

**Australia advancing disability-inclusive development in Tanzania**

**Media Release**

***4 March 2014***

An Australian-funded scheme is saving and transforming lives in the regions of Arusha, Coast, Dar-es-Salaam, Dodoma, Lindi, Morogoro, Mtwara, Singida, Tabora and Tanga.

With funding from the Australian Government, NGOs have improved the health of more than 28,000 women and children through providing modern family planning methods, child vaccinations and safe and clean baby delivery services. Over 3000 farmers have also been assisted with fertiliser, seeds and improved access to agricultural extension services and advice. Nearly 10,000 people accessed safe and sustainable water, appropriate sanitation and safer hygiene practices.

H.E. Mr Geoff Tooth, Australia’s High Commissioner to Tanzania, was delighted to hear of the findings of the Report. ‘I have visited AACES projects in my time as High Commissioner and it is inspiring to see how this report reflects our efforts to reach the poorest and most marginalised people in these communities.’

The Annual Report for the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) shows how Australian Government support to NGOs is improving peoples’ lives and delivering more opportunities to the most vulnerable and poor, including people with a disability.

The program has been transformational for marginalised communities in rural and remote areas, such as at the Ikowa Primary School in Singida region where latrine blocks for boys and girls have been built. The latrine blocks include hand-washing stations, incinerators, a menstrual hygiene management change room, accessible facilities for pupils with disability, and urinals. This has led to steady increase in class attendance, and girls in particular have reported that the new facilities offer more privacy. Children with disability are also able to rely less on their friends for help when using the toilet, encouraging more students with disability to attend school.

In the Arusha region marginalised communities have improved food security. This has been achieved through distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizer, adoption of new and improved agricultural technologies and support for farmer associations involving more than 2,000 smallholder farmers, including people with disability.

The AACES program is being implemented in Tanzania by CARE Tanzania, Caritas Tanzania, Marie Stopes Tanzania, WaterAid Tanzania and World Vision Tanzania.

The AACES Annual Report is available at [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

**Notes to Editors**

**About AACES**

AACES is a partnership of the Australian Government, ten Australian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and their Africa-based partners. The $90 million program is funded by the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

The program focuses on marginalised communities, with particular attention to women, children, people with disability and people vulnerable to disaster. It is being implemented in 11 African countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**For further information contact:**
**Alice Oyaro,** Program Manager, Civil Society, DFAT

**Phone:** +254 20 427 7272, **Email:** Alice.Oyaro@dfat.gov.au

**Douglas Waudo,** Communications Officer, AACES

**Phone:** +254 723 911 145, **Email:** d.waudo@acbf-pact.org

**THE END.**