Project No. 4-4

Region: Africa
Country: Tanzania

Project:
Organisational Strengthening of Informal Constructional Workers in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Project Description:
This project, which has been completed, was implemented during the period 2001–2004. The project not only documented interesting practices in the informal construction sector in Dar Es Salaam, but also successfully opened concrete opportunities for informal construction workers, which are now being consolidated through involvement of government authorities – i.e. the National Construction Council of Tanzania.

The project started with an assessment of the problems faced by the informal construction workers. Based on the conclusions from such initial study, the project set out to mobilize workers and sensitize stakeholders to address the detected problems through:
• Assisting workers in problem analysis
• Facilitating participatory processes
• Training workers in organizational skills and group management benefits
• Facilitating access to credit facilities
• Creation of a database to track work conditions
• Studying local conditions and disseminating conclusions to raise awareness

Some success stories of these efforts include the following:
• workers are legally registered with local authorities
• workers have bank accounts
• trade union coverage and organization of workers has increased
• 70 workers have received specialized vocational education

In addition, a favorable political climate led to the passing of the Small and Medium Enterprise policy. Also, business license fees for low-income earners have been eliminated and property rights legislation is forthcoming.

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