

Amani Kupitia Ujasiriamali: Peace through Entrepreneurship in the United Republic of Tanzania  
United Republic of Tanzania  
University of Rochester  
Joyceline Marealle, University of Rochester (United Republic of Tanzania, UWC Netherlands)  
Eve Marealle, University of Rochester (United Republic of Tanzania)  
Kapambwe Chalwe, University of Rochester (Zambia, Waterford UWC-Swaziland)

## **BACKGROUND**

The goal of our project was to initiate a greenhouse farm that would generate sustainable income to fund the education of abused and at-risk child laborers in Tanzania. Working with New Hope for Girls, we offered girls training in greenhouse farming so that they would no longer need to work in an abusive environment.

No additional funds were contributed to the project. Nevertheless, we had very supportive parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Marealle, and other family who contributed time and advice to this project.

Many Tanzanian children who cannot complete their education become victims of child labor, and end up being overworked, unpaid and physically and verbally abused. New Hope for Girls is an organization that works to support girls who are vulnerable to and victims of child abuse. After working with New Hope for Girls for over two years, Joyceline saw the lack of sustainable funding for the girls' education and well-being. As a result, many young girls were forced to leave the centre, re-entering the system of child labor from which they had already escaped. Therefore, we decided to mitigate this problem by establishing a greenhouse farm with the aim of using the obtained profits for the girls' basic needs and education, thus reducing the prevalence of child abuse.

## **PROJECT EXPERIENCE**

Greenhouse International exceeded our expectations. We had planned for a traditional greenhouse farm, with seeds planted in beds. However, the Greenhouse experts suggested planting seeds in soil field bags with a rationale that it would maximize space for the crops to have a better yield. Consoler Wilbert, the director of New Hope for Girls, was very cooperative and supportive. She facilitated our connection with Greenhouse and was always on site for the construction. She helped facilitate conversations with the girls, which helped them to learn the farming techniques.

At no point were we worried that our project would not work. However, we did face some challenges. For instance, there were technical difficulties in drawing water from the well. We overcame this problem through acquiring water tanks. We paid for water from the tap system through the Dar-es-salaam Water and Sewage Authority while looking for a long-term solution to the well's broken electric pump.

We did not face challenges in communication. Eve and Joyceline speak both English and Swahili, so they were able to communicate easily; Kapambwe has working knowledge of Swahili and is fluent in English.

## **PROJECT IMPACT AND OUTCOMES**

For us, peace is the restoration of basic human values such as love, respect and security. Peace means ending all kinds of violence such as sexual, physical and verbal abuse.

Our project established peace through entrepreneurship. Our short-term goal was to establish a greenhouse farm, give necessary farming training to the girls and immediate ending of the hostile work environment for the young girls that exposed them to the potential of being physically or sexually abused. The long-term goal is to educate all of the girls in New Hope for Girls, and assist them to get a career so as to break the cycle of child abuse.

The truth is that the world is not where it needs to be in terms of creating peace. However, Tanzanian society is gradually becoming more peaceful and more just. Projects like 'Amani Kupitia Ujasiriamali' demonstrate how collective compassion can be a driving tool in changing the world. In this way, peace can easily be achieved. There is hope for humanity if people who are fortunate feel compelled to empower people who are economically disadvantaged and have no means of having a voice.

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Quotes:

“The first time I set my eyes on the greenhouse building, the 1400 bags of ginger and the drip irrigation system, I realized how the project that was once just on paper was going to impact many lives.” —Eve Marealle

“As I walked across the established greenhouse farm, I couldn’t help but feel gratified to see the vision of Amani Kupitia Ujasiriamali come into fulfillment. The greenhouse farm efficaciously epitomizes how hope and peace can be restored to society.” —Joyceline Marealle

“The scenery of greenhouse brought a sense of relief that indeed Peace is attainable if we are willing to go above and beyond in unexpected ways to change this world and touch the lives of those who are marginalized.” —Kapambwe Chalwe

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(From Left to Right; Eve and Joyceline Marealle at the Greenhouse farm at Kibaha, Tanzania)



A close-up picture showing the drip irrigation system and the ginger seedlings



A picture showing the Greenhouse farm at Kibaha, Tanzania