

Our Organization: The Cambridge Development Initiative

The Cambridge Development Initiative (CDI) is a non-profit organization that improves the wellbeing of community members in the schools, informal settlements, and wider communities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. CDI empowers student leaders in the United Kingdom and Tanzania to catalyse change in their societies through innovative projects in the areas of healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH). In collaboration with KITE Dar es Salaam, our partner organization based in Tanzania, CDI's executive committees and university students design, implement, and evaluate these projects. Since 2013, CDI has mobilized over 100 student volunteers to launch sustainable, community-oriented solutions to Dar es Salaam's most significant challenges.



Our Projects

WaSH



CDI's WaSH project provides a sustainable, community-centred solution to the sanitation crisis in Tanzania. Operating in Dar es Salaam's informal settlements where residents lack access to safe sanitation, the WaSH project prevents water-borne illnesses by building sewage systems that overcome construction challenges while providing economic incentives for local ownership.

The network consists of latrines connected by shallow pipes at low gradients. While removing waste like traditional systems, simplified sewerage substitutes expensive features with small chambers instead of manholes and pipes that adapt to settlements' informal layouts.

Guided by the technical expertise of CDI's student engineers from Tanzania and the University of Cambridge, community members drive the construction and management of these sanitation system. The CDI and KITE DeS WaSH Project Directors lead engineering students to oversee construction. Community members volunteer their labour to build the system and form associations for supervising operations and collecting households' maintenance payments. CDI is piloting biodigester and evaporator technology to convert sewage into affordable, eco-friendly fuel and fertiliser. By generating income, this technology will foster further community support and incentivize entrepreneurs to create sewerage networks.

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Health

The CDI Health project expands healthcare access within Dar es Salaam's informal settlements by partnering with local health workers and community members to identify their needs and develop capacity-building initiatives. In coordination with Tanzanian NGOs, government organizations, and community members, CDI has launched innovative health initiatives such as Afya Yetu, a social enterprise that generates economic incentives for health workers' performance while enhancing savings on primary healthcare products. CDI has also worked with local NGOs to design training programs in the areas of family planning, maternal health, sanitation, and STI prevention, which have reached over 135 community members. Through this community-centred approach, the CDI Health project improves the wellbeing of the most vulnerable Tanzanians.



Education



The CDI Education project improves Tanzania's education system by empowering students to become agents of positive change in their communities. In collaboration with community-based organizations, the Education project implements the Career Network Support and Think Big Challenge programmes, which develop students' professional capacity and enable them to create solutions to academic challenges. The Education project is also piloting specialized initiatives such as Kompuyther, which enhances the confidence and employability of out-of-school girls through computer training. Having engaged over 1,000 students in 9 different schools, the Education project enhances participants' current learning outcomes while promoting future professional success.

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Entrepreneurship

The CDI Entrepreneurship project enables Tanzanian youth to kickstart innovative social enterprises that are transforming Dar es Salaam's professional landscape. The Entrepreneurship project established the 'DAREnterprisers course,' an 8-week training programme that equips motivated Tanzanian students to create sustainable endeavours. By providing successful participants with the skills, confidence, and seed capital to start their enterprises, the Entrepreneurship project enables young adults to overcome the challenge of massive youth unemployment facing Tanzania. Since 2014, the programme has provided over 50 young adults with entrepreneurial skills, incubated over 20 social enterprises, and connected over 450 students,

entrepreneurs, business professionals, and government leaders through our annual networking event. In order to inclusively promote economic growth in Dar es Salaam, our Entrepreneurship project is currently building from this successful foundation to jumpstart new social enterprise opportunities that fit the needs and enhance capacity of young Tanzanian women.



Our Structure

CDI's organizational structure draws on leading Cambridge and global experts to sustainably accomplish our mission. CDI's rotating executive committee structure enables students who have formerly volunteered with our organization to apply their innovative ideas and unique skill sets. Each year, CDI's executive committee recruits, trains, and supervises teams of University of Cambridge students who volunteer during our summer trip to Tanzania. In collaboration with Tanzanian students, these volunteers conduct background research, implement our projects, and evaluate these initiatives. To advance CDI's long-term vision, our Board of Trustees oversees the executive committee through quarterly meetings and provides advice on organisational matters. In addition to former CDI executive committee members, our Board of Trustees features the Right Honourable Lord Alton of Liverpool and the Master of Trinity College Sir Gregory Winter as well as top Cambridge professors and development practitioners. The CDI Board of Advisors, which includes expert policymakers, scholars, and practitioners from the UK and Tanzania, supports our efforts by working closely with each of our projects to ensure that they sustainably improve the wellbeing of Tanzanian communities.

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Evaluation Methods

CDI's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team conducts thorough annual impact reviews of our project and volunteer outcomes. Our holistic approach uses mixed methodologies to qualitatively and quantitatively assess our advancement of project objectives and volunteer development. For each project, we focus on implementing pre- and post-programme survey and focus group evaluations with participants to understand the effect of our interventions. For example, we employ student surveys and interviews with participants in our education project to measure the perceived changes in key skills like leadership and teamwork before and after this programme. When possible, we also complete follow-up interviews with participants one year after each programme to examine our projects' lasting impact. CDI's M&E team carries out this same methodological approach with our volunteers to maximize their capacity while ensuring that they receive necessary mentorship throughout their CDI experience. We publish the results of this process each year at: www.cambridgedevelopment.org/publications.html. Based on this action research process, CDI uses these evaluations to inform, adapt, and improve our efforts.

Funding and Sustainability

CDI currently funds our projects through a combination of private donations, volunteer contributions, grants, and fundraising events. We also collaborate with local partners to jointly fund our initiatives. As a growing non-profit organisation, we depend on our local community to support our positive impact both in Cambridge and globally.

In the past, local businesses have helped us by contributing monetary donations or goods that we can auction. To accomplish our projects for this summer, we would appreciate any donations that your business can offer us. Through your business's backing, CDI will continue to provide invaluable career experience to University of Cambridge students while producing positive change in Tanzanian communities.

Projected Budget

CDI Operational Costs	
Printing	£ 480.00
Stationery	£ 24.00
UK-based transport for executive committee (i.e. to stakeholders, events)	£ 817.00
Volunteer recruitment events	£ 238.00
Gifts	£ 106.00
Fundraising	£ 1,671.00
Advertising and publicity	£ 608.00
Subtotal	£ 3,944.00
Education Project Budget*	
Printed materials	£ 1,469.00
In-country transportation for Tanzanian/UK volunteers, student participants, and teachers	£ 957.00
Refreshments for events	£ 1,188.00
Venue, decorations and set-up	£ 405.00
Participant prizes and start-up initiative funding	£ 556.00
Stipends for Tanzanian volunteers and teachers	£ 2,075.00
Radio and television advertisement of events	£ 86.00
Miscellaneous expenses (e.g. stationary for workshops)	£ 131.00
Subtotal	£ 6,867.00
*Costs support the implementation of events and workshops for Career Network Support, Think Big Challenge, Dream Sharing Event, Youth Empowerment Clubs, and KompytHER	

Projected Budget (Continued)

WaSH Project Budget	
Materials for constructing sanitation networks	£ 3,100.00
Materials transportation to work sites	£ 100.00
Construmment payments for local workers	£ 1,800.00
Community engagement and hygiene workshops	£ 2,667.00
Biodiogestor model	£ 3,333.00
Technical improvements for EvapoDryer	£ 1,000.00
Tanzanian student stipends	£ 1,167.00
In-country transportation for Tanzanian/UK volunteers	£ 3,147.00
Publicity drives with local stakeholders	£ 86.00
Subtotal	£ 16,400.00
Entrepreneurship Project Budget*	
Workshop speaker stipends	£ 672.00
Field visits to local businesses	£ 298.00
Materials printing	£ 306.00
Radio, television, and web advertising	£ 236.00
Event refreshments	£ 38.00
In-country transportation for Tanzanian/UK volunteers	£ 336.00
Tanzanian volunteer stipends	£ 1,269.00
Subtotal	£ 3,155.00
*Costs support the implementation of women-centred entrepreneurship workshops	
Health Project Budget	
In-country transportation for Tanzanian/UK volunteers	£ 158.00
Tanzanian volunteer stipends	£ 1,281.00
Materials and surveys printing	£ 222.00
Refreshments for community training workshops	£ 304.00
Venue	£ 380.00
Payment for community health workers	£ 570.00
Subtotal	£ 2,915.00
TOTAL	£ 33,281.00

Conclusion

CDI demonstrates that volunteers can offer more than free labour – they can bring fresh solutions, kickstart new initiatives and become reliable partners for governments and communities in the developing world. By putting this idea into practice, CDI offers a once-in-a-lifetime experience that challenges students from the UK and Tanzania to harness all that University of Cambridge has to offer and create pioneering solutions to the most pressing global issues. We hope that you will support CDI's mission of reaching across the world to strengthen our communities and produce the next generation of international leaders.

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