

## Empowerment for Realizing Internal Capacities



Alphonse Paulo Sanare is a Nkwae primary school Head Teacher. The school is in Mlisi Ward, Singida District. Nkwae was among the low performing schools in Singida region as per National examinations thus sought for help from TEN/MET to improve the learning environment and ultimately achieve quality of education.” *We are in this network because my school is in a kind of environment which is not very friendly to students since we have poor infrastructures as well as being in the rural area where the society does not recognize that education is actually helping them”.*



The first encounter with TEN/MET was during the research study to identify challenges and joint solutions for such shortcomings. The research was followed by seminars to share findings, agree on key actions and awareness for all stakeholders on quality of education. *“TEN/MET came to ask us different questions about education in our area and later invited us to different seminars. They empowered us so that through our school committee we can mobilise citizens to respond positively to education by using their own resources for school developments and ensuring their children attend school”*. Different stakeholders including Religious Leaders, District Councillors, Village Chairpersons, some Head Teachers participated in such seminars.

Different participatory approaches were used to reach community members for awareness creation and seeking their participation. *“We are able to get the citizens in diverse ways, but the best way is through public meetings. After discussing what was needed in the school, the committee asked a Village Chairperson to call a public meeting for us to involve them in addressing the issue. This has been our common practices”*.

Before long, it was realized that internal resources could be used to advance the quality of education in the area. For instance, they identified enormous potential on the ability of school committee members to plan and supervise work on their own. They realized that they could use locally available sources for school construction. These include sand, stones and trees and therefore instead of buying them, people collected those materials and water from the river for the school development work.

So far intermediate results have manifesting through participation of teachers and community members in creating friendly learning environment in the effort to promote quality of education. For example, pit latrine with eight holes for pupils has already been constructed. Community members have also supported in increasing availability of desks by providing 25 desks for pupils.



***Pit Latrines Constructed through self-help for Nkwae Primary School***

Teacher Alphonse concludes by underscoring the importance of expanding community sensitization for improving equity in education. This is because some community members do not see the need to construct toilets for students. Thus the need for continues awareness raising remain vital.