



Call for Partnership to Address School Absenteeism & Dropout by Young Adolescent Girls in Lamu County, Kenya

19th September, 2019

1. About Toto Centre Initiative:

Toto Centre Initiative (TCI) is a registered Child Centered Community Based Organization (CBO) in Lamu County, Kenya. The organization was founded in January 2019 and officially registered as a CBO by the Department of Social Development in Lamu (registration number CSD/HDM/LMU/CBO/VOL.V/09448213).

Our primary mission as a CBO is to work directly with Children, School community members, key departments from County and National government, and like-minded Organizations to Address and Eliminate Social and Cultural Barriers that affect Education of Boys and Girls in Lamu County.

To drive and sustain our mission, Toto Centre Initiative is guided by the following:

- i. The Constitution of Kenya (*Article 53*) on the Rights of Children,
- ii. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) (*Article 11*) on a Child's Right to Education and personal development, and;
- iii. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Articles 19, 28 and 42) on Protection from Violence, Abuse and Neglect; the Right to Education; and the State's obligation to inform children and families of their rights.

2. Our Objectives:

- i. Conduct research to inform current socio-cultural gaps/norms/beliefs affecting development of children in the county.
- ii. Use data to design, implement and monitor child protection programs that will empower disadvantaged children to understand their rights for their holistic growth and development.
- iii. Work with Children, Government officials (County and National), Community members, local leadership and likeminded organizations in developing child friendly by-laws and policies that will permanently address all forms of violence against children

3. Brief Rationale and request for partnership:

Our various engagements with schools, parents, local organizations and government officials in Lamu County have noted with concern that one of the major causes of daily absences or of dropping out of school entirely by many girls is the lack of sanitary towels to support them during their menstrual cycle. This forces many of them to stay back home so as to avoid harassment and shame from their fellow peers in school.

Continuously missing school every month produce in many of them a lack of interest in education, and if they drop out of school they are often exposed to various forms of harassment and abuse including defilement and forced early marriage and contributes to the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the county.

We believe, child protection work cannot be achieved by a single organization or institution, and that is why we are extending our hand of partnership so that together we can help to keep our girls in school. We are ready to partner and work with any organization for synergy and sustainable retention, completion and transition of primary education by girls in Lamu County.

For more information, please reach to us through;

- i. **Email:** toto.ourcentre@gmail.com,
- ii. **Tel:** +254 737 592266,
- iii. **Twitter:** @totocentre
- iv. **Facebook** @totocentreinitiative

May thanks and we look forward to your positive feedback.

With the Best Kind Regards,



Hamisi Dzole
Co-Founder and Chairperson
Toto Centre Initiative (TCI)
Mobile: +254 729 523181 | Email: hamisi.dzoleh@gmail.com

NOTE: Attached below as Annex please find:

- i. CBO registration certificate,
- ii. Reference letters from;
 - State Department of Children Services
 - Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR), a membership and network based organization in Kenya.
 - World Vision International (Kenya), and
 - State Department of Social Development

ANNEX1: CBO Registration Certificate:

		
Certificate No. 48213		
Republic of Kenya		
MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY, LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION		
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT		
Certificate of Registration of Community Based Organization (CBO)		
This is to Certify that		
TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE		
.....
CSD/HDM/LMU/C.B.O/VOL.V/094	Group Name / Project MPEKETONI	15TH MAY, 2019
.....
Registration No. CENTRAL	Division LAMU WEST	Date of Registration LAMU WEST
.....
Sub-location / Ward MPEKETONI	Constituency	Sub County LAMU
.....
Location	is registered with the Department of Social Development Office as a Community Based Organization (CBO)	County
.....	
Name T. O. ACHUODHO	COUNTY COORDINATOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT P.O.BOX 108-80503 LAMU	Signature 
County / Sub County Social Development Officer	
15TH MAY, 2019		
Date of Issue		
		KENYA VISION 2030
Note: The Contents of this Certificate should not be erased, altered or defaced in any way.		

ANNEX 2: Reference Letters from Government and Partner Organizations in Kenya

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Telegrams ...
Telephone: 042 – 4633166
Cell Phone: 0720814473
E-mail: cccslamu@gmail.com
Ref No. CS /1/6/7



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
LAMU COUNTY CHILDREN'S OFFICE
P.O. Box 106-80500
LAMU

Date: 18 July, 2019

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
COMMENDATION LETTER**

TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION

This is to confirm that TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE is a community based organization and is working closely with Lamu County Children's Office in addressing numerous issues of childcare and protection within Lamu County.

Despite being a newly registered organization, it was critical in planning, success and organizing marking of the Day of the African Child in June this year.

Apart from creating awareness on child rights and protection through such national children days, we trust and believe that the organization will be critical in advocating for the rights of children within Lamu County

I commend Toto Centre Initiative for the invaluable, tireless services and positive initiatives towards childcare and protection in Lamu County and highly recommend them for support and collaboration with other likeminded individuals/ well-wishers so as to enable the organization meet its noble objectives.

Sincerely

**MAXWELL .N. TITIMA
COUNTY CHILDREN COORDINATOR
LAMU COUNTY**



KENYA ALLIANCE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF CHILDREN

Head Office

Wendy Court, Hse No. 04, off David Osieli Rd, Westlands,
P.O. Box 73637 - 00200, Nairobi Kenya.
Tel: 254 20 4450256/7, Mobile: 0722-780224,
Email: kaacr@kaacr.com, info@kaacr.com.

Coast Region Office

Tudor Estate, Mombasa,
Off Lunga Lunga Road,
Mobile: 0714 - 818527,
website: www.kaacr.com.

Western Region Office

Kisumu Kakamega Road,
Off RIATT College Turn,
P.O. Box 6853 - 40103,
Tel: 254 20 - 2684450, Kisumu.

15th July 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

REFERENCE LETTER FOR TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE

Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR) is national umbrella body for NGO's cooperation and exchange of information on children rights in Kenya with a membership of over 250 children agencies in Kenya. KAACR, which was founded on the basis of the UNCRC, is a registered as an NGO under the NGO Coordination Act of 1990 in 1995. KAACR is an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN (2000), Equivalence Determination Certification (2017) from NGOsource, Observer Status with African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) – (2018), member of Global Partnership of Children (2019) and member of ECPAT (2019). KAACR's mission is to advocate for and promote realization of rights and responsibilities of children and youth in Kenya.

We confirm that we know Toto Centre Initiative as the only indigenous community organization addressing child protection issues that have exposed children to various social-cultural harm in Lamu West (Mpeketoni and Witu) whose objectives are: Partner with relevant institutions to conduct research that informs current socio-cultural gaps/norms/beliefs affecting development of children in the county, Use data to design, implement and monitor child protection programs that will empower disadvantaged children to understand their rights for their holistic growth and development and to work with Children, Government officials (County and National), Community members, local leadership and likeminded organizations in developing child friendly by-laws and policies that will permanently address all forms of violence against children.

Due to her effectiveness, Toto Centre Initiative though a young, budding and focused CBO, is secretary to the active Lamu County Child Protection Network and is currently fully paid up member of Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR).

We recommend them for assistance to enable them carry out their mandate through the above set objectives.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

TIMOTHY EKESA
Executive Director

Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR)

Kenya

Karen Road, Off Ngong Road
P.O. Box 50816, 00200
Nairobi, Kenya

tel. 254 20 3883652
fax. 254 20 3883670

www.wv africa.org

LAMU/GARISSA AREA PROGRAM

LAMU ADP

MOKOWE

17/07/2019

RE: TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE

This is to confirm that Toto Centre Initiative (TCI) is a newly registered Child Centered Community Based Organization (CBO) in Mpeketoni, Lamu County, Kenya. The organization was founded in January 2019 and officially registered as a CBO by the Department of Social Development (registration number 48213) in Lamu.

The mission of the CBO is to promote Rights and Protection initiatives that sustainably address any harmful social-cultural norms and beliefs that affect welfare and development of Children in Lamu County. They have an approach is to work directly with Children, key departments from County and National government, Community members and likeminded organizations. World Vision Kenya Lamu ADP recently partnered with Toto center and the national government to conduct and hold the day of African child celebrations conducted at Mpeketoni and I personally was impressed with the professionalism and dedication the CBO members exhibited.

I am of the opinion that the CBO has got a good potential of working in the community to ensure that children children are protected and cared for and parents take up their responsibilities. The CBO is locally based thus has the ability to move to all corners of the vast county of Lamu.

I will not hesitate to recommend this CBO to any group that is willing to work with them in Lamu County.

Yours Sincerely



Emmanuel Mkoba
AREA PROGRAMS MANAGER



MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SENIOR CITIZENS' AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
LAMU COUNTY

Cell Phone:
Email: hasnmwachi23@gmail.com

County Social Development Office
P.O. BOX 108 – 80500
LAMU

When replying please quote reference & date

REF: SD/LM/CD/VOL. I/ 007

Date: 12th July 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE – CBO


This is to certify **TOTO CENTRE INITIATIVE** is a Community Based Organization (CBO) registered by this Office on 15th May 2019 vide Certificate Registration No. CSD/HDM/LMU/CBO/VOL.V/094. The CBO has its main office at Mpeketoni Trading Centre and operates within Lamu West Sub County. Since its registration, the CBO has been very active, complies with the regulations and operational procedures of this Department.

The Organization targets and works closely with Orphans and Vulnerable Children who dropped out of school due to various reasons. The CBO's overall goal is to "Protect Children's Rights by sustainably addressing harmful socio – cultural practices that impact on the Welfare and Development of Children." In order to achieve the CBO's vision, mission and goal, the CBO actively and participatorily engages the Community through implementing

- i. Civic education on Children's Fundamental Rights
- ii. Mentorship/life skills support targeting young and adolescents youth in and out of school,
- iii. Awareness on Drugs & Subsistence Abuse among youths and adolescent children
- iv. Awareness on GBV and Violent Extremism among children in and out of school.
- v. Education support among adolescent girls and boys in school.

In order to achieve the CBO's mandate, the Organization has a strong networking mechanism that recognizes other relevant authorities and key agencies (State and Non – State Actors) among them is the Department for Children's Services. This is essential in prudent and efficient use of available resources, enhanced Community participation and stakeholder engagement to promote Children's Welfare and Development.

Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to affirm our knowledge on the CBO's existence since May 2019 and its operations to date. Hence, this Office has no objection and wish to recommend this organization for any support it may require as it toils to achieve its set objectives. Your kind consideration for any support will highly be appreciated


HASSAN O. MWACHIMAKO
For: COUNTY COORDINATOR FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
LAMU COUNTY

COORDINATOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 108, LAMU