

## 1500 Most Vulnerable Children survival through the 90mil/- support from HDT

Human Development Trust (HDT) has granted a total of 90mil/- to improve livelihood and basic needs of 1500 MVCs cared by 500 families located in Mbeya, Kagera and Dar Es Salaam regions.

These results have been achieved through a project to support MVC through their caring families financed by The Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF). The project involves five districts namely Kyela and Rugwe in Mbeya region, Biharamulo and Ngara in Kagera region and Kinondoni district in Dar Es Salaam whereby 100 caring families and 300 MVC from each district were identified and supported.

Identification of children involved local leaders at village level and factors considered include average and source of income per month, number of dependants per family and status of the head of family (single parent and HIV status). Families considered for support also benefitted on school materials for children enrolled in school, such as uniforms, shoes and school bags for primary school and school fees for secondary school. As for caring families, grant was provided to establish small business while others preferred animal husbandry for income.

In Mbeya region more than 20mil/- was used in provision of grants to 200 caring families whereby each family received 2 goats. Furthermore, school materials were provided to 600 students worth 20.4mil/-.

*MVC caring families after receiving the support at Lusahunga ward in Biharamulo*



Meanwhile in Kagera region at Ngara and Biharamulo districts, more than 40mil/- was given to 200 caring families and 600 MVC for scholastic materials. 95% of families identified chose to keep goats while 5% selected small businesses.

However in Dar es Salaam at Kinondoni district where the project started late, the provision of scholastic material to 300 students is still in process but 10mil/- has been used for 100 caring families who received 100,000/- cash each to establish small business.

During a ceremony which took place at Lusahunga Ward in Biharamulo District on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the Chairman of Biharamulo District Council Hon. Aprinary Mugarula complimented the support and said it is his first time seeing non-governmental organization providing grants to caring families. *“Most of private organizations concentrate more on children and not caring families whereby supporting the families will overcome the challenges permanently. We will make sure that the grants received will produce benefit and change the families after few months.....”* said Mugarula.

Speaking at the occasion, the HDT Executive Director, Dr. Peter Bujari thanked all stakeholders for support and noted that this was a contribution by HDT to reduce income poverty and improve social wellbeing as outlined in MKUKUTA. He said that it was high time for the Government to recognize such contribution by the sector and accord support in their financial policies and laws than only valuing foreign companies or investors.

Adding in an exclusive interview, the manager of monitoring and evaluation Ms. Annamarie Mpanda said that the project has supported a total of 100 students in secondary schools with bursaries worth 5.7mil/= . She also said that HDT has trained a total of 58 community home based care and provided them with drug kits. To date the providers have reached a total of 1650, 63% being PLHIV and 37% being other chronic

ill patients. Ms. Annamarie said that, the support of Community Home Based Care Providers was an attempt to build community systems so as to improve the linkage between health facilities and communities for better health outcomes.



*Students at Rwinyana Primary School, Ngara District after receiving school materials*

HDT is a non-governmental organization which works through three pillars namely capacity building, service delivery and policy advocacy aimed at achieving substantive equality for women, children, youth and elderly throughout the country by working with communities and their organizations. More information can be found at [www.hdt.or.tz](http://www.hdt.or.tz)

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