



Pamoja Association of Community Schools in Southern Africa (Pacossa)

Mission statement

We are an association of autonomous organisations supporting the development of Community Schools to develop pupils' full human potential so that they are able to contribute to a just, vibrant and sustainable society.

Definition of Community School

These are schools that work in partnership with parents, community organisations and other agencies to offer a range of learning and developmental opportunities for pupils and the wider community. We believe that Community Schools are inclusive, relevant and responsive to local conditions, democratic and provide leadership in the communities which they serve. They may be non- state funded, or funded by government or the community.

Challenges for African schools

We believe that schools which behave like this have the power to be catalysts for development and can be mobilised to make a contribution to improved nutrition, health and literacy. A well run Community School will improve the quality of teaching and learning They will lever in additional resources for the benefit of the pupils and the wider community. they will provide management and leadership and help build this in the communities they serve, contributing to the development of active communities.

In common with other countries our young people need the skills, attributes and knowledge to build a society which is just, vibrant and sustainable. We want our young people to play an equal role in a connected world. By working together we aim to promote, support and develop Community Schools in Africa because we believe that such schools can make a significant contribution to this goal.

Our work

Each organisation undertakes work which:

- Helps decision-makers identify strategies and policies
- Advocates on behalf of Community Schools so that policy makers understand the impact of decisions
- Engages people at all levels in debating the future and purpose of schools
- Networks – sharing ideas, information, materials, action research
- Trains – teachers to improve the quality of teaching and learning and provides appropriate leadership with an understanding of organisational change

- Ensure ownership and commitment through thorough consultation and community prioritising
- Offers consultancy , advice and expertise

Through this association we come together to share experience and expertise and maximise impact. Working together will strengthen our capacity, lengthen our reach and build our influence without compromising our own autonomy.

The Community School movement

We are not alone; we are part of a global movement . Many countries see Community Schools as an appropriate response to common issues of inequality, a need for life skills and for a population able to both to bring about change and to cope with change. In many countries there are national networks supporting Community Schools. The Coalition for Community Schools exists in the USA and a network of 15 NGOs support Community Schools in Russia, for example. There is a productive partnership working across nine countries and beyond in Eastern Europe, central Asia and Russia. The International Centre of Excellence for Community Schools is working to link up all who are interested in this work across the world. We are part of this, sharing experience and expertise across the globe.

We subscribe to the UN Children’s Charter.

How we organise

We are an association of autonomous organisations working together. We work in partnership to conduct projects, undertake research, share experience and expertise and build capacity – our own and that of our local partner agencies. We work with policy makers, practitioners, researchers and communities to ensure that Community Schools are effective vehicles for a quality and holistic learning experience for pupils and the wider community.

We recognise both geographical communities and communities of interest.

Operational guidelines

To ensure that we are an effective group we will endeavour to:

- Honour commitments we make to each other
- Ensure financial probity in all our dealings with each other and any common work we undertake
- Communicate in a transparent, timely and accessible way
- Actively participate in shaping our work, contributing ideas, information and contacts
- Adopt good practice procedures for safeguarding children
- Be sensitive to copyright issues and intellectual property, using contractual agreements where necessary
- Gain the approval of the lead organisation (Chinansi) and ICECS if we wish to use their documentation and logos.

Relationship with ICECS

ICECS agrees to offer support to this group by circulating relevant information. It will also post in its website appropriate articles, publications, research results and news of events which we wish disseminate. Where it is possible and appropriate ICECS will link Pamoja with the work of other networks around the world.

ICECS will collaborate with the group to share best practice, experience and expertise and will sometimes submit joint bids with one or more of the organisations in Pamoja becoming a partner according to project based agreements.

Pamoja will be autonomous and will only need to seek approval from ICECS if it chooses to use its logo or its own work.

In return Pamoja will keep ICECS aware of new developments and include it in the dissemination of materials, publication, events and research results.

SIGNED

Name	Organisation	Signature
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