



Neema International is a non-profit organization committed to investing in the lives of Tanzania's promising youth through grassroots education-based projects that synergize environmental and economic sustainability with creative learning and community engagement.

Come visit our projects in Uru!



@NEEMAINTL

[WWW.NEEMAININTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://WWW.NEEMAININTERNATIONAL.ORG)

# Who We Are

**Our projects work to dismantle the cycle of poverty on an individual family level by taking a dual-generational approach, ensuring that both the caregiver and the children receive the education, life skills, confidence, and support that they need to achieve upward mobility and live successful and productive lives.**

**Visiting Neema international will give you the chance to learn more about what we do and engage with the kids at the school we founded, Uru Community Pre and Primary School. During your visit, you will have the opportunity to learn about many of the social issues and hardships that Tanzanians face every day—particularly in regards to education, and how the failing school system is driving the cycle of poverty.**



# How We Differ

**Large scale international-aid organizations such as UNICEF and Save the Children tend to invest in top-down, macro blanket-solutions that focus on the quantity of individuals served, instead of the quality or relevance of the services being delivered. Tremendous amounts of time, energy and money have been wasted on ineffective solutions that in the long run have further hindered the communities they were intended to help.**

**By using a grassroots, bottom-up approach, we not only allow members of the beneficiary community to serve as their own agents of change, but also ensure that the project being implemented serves the true needs of the community at hand, rather than what the West perceives that need to be.**



Using this method towards poverty reduction ensures that all donations are sustainably invested in projects that directly help those in need, in ways that have been proven to work on ground in THIS community.

# A day at Neema

**Depart from your hotel around 8:00am or 9:00am—there is an option of doing a local town tour at Mbuyuni market and learning about the local economy. Furthermore, during this time, the guests would be welcome to buy food supplies or stationary items that they may want to donate to Neema. All of this is optional.**

**Neema HQ is about a 12km drive from town center—We are located in Uru Kimanganuni just above Uru Mawella church.**

**After arrival at the school, you will be welcomed by the Neema International team who will provide you with an introduction about the organization and its background. Mandy Stein, Neema International's Founder and Executive Director, has dedicated more than ten years of her life to protecting children in the Uru Community and providing them with quality education, healthcare, and unconditional love. From humble beginnings, we have stayed true to that mission and have helped to positively transform the lives of young people across Tanzania. In this session, you will learn about the achievements, challenges, and future plans that the organization has. On most days, Mandy will be the one who receives you upon arrival and will take you on a tour of the school herself.**

**Following your school tour, you can stay and interact with the students or you may wrap up your visit-- the choice is yours. There are a variety of activities that you can do with the children if you choose to stay, which we have included on the next page.**

**The students have break time at 10:30am each day and then will have lunch in two groups, the first at 12:00pm and the second at 12:30pm. Then they have free time outside! You are welcome to have lunch with the students and spend time with them both inside and outside the classroom.**



# ACTIVITIES OUR KIDS LOVE!

- i. SINGING AND DANCING:** Neema kids are happy kids and singing and dancing are some of the things they love to do most. You may come up with your own songs and teach the children or join in their fun and learn some of their best moves.
- ii. COLORING/ART:** Drawing is used as a form of communication and expression by our children. Some of our kids cannot express themselves very well through speaking (mostly due to trauma), and they instead feel more comfortable communicating through writing or drawing. You can ask the students questions or even give them creative writing prompts and see how they respond verbally or with art! You can also simply just use coloring books or draw pictures :)
- iii. READING:** Our students LOVE to be read to, especially by guests, as many of them bring their own reading style and enthusiasm! We have hundreds of story books in our library that you can chose from upon arrival.
- iv. GAMES:** Like most of this country, our students eat, sleep and breathe football (soccer), and they are extremely talented and athletic. They play a pick up game everyday during recess and love when guests join in. Others choose to play basketball, jump rope, play hand jive games, or play on the swing set.
- v. MENTORSHIP:** One of our projects, “The Neema Bridgeway Program” is a second chance empowerment project that provides youth, ages 14 to 23 (who for one reason or another have dropped out of school), with the opportunity to further their learning and their academic career. These students are in class every day at the Neema HQ and love having guest speakers/volunteers come by. Most popular topics are future career goals, personal development, situational advice, mental health and confidence, self-awareness, personal anecdotes and debate. English is not their first language, so please try to speak slowly!!

# Before You Go...

After you are done engaging with the students, you will be given an opportunity to purchase items from our social enterprise Neema Bags and to learn how you can get more involved with Neema in the future, if that is something that you are interested in.

**Our Founder Mandy says, "No matter who you are, your presence makes a difference... every interaction, every hello, every smile or frown. Your presence makes a difference in this world EVERYDAY, and it's up to you whether that difference is positive or negative. You have the power to change a life for the better, to use your privilege for good. So be kind, and pay it forward. The time is now."**

**The few hours that you spend at Neema international could change your life forever. We hope you'll take advantage of this wonderful opportunity! For more information, please email Mandy at [Mandy@neemainternational.org](mailto:Mandy@neemainternational.org). We hope to see you soon!**



# Thank you



[www.neemainternational.org](http://www.neemainternational.org)



[info@neemainternational.org](mailto:info@neemainternational.org)



Uru, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania



[@NEEMAINTL](https://www.instagram.com/NEEMAINTL)

