



TUPOPAMOJA SCHOOL
kindergarten school in Lumuli Village |
Iringa Region | Tanzania

A school in a month? We can do it!
 A school in a month. Thirty-two days, to be precise. This is You Aid's bet: the right piece of ground to built on the sand, the rocks, the bricks, but, must of all, people with good will and desires. This is how the project was born, with a strong collaboration and unity from all the participants. Lumuli is a little village, 10 km away from Ulete in the Iringa region, with a population of circa 7.000 inhabitants. Simba, the village-headman of Lumuli, contacted You Aid with the big desire to built up a kindergarten that could guest their and the close villages children. You Aid starts collaborating and helping the village to built the school.

Near the existing elementary school, the kindergarten rises up on a majestic hill that surrounds the village: You Aid and the village-headman chose this location, so the school could become a pivot point easy to reach from all the children.

The school is 340 sqm consist in three classrooms, one facility room, one teachers office with a small store and one big common area - 9x9 m -, that becomes the heart of the kids playfull activities trougt the day. The entrance is caraterized of two opposites arcades that give focus to the main doors and become, not only the passage to the main hall, but alsoa resting place away from the sun and the wind of the hot african days. The school not only guarantees to host more than 150 kids during different times of the day, but it also provides a restored outdoor area dedicated to children games. A small see-saw is the emblem of this bet on the future.



- / Project name: Tupopamoja school
- / Project lead : You Aid
- / Names and Roles of Client: Lumuli Village
- / Total Costs : 16.000 \$
- / Main Sources of Funding : Crowdfunding /Free donation
- / Project Start Date : 2014
- / Project End Date: on going



Meeting on site - coordination and the construction of the school



The bricks are coming for the school's walls!!!!



On Site - all together to build the school



Share ideas, teach and learn : fusion of the ideas



First meeting with the the village-headman and community

Cooperate for fair and sustainable development initiatives in active collaboration with disadvantaged people or communities. This process shall follow principles of human solidarity, non-discrimination and will be aimed at promoting their self-sufficiency.

In Swahili "Tupo pamoja" means "All together".

This is the name we picked for this school. The project is part of a two years long journey: a journey of knowledge, of visiting site, of study.

The focus was to create a concrete project idea that would totally answer to the needs of the village: give education to the kids creating a stable and persistent educational environment and, also, a process of training for the teachers. This to start a small system that generates training and information making the local identity ever stronger and making sure to create a future autonomy.

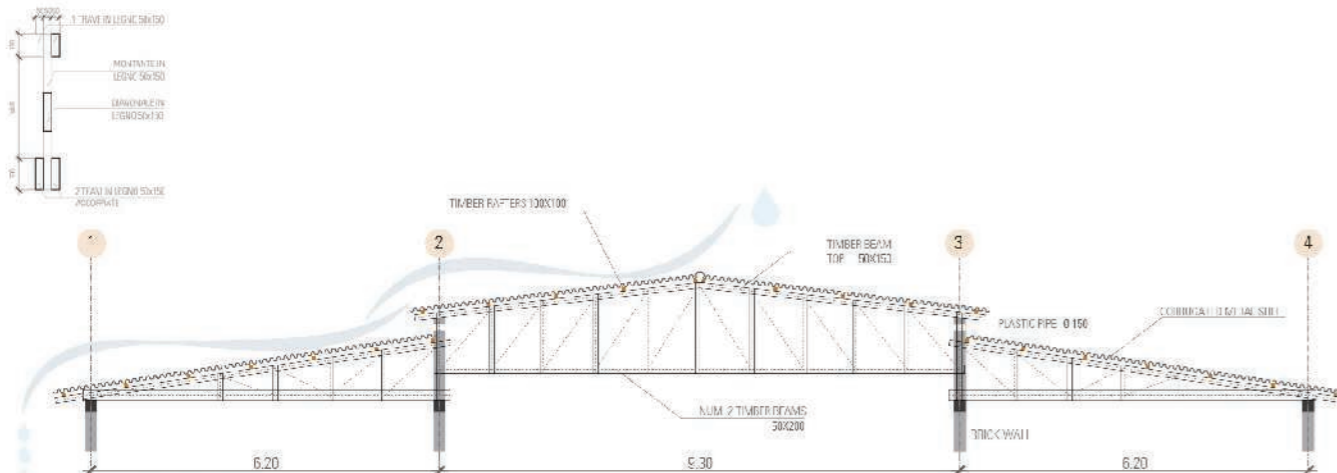
The project is born from a fusion of the ideas and exchange between You Aid and the village of Lumuli: the proposal of the professionals and the experience of local artisans. Everybody that participated, even just for one period, has given his contribution to make this construction site strong and unique. Infact the realisations took places with the help of everybody, ALL TOGHETER, help from the teachers, the kids from the neighbours elementary school and some of the village families, the were all supervised from the two villages chiefs, with the results of creating one big community.

Because collaboration is not something that happens automatically but first you have to learn to know each other, get used to work side by side, until when Tupo pamoja became the "motto" of the construction site, with a natural attitude that, we hope, will be a lesson for the kids that starts the base of their future in this school.

TUPOPAMOJA SCHOOL
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Bricks
Pvc pipes - natural ventilation
Pieces of bricks and rocks - Internal Floor
Timber wood + metal sheet - Coverage
On site - specialized construction worker
Pillars detail / porch



Section - Roof Structure



Roof structure - Timber Trusses for common area



START Day num.3 Day num.10 Day num.15 Day num.25 Day num.32 THE END !

Facilitate the use of appropriate technologies, materials and labour adequate to local values, to the cultural specificity and responsive to the natural environment.

The target was reached thanks to the collaboration between the different parts: Lumuli village donate 10,000 bricks produced by their artisans, and You Aid helped the village to provide technical support and finding the most expensive materials: concrete, wood beams, metal sheet panels for a wide coverage.

The bind between all the workforces - specialized construction workers - carpenters - local artisans - and You Aid was the key to finish the work, utilizing architectural methods and local materials.

The materials used reflect the local usage: a mixed fondation (rocks + concrete); bricks cooked in the clay ovens of the village; local wood treated with woodstains to protect beams and pillars; the internal floors made on a base of bricks and rocks; and a wavy metal sheet used as wide coverage with the insert of trasparent pvc panels to create clerestories. Finally to create a better internal ventilation we used some pvc pipes, with a metallic net protection, placed in the higher part of the facades all along the perimeter of the school.

The roof structure has been the key point of the collaboration: the technologies used come from the direct exchange between the innovative ideas of the architects and the traditional local solutions. The original project has been changed during the building process, and sometimes simplified using new sperimental methods : the big light in the common hall – free of pillars – was supported by wide timber trusses simplified by the 9 metres light and the realisation of the porticos was possible thanks the use of inclined pillars bear simple wooden strusses

Every decision has been taken so to create a process that optimized the local resources to the best and utilizing a local bulding process that can always be recreate. It has been a mutal learning process, where the project not only answer to a specific need, but also on the trust and local knowledge.



1st Day - the celebration



1st Day - community village and neighbours



Classroom



Playground area



Tupopamoja team



2016 - Interior of the Common area



Daniel - pupil of Tupopamoja school

Share knowledge, promote discussion, reflection and awareness, and collaborate in the advancement of the 'social production of habitat'.

The main focus of our project was to share knowledge, using architecture as a tool to start exchange, to reflect, to create awareness on the meaning of a kindergarten in the african community.

Before the project, what was clear in Lumuli, and the neighbouring villages, was the complete absence of appropriate building for the needs and the daily activities of the kids. There were mainly small huts, where the teachers were able to do some activities.

For small children the Kindergarten had not a fundamental and education importance : in Lumuli children were mostly staying home or on the fields with their families, even more so when the previous buildings were difficult to reach.

We believe that the creation of a stimulating educational environment is fundamental for the children educational development: "Tupopamoja" is an example on how purpose and game can be integrated.

During the opening ceremony was clear how teachers and parents were very proud and happy to have a school and to have the possibility to have a place to bring their children. It was a big celebration, gathering all the neighbouring villages and the Region spokespersons.

The school is now perfectly operative, children go to school, the recreational activities have started and also the decoration of the classrooms. Furthermore the main big room became the main point for the villages community meetings.

We hope that this change capture the attention of the single small community on the importance of a school as a educational hub inside every village.