



# Africare

Improving lives, Building futures

## WAZAZI NA MWANA PROJECT BRIEF

**OVERVIEW:** **Wazazi na Mwana** is a three and a half year project focused on significantly improving Mother, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) in Tanzania's underserved communities. To help the Government of Tanzania (GOT) achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, (4-Reduce Child Mortality and 5-Improve Maternal Health), Africare entered a consortium with Plan International and Jhpiego to implement programs throughout Tanzania's Rukwa Region. With funding from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Wazazi na Mwana facilitates a community-based approach to empowering women and men alike to protect the health of pregnant women, nursing mothers and their children. The program works closely with Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) to enhance coordination between village health committees, Community Health Workers (CHWs) and local health facilities. These activities aim to simplify how women and children in all of Rukwa's 289 villages access the health services they need.

**IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK:** Wazazi na Mwana aims to directly benefit **139,000 women of child bearing age**, **34,000 men**, and over **161,000 children**. It aims to build the capacity of over 543 government health workers in 125 health facilities and 3,032 community volunteers in Rukwa. The project uses an integrated approach to community and facility based MNCH programming to maximize local stakeholders' involvement, strengthen joint accountability, encourage community owned solutions and support the scaling up of cost effective interventions across a continuum of care.



*Wazazi na Mwana's project participants sit in their community's new water ambulance.*

Africare implements Wazazi na Mwana in Sumbawanaga and Nkasi districts in Rukwa, hosting Jhpiego who implements the health facility component of the project. As the host organization, Africare provides community side technical support and coordination to improve MNCH issues in Rukwa. Africare deals specifically with increasing the capacity of men and women in communities to recognize, prevent and participate in the response to basic MNCH issues through effective linkages and improved communication between communities, health workers and health facilities. Wazazi na Mwana also increases the capacity of community members to understand MNCH issues and demand high quality services, while strengthening Ward and Village Health Committees in gender responsive management of local MNCH issues.

### WAZAZI NA MWANA: AT A GLANCE

**PROJECT TITLE:** Maternal, Newborn and Child Health "Wazazi na Mwana" Project

**TRANSLATION:** "Parents and Children"

**DONOR:** CIDA/Plan International

**PROJECT DURATION:** January 2012 - March 2015

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## INCREASING MALE INVOLVEMENT IN ADDRESSING MNCH ISSUES

Between October and December 2014, Wazazi na Mwana organized 46 advocacy meetings on male involvement in Sumbawanga and Kalambo districts. A total of **8,416 people** (3,936 females and 4,480 males) were reached with sensitization campaigns. Key messages in the campaigns included dangers signs during pregnancy, birth preparedness plans, the importance of immunization, how to care for pregnant mothers following delivery, as well as male involvement in MNCH issues.

## PROMOTING VILLAGE HEALTH DAY COMMEMORATION

During this same period, Wazazi na Mwana reintroduced Village Health Days to 200 villages in Kalambo and Sumbawanga districts. **1,625 children under 5** were vaccinated against measles and **2,282** were vaccinated against polio. **2,801 children** received doses of mebendazole, a medicine used to treat infection by worms.



*Wazazi na Mwana is implemented in the Rukwa Region.*

*"Since I have received reproductive health education from Africare through community meetings and public announcements, I have realized that I am responsible for taking care of my wife when she is pregnant. I help her with domestic chores and accompany her to the clinic for reproductive and child health services."*  
 -Kantalamba from Legeza Mwendo Village, Kalambo District, Rukwa Region

## SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS\*

**196** THE NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE PEER EDUCATORS CARRYING OUT COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION AND MOBILIZING ACTIVITIES.

**267** THE NUMBER OF VILLAGES CONDUCTING VILLAGE HEALTH DAYS.

**52** THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY LEADERS, BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, TRAINED ON MNCH ISSUES AND HOW TO ENCOURAGE MALE INVOLVEMENT.

**864** THE NUMBER OF HOME VISITS CONDUCTED BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS FOR PRENATAL, POSTNATAL AND NEWBORN CARE.

\*FY 2014

