

FINAL REPORT – VAVROUŠEK SCHOLARSHIP

NAME: Bc. Aneta Pavloková, Dis.

YEAR OF STUDY: 2nd year of a master degree programme

TOPIC OF THE INTERNSHIP: Volunteering on microfinance projects of Maendeleo

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT: 28 000 CZK

COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION: Tanzania

PERIOD: 05.07. – 30.09. 2021

Brief description of the internship:

I spent two months in the southern highlands of Tanzania working for non-profit organization Maendeleo in rural areas of Utengule–Usangu. Several microfinance projects focused on poor farmers run in this area. Czech Maendeleo has been working there since 2011 but is not permanently present in Tanzania, therefore in 2016, Czech Maendeleo founded a partner organization called Wakulima Maendeleo Group as a non-governmental and non-profit organization. They currently operate on the basis of close cooperation in which case Maendeleo works as the main donor and advisory body of the Wakulima Maendeleo Group's activities. Farmers of Wakulima Maendeleo Group are divided into twelve self-help groups and they are given microfinance loans. My main focuses were; farming beans, interviews with the farmers about microfinance preferences, and doing promotion of the organization.

I spent my third month in the north of Tanzania in Mbulu District, specifically in the village called Dongobesh, where I was sent by the Czech organization “The Children of Africa” in cooperation with the Czech Maendeleo Organization. Children of Africa organization supports disadvantaged children's education including the provision of essential needs. The target groups are orphans or children from families which are dysfunctional, mainly due to alcoholism, poverty, and diseases. I was doing field research if it is possible to start the same microfinance project in this area as Czech Maendeleo does in southern Tanzania.

Description of the activities:

Usangu:

- Collecting data for my Master's thesis through qualitative interviews with the farmers, agriculture officers, and the leaders of Wakulima Maendeleo Group focusing on the

farming of beans. The farmers started to plant a special type of beans this year. I was asking them about the preparation of the field, planting, growth, and a forthcoming harvest. Agriculture officers were explaining to me the general situation of the area in agriculture and the beans. The leaders of Wakulima Maendeleo were sharing with me the whole process of the cooperation between the farmers and them.

- Doing PR for the organization through taking pictures and making videos of the farmers. I continued with the interviews of the old farmers and I had asked them what happened since the last time when the Czech volunteer visited Usangu. At the beginning of this year, the new farmers started to join Wakulima Maendeleo. I was also doing interviews with them for supporting the fundraising of Maendeleo.
- Doing the interviews with the farmers about microfinance preferences through the card's Q method. The farmers were asked the questions and through the options, they had to choose an answer and explain why they chose it. It should help Maendeleo in the future with setting conditions for microfinance.
- Organizing the tradition "Family Day". Every Czech volunteer organizes the tradition for strengthening the reciprocal relationship by spending one day together with the local community. The day started with the preparation of the food for all farmers and mutual cooking on the fire. When we finished eating, I was sharing with the farmers the projects I was working on and subsequent cooperation. We finished it with the games and learning Tanzanian typical dance and songs.

Dongobesh:

- I was sent to Dongobesh through the organization The Children of Africa to find out if this area is suitable for the starting of the same microfinance project as Maendeleo does in the south of Tanzania in Usangu. I visited many officers to collect information about agriculture in this location. They sent me to the two villages where I did a research. Thanks to the interviews with the leaders and inhabitants of the villages I had found a good environment for starting microfinance projects.

CIAT organization:

- I participated in two meetings in the organization CIAT which is located in Arusha. This organization is a partner of Maendeleo and cooperates with the distribution of beans. They gave me a lot of theoretical information about beans. Another part of the meetings was talking about the evaluation of planting the beans in Usangu and arranging the next cooperation for the farmers.

The benefit of the internship for student and partner organizations:

Student:

For the first time, I had researched in a developing country. I always wanted to do the interviews with the translation to English and this internship allowed me to do so. I have learned to work individually and independently to perform assigned tasks in difficult conditions often without easy access to basic needs. I worked under reduced communication with Czech colleagues, I have learned to respect and understand a different culture, be fully flexible, patient, responsible, manage the Swahili language barrier and improve in leadership.

I was acquainted with the running of ongoing projects, as I was collecting data, materials, and stories for the use of the organization and for my diploma thesis. I consider gaining this experience before completing my master's degree to be extremely valuable. I got to know the cultural environment of East Africa, which can serve me in my further development career.

Maendeleo:

I gained a lot of usable data for Maendeleo which will be used for evaluating and improving the projects. I took a lot of pictures and made videos that will be used for fundraising. I also hope the commencing of the microfinance project in Dongobesh will start with the right direction to change people's lives.

Presentation of the outcomes of the internship:

- I will present my gained data in my Diploma Thesis.
- I will have a presentation for Maendeleo Organization on 29. – 31.10.2021

Final budget:

Budget	Total	My own expenditures	Contribution from Vavroušek Scholarship
3 months Volunteer Visa	1.750 CZK	1.750 CZK	
International transport	14.550 CZK	0 CZK	14.550 CZK
Local transport	8.600 CZK	0 CZK	8.600 CZK
Accommodation	1.900 CZK	1.900 CZK	
Food	5.000 CZK	150 CZK	4.850 CZK
Interpreter*	1.620 CZK	0 CZK	
Vaccination (Typhoid fever)	1.110 CZK	1.110 CZK	
Insurance**	0 CZK	0 CZK	
Telephone and internet	3.000 CZK	3.000 CZK	
Total	37.530 CZK	7.910 CZK	28.000 CZK

* paid by Maendeleo Organization

** paid by ERV – Evropská pojišťovna