



**Experience by SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
In TANZANIA**

Background: The Tanzanian government had allocated only few resources to child protection efforts. Relevant policies and regulations were in place, but were not implemented due to limited resources. Child protection committees expected to lead policies, plans and systems, that respond to child protection, but did not engage effectively in the enforcement of existing policies and guidelines.

The solution was

In all its interventions, SOS adopted a dialogue approach instead of combative advocacy and used media presence at stakeholders' meetings to compel duty bearers to act. SOS also engaged target audiences through social media as a powerful, cheap and user-friendly tool for social mobilization.

Experience description

SOS CV Tanzania's interventions targeted mainly local government authorities, while also leading an advocacy for more budget allocation at the national level. Following a risk assessment, SOS realized that it was better to engage directly with the relevant ministry, since the national government was not transparent on resource allocation. A change in the tax collection system led SOS to find a different approach for budget reallocation. Among other interventions SOS invested in building capacities of local government authorities, community-based organizations and other partners in the program areas on resource mobilization.



Other characteristics



IMPACTS

- Increase in budget allocation for vulnerable children
- Recruitment of new social protection officers for children departments of the government
- Strengthening of community-based organizations to minimize the cost of Policy Dialogue



CHALLENGES

- Media staff felt intimidated by political leaders to report on critical issues
- Government leaders fluctuation interfered with the advocacy efforts of SOS



LESSONS LEARNED

- Engaging directly with the target groups via social media i.e. is more effective than mainstream media
- Adopting a human rights based approach is more sustainable and less risky
- Building relationships with offices is more effective than with individual politicians

Sector: Human Rights – Civil Society

Period: 2017 - 2019

Further material: <https://www.sos-childrensvillages.org/where-we-help/africa/tanzania>

Contact: national.office@sos-tanzania.org