in finalising the materials which will be used across the country. In addition to improving school safety, the production of these materials is a trigger for the World Bank to release funds to the Government which it can then use on improving schools.

## Looking Ahead

Key activities for next month include:

- Analysing the results of the PTP, GEDI and school leadership and management studies
- Developing videos to support the roll out of CPD materials
- Rolling out training for the School Readiness Programme in Simiyu, Rukwa and Pwani
- Conducting an assessment of current reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns in support of the Safe School Programme
- Support to government to be able to assess and diagnose the School Information System.
- Undertaking a capacity needs assessment of district officers and the EPforR Coordination Unit
- Supporting the Independent Verification Team (IVT) to finalise the 2021/22 verification process and prepare the EPforR annual report.

Shule Bora is a UK aid-funded government-led education support programme. It supports the delivery of the EPforR process nationally and also works in nine regions of Tanzania with technical assistance from Cambridge Education in partnership with ADD International, International Rescue Committee and Plan International.

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