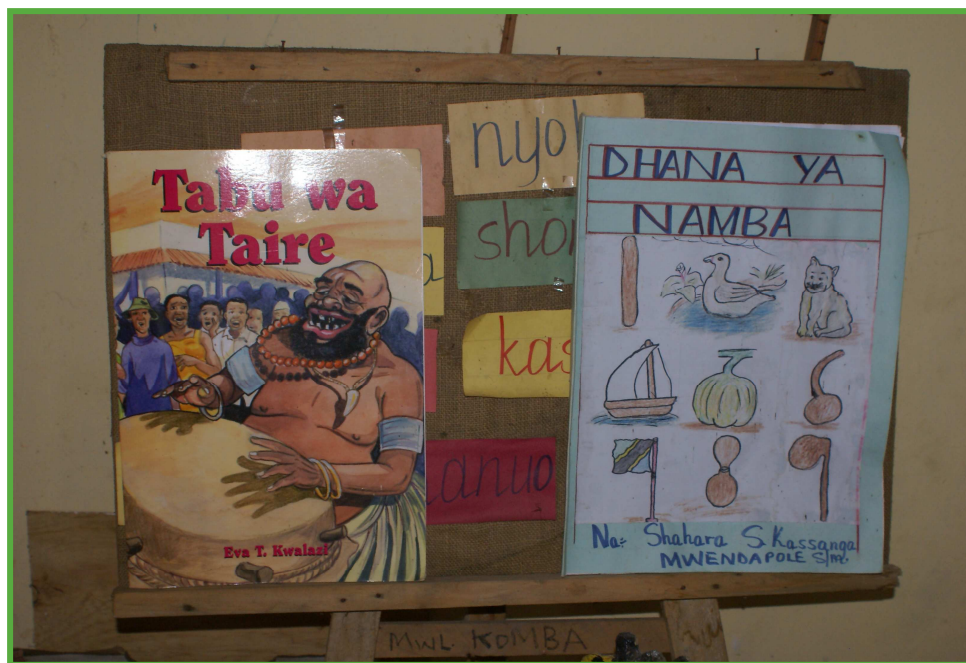


The Children's Book Project – Tanzania

The Children's Book Project for Tanzania (CBP) was started in 1991 because there was a real shortage of good quality books in schools in Tanzania. The Children's Book Project produces books for children in the local language of Kiswahili and distributes them to libraries in over 150 schools in Tanzania. The Children's Book project also provides training for teachers and runs special events like Reading Tents and writing competitions.

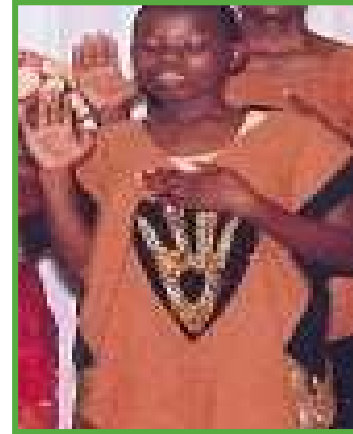
As well as reading books published by CBP, children in classes also create their own big books that they can all read together in class. Each year schools enter a writing competition and the best big book is turned into a proper book and published by CBP.



A big book made by pupils on the right, and a published big book that was written by pupils on the left.

Ronald Patrick is one pupil who has benefitted from the Children's Book Project:

My name is Ronald Patrick. I am in form two now in one of the secondary schools in Dar es Salaam. I started standard one in 1999. I was attending school with my brother. But I didn't like school. So when we left home, I used to go to the city centre to walk around until 1pm then I would start walking back home. Every day my brother told my parents that I was not attending school. My parents used to punish me but I did not change.



One day when I returned home in the evening I found my brother reading a very beautiful book with attractive pictures. I was attracted by the pictures, because I had never seen such books before. I asked my brother to read the story for me. My brother agreed, and he read the whole story. Then I asked him where he got the book. He replied that he got it from the school library. I was surprised to hear that our school had a library where beautiful books were kept. I could not wait for the morning so that I could go to school to borrow a book to read.

Early in the morning I arrived at the school. My brother and all my friends were surprised to see me there but I was determined to borrow a book to read. I went into the library. To my surprise there were many books - small ones, big ones, beautiful ones etc. I was admiring every book I saw, at last I picked up a book called *Sungura na Mbweha* (**The Hare and the Hyena**). I started reading the story right away.

When I arrived home with a book my mother was surprised. I ate my food and continued reading until the story was finished. Since then I have been to school everyday, so that I could borrow a book. I have become a good reader and a good writer. Consequently, I passed my standard seven examination and I am now in form II. If it were not for the story books, I would never have passed my exams.