

BUMACO Ltd



**YOUTH TRAINING IN RURAL KILIMANJARO  
MOUNTAIN CLIMBING PORTERS' TRAINING AND  
HANDICRAFT**

**Supported by CORDAID Netherlands  
(RUFIP II PROGRAM)**

## **Introduction**

The overall aim of youth trainings is to fight poverty in rural Kilimanjaro. Specifically the objective is:

**To promote youth-employment through tourism**

## **Activities**

For this objective, BUMACO carries out the following activities:

- (1) Youths Training on Tourism (Porters)- 400 youths in Hai District,
- (2) Youths Training on basic handicraft for local and tourism industry (traditional sandal making, Souvenirs, etc)- 200 youths in Hai District.

The training started on December 2013. Trainings for tourism and handicraft are offered to community members of age between 18 and 40 within Hai district who are interested in mountain climbing tourism and handicraft. For the handicraft people of more than 40 years old are also considered.

## **Development Rationale for the Training:**

Tourism is one of the fastest growing service sectors in Tanzania. According to World Bank Report published in 2013,<sup>1</sup> Mountain Kilimanjaro as a tourist destination generates an estimated US \$ 500 million in revenue annually'.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the report shows that the revenue from the Mount Kilimanjaro Park supports approximately 400 guides, 10,000 porters, 500 cooks, and contributed 13% of the country's overall gross domestic product. Fortunately, Hai District is located on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro and one of the famous routes, Machame route, is located in Hai. However, youths in Hai have not benefitted from the Mountain as much as they could. Many guides and porters are from outside Hai district. There is a potential for youths in Hai district to engage in tourism so that they could start enjoying the benefit of having one of the world's popular tourist destinations in their area. Participation in this business will open the eyes of the youths and public at large on environmental issues around economic activities and livelihood around the mountain thus providing an impetus to sound environmental practices. In

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank, *Tourism in Africa: Harnessing Tourism for Growth and Improved Livelihoods*, October 2013

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

addition to porters, there are opportunities of selling products to the tourists. These are African art-work (handicraft) products such as leather sandals and other kinds of African souvenirs.

### ***Recruitment of the Trainees***

Youths both male and females of age between 18 and 40 years are recruited from SACCOS catchment areas in Hai District. Recruitment is gender-balanced. However, due to the nature of mountain climbing porters, tourism training attracts more male and younger youths. In the handicraft training there is a systematic strategy to ensure a more gender balance. BUMACO plans to recruit 400 youths for tourism and 200 youths for handicraft by May 2014. The course for porters goes for one month and for handicraft is continuous from 3 weeks up to two months. The recruitment for handicraft is continuous. Porters and art-work/handicraft require a minimum of Standard 7 (primary education). All trainees must be committed and have to get recommendations from the community leaders such as village chairman or religious leaders.

The trainees are encouraged to join SACCOS in their respective villages so that they start saving for the purpose of securing credit to start business after training.

**THERE ARE NO FEES FOR THE TRAINING. THE TRAINEES GET LUNCH AND BUS FARE. THE FUNDS FOR THE TRAINING ARE GIVEN BY CORDAID-NETHERLANDS.**

***For more, see our blog posts.***