



**CONNECTS AUTISM
TANZANIA**

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR:

On behalf of the people of Tanzania, thank you for the support you give our organization on a daily basis. The work of CAT has benefit many children, youth, families and community members here in Tanzania.

To raise awareness about something like autism here is very challenging, but I believe one day we will reach our goal. At times the impact of what we do is not easily seen, but now the government and the community knows what autism is and are working together to help.

Before many lives were lost and now they are protected and being supported. Before many people with autism were beaten, jailed, denied by their families, and were lost in the streets. Mothers were humiliated, blamed and left alone to raise their children. Now woman and community members are learning and know the rights of people with disabilities. And more importantly they are becoming advocates.

Thank you to all our supporters for your help. You might not always see the changes, but they are here and you support matters so much.

Thank you from all of us at CAT and in Tanzania,
Grace Lyimo

2020 Quarter 1 Impact Report

Connect Autism Tanzania is non-profitable organization aiming to improve the quality life of children, youths and young adults with autism and other disabilities by assisting them to gain access to education and empowerment through connections with others.



Inclusive Education Initiative:

To help provide more access to education. CAT has joined with various government officials and other NGO's to educate and train teachers and education officers about inclusive education. The goal is that through education the government would be empowered to start pilot inclusion programs at various schools with special needs students. Multiple seminars occurred at the end of 2019 and in this quarter to support this goal.

To date we are happy to report:

- 4 districts created action plans to start inclusion programs in 2 pilot schools in their districts totaling a plan of 8 pilot programs by the end of 2020
- 5 schools have already started some type of inclusive programming
- 36 students are now included in 3 schools regular education classrooms for certain subjects
- 2 schools have started inclusive activities for morning assembly, lunch and break with plans to expand
- 7 students were identified for relocation to an inclusive pilot school

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World Autism Awareness Month:

This year for World Autism Awareness Month, CAT will be raising awareness about autism through a Radio Campaign.

Every week the CAT Executive Director and CAT Facilitators will appear on a 1 hour broadcast on 2 different radio stations speaking about autism, inclusion and health while also answer questions from callers.

CAT will also “Light it Up Blue” in Arusha with blue billboard messages on electronic billboards in 2 major intersections.

CAT Youth Centre:

This quarter CAT is excited to announce that through a partnership with Abilis Foundation we have been able to help the 10 families supported by our youth center to access economic development grants totaling 5 million shillings. 5 families have already received money for their economic projects, and 5 more will receive the money shortly. Even though our Centre has had to close for Covid we are happy to report that between January and March:

- 7 of our 10 students were connected to economic development and life skills experiences in their communities. They started learning about gardening, butter making, packaging, and soap making.
- 3 of our students were accepted into training programs to learn about tourism and sewing that will start when schools open again.



COVID-19 In Tanzania:

The impact of Covid-19 in Tanzania is just starting to be seen. School closed on March 17th, followed by grounded planes, cut off imports and businesses closing. With cases going up by the day and the economy struggling due to the worldwide shut downs, it is expected to not only be a health crisis but an economic one for our country and the families we support. To help those in our youth center, we have been able to give out food packages to help them during this time. One of our youth has started to sew greatly needed masks for the community and we have made radio broadcasts about how to be aware of those society who are non-verbal. CAT will do everything in its power to continue to educate the public about autism and other disabilities during this global pandemic and we appreciate your ongoing support.

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