

# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OF LITERACY PRACTICE**

Orthography to Literacy:  
Rangi examples from Tanzania

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# Regions in Tanzania



# Mgeni ni kipofu *'A visitor is blind'*

Rangi is an important Bantu language that is spoken in the Dodoma region of central Tanzania. 'Mgeni ni kipofu' is one of their favourite sayings.

- Culture
- World View
- Beliefs
- Attitudes
- Opinions



# Kondoa town



Market scene



A café



# Kondoa town



Market scene

# Kondoa town



Our centre for distribution, partnership and training





A village mum with her children, outside her home



Traditional singing



# Beginnings from 1999-2006

- Linguistic research
- Initial community interest and contributions
- Drafting of trial orthography
- Start on transitional literacy study guide
- Small group with initial interest
- Village transitional literacy, in cooperation with village governments and communicating with District Education Office.

# Co-ordinators –

they take the lead on planning and they coordinate teaching in village settings





# Initial group writing



**Lusimo lwa njoka njiru**  
***The story of the black snake, in Rangi***



Njiru jamema maatukũ sikũ iji.

*There are a lot of black snakes about these days.*

Hara niijo vatavana vanne valumirwé hara ilolwii ra baaba waavo.

*Only recently 4 youths killed them on their father's farm.*



# What is going well?

A variety of contexts for literacy: gender, age, sub-cultural diversity – there is even a Rangi Facebook group.



A reading group for foundations programme

# What is going well?



Reading then talking at sales distribution on PR days



# Challenges and Opportunities

- Open doors in many villages
- Network of writers, illustrators, reading group leaders/teachers
- Interesting links developing with “shule ya awali” (early school, or pre-school).

- **Challenges** and Opportunities

- Logistics, distances, environment
- Government policies
- Schools: officially Swahili as medium of instruction at primary, and English at secondary.
- Capacity issues
- Fully establishing local ownership.