

## Report from annual short term trainee program in collaboration between FO Hordaland and TASWO Kilimanjaro 2018

FO Hordaland branch has had collaboration with Tanzania Association of Social Workers, TASWO, Kilimanjaro branch in Moshi since 2011. FO Hordaland has the last years given two members the opportunity to participate as trainees in an organization chosen by TASWO. This year we were the lucky ones! TASWO had chosen a very relevant organization for us to visit, based on our experience and interests. We participated in the daily work of Pamoja Tunaweza boys and girls club from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of October. We also participated in the TASWO International conference on social work and social development from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

We would like to thank FO and TASWO for this opportunity.

### About Pamoja Tunaweza Boys and Girls Club

'Pamoja Tunaweza' means 'together we can' in Swahili. We believe 'together we can dream that when worlds collide, anything is possible'.

#### Mission

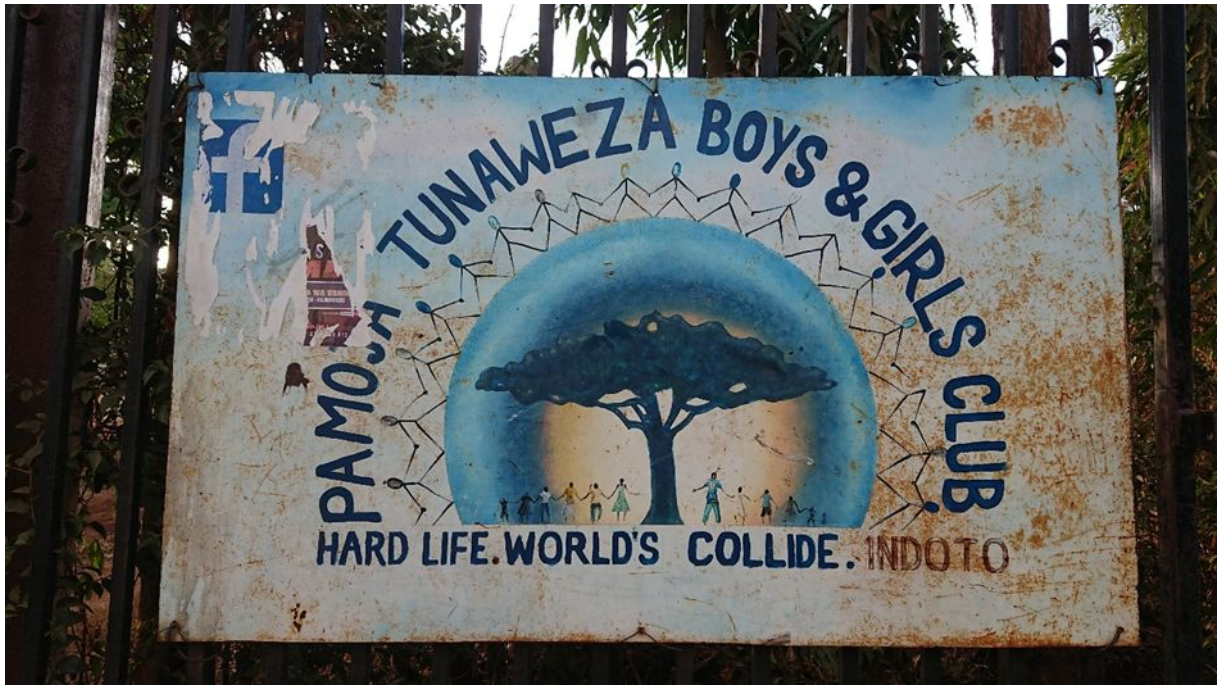
To empower vulnerable and at-risk youth to reach their full potential as productive, self-sustaining, responsible members of the community.

#### Core Values

1. To provide a safe and healthy environment for our kids to learn and grow.
2. To provide inspiring community role models.
3. To offer life enhancing programs and character development experiences.
4. To offer hope and opportunity.



*Wall painting at the community center*



Pamoja Tunaweza Boys and Girls Club (PTBGC) was born out of the desire to provide education and employment opportunities to the most vulnerable youth in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania. This group of youth is called 'the lost boys'; street-connected male youth over the age of 16. These young men have a basic education and spend their days on the streets, collecting rubbish and metals to sell in order to feed themselves. At night, some are able to return home while others find a quiet spot under a bridge and in a doorway to sleep in an empty rice bag. Drugs, alcohol, violence and abuse are abundant. PTBGC hope to make a significant impact on this cycle of poverty by focusing on these youth whom are so often left out of national and international aid program.

Local empowerment is the cornerstone of PTBGC. They have a gifted team of local leaders, some of whom are ex-street-connected youth themselves, serve as positive role models and mentors for these youth. They conduct the PTBGC programming and make all the decision regarding its operation and growth. We meet three of them:

Morgan Armani is co-founder of PTBGC. He heads the Street Outreach Program and is a great advocate for street-connected children and youth. Morgan also manages their sports and drama programs. Morgan was our supervisor during our period as trainees.

Richard Paul who is the newest addition to PTBGC, joining the leadership team in April 2018. He supports the Street Outreach programming and mentors our youth participants. Rich is also an active part of their sports programming, being an avid footballer!

Emily Molzan is the General Manager of PTBGC and a registered occupational therapist. She is passionate about community development, capacity building and working alongside the leadership team.



# Our experience at Pamoja from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2018

During our week at Pamoja we followed Morgan and Richard around at the different programs they were involved in during the week. In this report we would like to share our experience. We start by describing the different programs we attended and at the end of the report, some reflections on the experience.



- **Outreach daytime**

We started our days by the market with Morgan and Richard. At the beginning, after opening Pamoja they had all their activities at the centre outside the city. After some time, they decided that it would be easier for the boys to take part in the program if it was closer to where the youth spend their days. Pamoja moved parts of their program out on the street, this way the youth were able to both participate in the program and try to earn money by working.

The time before lunch Morgan and Richard play football and make bracelets with the boys. At the football field the boys get together practicing different football skills before they play at together. During this activity the youth learn social skill as team work, handling arguments in a constructive way, including each other and so on. It is a good way to connect with the boys to start a process to be able to help them.



*making bracelets*

Teaching the boys to make bracelets is based on the idea that the they can learn skills which will help them to get an income and thereby be more self provided. They borrow benches from the market, placing them under the one small tree trying to get some shadow, and start making bracelets. By lunchtime outreach daytime is over and the youth continue their day, trying to earn some money for food and other necessities.

*Richard sitting together with some of the boys*

- **Community centre**



*Some of the youth working at the workshop*

After a lunchbreak Morgan and Richard continue their day back at the centre. At the centre, during daytime, some of the older youth are working together with one of the other PTBGC leader. Their day in the workshop starts at 9 and ends at 16. Here they produce Pamoja Tunaweza trademark products, and research and execute new designs. Many of the products are made from recycled materials such as scrap metals and fabrics, as well as glass and plastic bottles. The products are sold and revenue from all sales goes towards operational costs, salaries, and sustainability goals. We didn't get to join the boys while working, since we spent our days at the outreach program. But we got the pleasure to join them for drama-class in the afternoon.

At 16 o'clock in the afternoon several days a week, there is a drama program at the centre. During our stay there was a volunteer from Belgium running this program. She was an impro-actor and had different activities with the group. Both youth from the daytime outreach program, boys from the workshop and other boys and girls joined in for this class.

- **Outreach at night time**

Pamoja does street outreach at night time once a week. We were invited to go with them during our week. Morgan and Richard walk the streets where the youth are spending the nights. At this time of the day, they are able meet some of the youth they already know and some new. The intention of the night time outreach is to connect with old and new boys in the streets to be able to help them later. They invite them to join the day time outreach program and get to know Pamoja. To connect with the boys they walk the streets, and there is a small café at a corner where they buy thermoses of ginger tea and sit down with the boys to talk.

The only boy sitting with us was one of the new boys, who had participated for the first time in the outreach daytime program this same day. He was new on the street, had no friends and hadn't eaten all day. He got coffee and was encouraged to join us the next day again, which he did.



- **Family focus**

Pamoja has a growing family focus in their work with street connected youth. During our week we got to visit a family with Morgan and Richard, in the suburbs of Moshi. Pamoja is working to help the boys reconnect with parents or other family members and go back to school. When Pamoja have established contact with family network, they meet with them if possible. By providing the family with information and guidance, they are able to help some of the street-kids back home, also to other parts of Tanzania. Pamoja stay in contact with the family and network for some time after they have been reconnected with their families, to make sure the youth are doing well. During the week we stayed with Pamoja, two boys were travelling back to their family. It is sometimes complicated to go back to school, even though the boys are motivated. The family can't afford it, or it has been too long since the last school attendance and they are not allowed back.



family visit

- **Sports program – football team**

One afternoon we got to join Pamoja's sports program. Pamoja have got a senior and junior soccer team. Pamoja's key element of the sport's program is bringing together children and youth from different socioeconomic status. Sports are a valuable tool to break down social boundaries and to create friendships and understanding, that may not otherwise be possible. The field is outside the city centre and were filled with teams playing in the sunset.



From the football field. Kilimajaro in the background

## Talks and thoughts under the tree

In our first meeting with Morgan and Emily we got information about Pamoja and a tour at the centre. This gave us insight in their vision and values around working with the youth, and also the expectations to the volunteers and us as trainees. This first meeting gave us great expectations on the following week, which all were fulfilled.

During the week together with Morgan and Richie we got a glimpse into their world. Both of them showed great affection and engagement for the boys. They gave care and attention to every one of them, with a smile, a stroke, a talk, a break, with education in so many levels and with heart and mind in what they do.

Morgan and Richie were open to all our thoughts and reflections on our experiences, their work with the boys and they took time to answer all our questions.

For us it has been a good experience to be together during this week as trainees. It has given us the opportunity to share reflections and thoughts, and the professional experience has been even better sharing it.



As members of FO Hordaland we would like to highlight how we have been welcomed to Moshi and TASWO, as parts of a well-established collaboration. It has given us a broader insight in how the core of social work is independent of cultural frames and understanding.