



*"Fighting Poverty Building Economy/
Piga Vita Umaskini Jenga Uchumi"*

THE PROFILE OF COSITA

Office location: Babati town – Mruki area

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Registered in Tanzania under NGO Act, 2002 with Cert. No. 00NGO/00004247.

INTRODUCTION

Community Support Initiatives Tanzania (COSITA) is a local non-governmental organization registered under NGO Act, 2002 in the year 2010 to operate in Tanzania Mainland. The organization started as an idea from a group of people with common purpose mainly to serve poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities confronted by lack/shortage of hygiene and sanitation services, land degradation/natural resource destruction, child right abuse, gender inequality/inequity, and food and Nutrition insecurity.

COSITA is a membership-based organization where the Annual General Meeting is a supreme organ in the decision-making level, followed by the Board of Directors and finally the management team which undertakes the daily implementation of the organization duties.

The head office of the organization is located in Babati Township - the head quarter of Manyara region and sub-offices in the nearby districts and regions.

COSITA's Vision

Community is getting better living standards by accessing high quality social services sustainably.

COSITA's Mission

To contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for community through ensuring their involvement in; development projects, gender balance, social accountability and Sustainable resource management

COSITA's Values: - Teamwork, Equality, Ethics, Dignity and Integrity (TEEDI)

COSITA's General Objective:

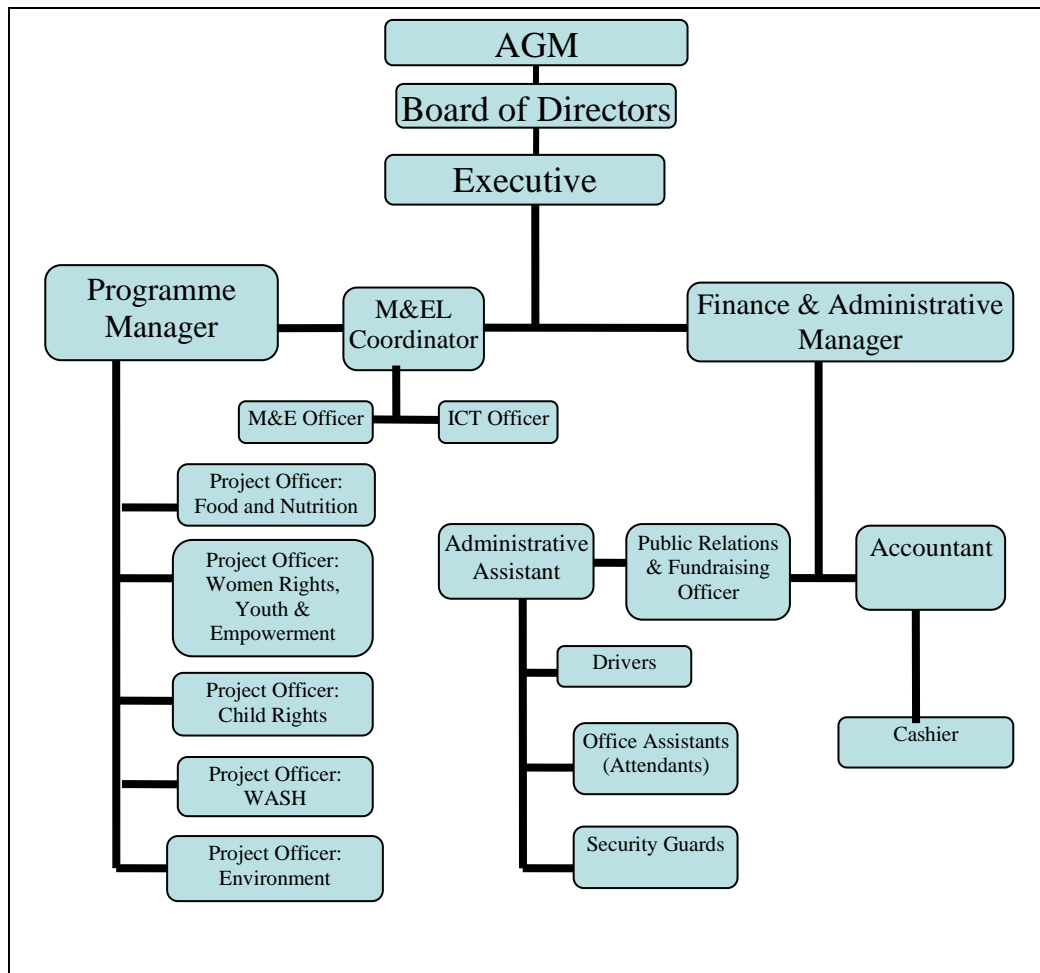
To improve the quality of life for Pastoralists, Smallholder farmers, hunter-gatherers and other low income communities by contributing to the development opportunities towards poverty alleviation.

Specific Objectives:

In order to implement its mission and objectives, the set priority areas to work with:

- ⇒ To promote child rights and protection (education, health & nutrition ...)
- ⇒ To undertake community food and Nutrition security initiatives.
- ⇒ To support community health, hygiene and sanitation practices.
- ⇒ To Promote gender equity & equality
- ⇒ To promote environmental conservation.

COSITA Organogram



General meeting:

- The general meeting is the supreme organ in any decision regarding the organization.
- The general meeting compose all members required to attend a meeting
- The quorum of the general meeting is made up of two-third (2/3) of all the members required to attend such particular meeting.
- The Organization holds once in each calendar year an annual general meeting.
- Extra Ordinary general meeting can be convened to discuss the matters that do not wait the normal annual general meeting schedule

Board of Directors meetings

- (a) Ordinary meeting takes place four times a year
- (b) An extra-ordinary meeting can be convened necessarily in consultation with the Chairperson
- (c) Two third (2/3) of the board members form the quorum.

Management Team

The management team implements the daily activities of the Organization

- i. It composes of Organization Executive Director, Finance & Administrative Manager, Programs Manager, M&EL Coordinator, Accountant, Projects' Officers, heads of units and other support staffs.
- ii. It meets every first week of the months or any time the need arises to discuss and make sure that the set objectives are achieved.

ORGANISATION SOURCES OF FUNDS

The sources of funds for the organization are as follows:

- a. Members' subscription
- b. Grants and donations from individuals, donors agencies, other NGO's
- c. Fund raising activities such as dinner, charity walk, expert contract charges etc.

The Organization also accept funds from any source whatsoever, provided the same is legitimate and the receipt thereof is not contrary to the general philosophy and principle governing the Organization and also the laws of the land.

Finance /Accounts

1) The financial year of COSITA is first of January to thirty first of December

2) The signatories to bank accounts are in two blocks as follows:

Block A- Board members and Block B – Management team

3) COSITA Bank Account details:

Communtiy Support Initatives Tanzania - NMB Branch Babati.

COSITA Malengo Support A/C – CRDB Branch Babati

COSITA Partners/Donors:

Since commencement in the year 2010, the organization accessed funding different times from the following donors:

- IRISH AID via CARE International in Tanzania for “Babati Pastoralists’ Land Right Project”.
- USAID via AFRICARE Tanzania for “Mwanzo Bora Nutrition Project” in Mbulu and Babati
- COMIC RELIEF for “Sesame Value Chain Project” in Babati
- DKA AUSTRIA via WEGS for “promotion of girls education” in Babati district.
- Foundation for Civil Society – FCS for “women rights to land and other resources access, use and full control project” in Babati district.
- UNDP/UNOPS for “protection and development of Indigenous Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs)” around Duru Haitemba Forest reserve in Babati.
- GAC/SeedChange via PELUM Tanzania for “Rural Women Cultivation Change Project” in Babati & Mbulu

- GrassRoots nest for innovation and Change – GriC for “Child Rights to Education - CRE” project in Babati district.
- Tanzania ECD Network for “Mtoto Kwanza Project” in Manyara
- Legal Services Facility for “Women Access and Use to Agricultural Products” in Babati
- TRAFFIC Int’l East Africa for “Community Behavior Change on demand for and consumption of Wild Meat” at Kwakuchinja Corridor – Babati.

COSITA SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

Since its registration in the year 2010, below are some of the achievements:

Food and Nutrition Security:

1. 3000 pastoralists' men and women in Babati district are aware and are applying the existing land legislative frameworks and legal rights towards allocation and managing village grazing areas.
2. Exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding through 1000 Days Campaign/parent kit has become a practice in Mbulu and Babati families. About 23,409 pregnant women were reached through nutrition program, 11689 (male 5,588 and female 6,101) number of children under two (0-23 months) have been reached with community-level nutrition interventions. Also about 98090 (male 48,640 and female 49,450) number of children under five have been reached through provision of Vitamin A in Mbulu and Babati district councils.
3. 82 farmer business groups (FBGs) – Each 25 farmers supported in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) in improving their livelihood through crop value chains in Babati district. The GAP knowledge led to the increase in volume of sesame produced from an average of 92kgs to 168kgs per acre per farmer and hence increased average income from sesame from TShs. 156,400 to TShs. 285,600 as well as greater equality between men and women and inclusion of young people in sesame value chain activities from 7% to 38% and 28% respectively.

WASH Practices:

4. About 11248 households adopted good hygiene and sanitation through the use of tippy tap technology as well as extensive dissemination of nutritional messages via Peer Support Groups meetings, IEC materials and school nutrition
5. 2 schools fully supported by providing handwashing facilities to schools as preventive measures for COVID-19

Child rights to Education:

6. COSITA has also successfully supported 15 girls' students to achieve their full education dreams.
7. Sigino Community are well sensitized for the school dormitory building contribution where 2 dormitories are well built at Sigino ward Secondary school
8. Students' clubs formed at Sigino and F.T, Sumaye Sec Schools and trained on self-awareness and self-confidence
9. Capacity built for 4RRR teachers and 4Youth volunteers in 4 primary schools in Nkaiti Ward and over 1500 copies of extra curricula books supplied.

Gender Equality:

10. 1261(male 829 and female 432) community members in Babati are well aware on the contents of land laws Act #4 and 5, 1999 and the equal rights of women to access, use and full control over land and other properties.
11. 10 village land councils and 3 ward tribunal in Babati are fully operating on land legal framework using the knowledge and skill gained during trainings conducted by COSITA on women land and other property rights.

12. 10 groups of Women land right forums well capacitated on business development skills including preparation of business plans.

Environmental conservation:

13. Village Environmental Committees from 10 Villages of Babati district well capacitated on environmental and community forests conservation including climate change adaptation and resilience strategies put in place.
14. Over 5000 seedlings well distributed to village communities to be planted around Duru Haitemba Forest reserve to conserve the natural forest against the immediate community use like timber, building poles etc.
15. Increased forest surveillance by villagers to protect forest resources from invaders
16. Increased participatory planning of forest resources and leaders' accountability to the community as a result of capacity building the community to hold accountable the duty bearers.

SUSTAINABILITY STATUS AND PLAN

COSITA strives to develop, promote and maintain the following strategies:

- Attracting and maintaining committed members and partners who wish to make a change to the life of the poor and vulnerable communities in Tanzania.
- Solicit and broaden reliable internal sources of funding.
- Establish a positive "COSITA's status quo" as a credible and dependable organization able to demonstrate changes/results no matter how small they may appear to be.
- Develop long term projects and integrated programs.
- Greater focus directed to ensure a strong institutional base and developing relevant competencies at all levels.

CHALLENGES

COSITA being a community based non-profit motive organization, despite the committed members, board and management team, is facing different challenges as follows:

- ⇒ Inadequate fund to reach the targeted/beneficiary groups
- ⇒ Shortage of Staff (human resources)
- ⇒ Some of the working facilities are running old (computers, vehicles/motorcycles)
- ⇒ Lack of own built house for office use and conference hall.
- ⇒ Lack of local domain web page

WAYS FORWARD

Some of the ways forward are:

- To repackage our resource mobilization strategy, specifically on each category of sources of funds including IGA
- To prioritize activities that produce quick wins
- To increase visibility of COSITA via different means including use of media and social networks.