Mission
To find long-term solutions, build capacity and create collaborations that promote resilient and sustainable communities. To unite development, education and research that boldly pushes the frontiers of knowledge and the role universities play in transforming local communities and the lives of individuals.

Core Principles
• Ensure Sustainability
• Commit to an Integrative Approach
• Engage in Interdisciplinary Research
• Promote Participation
• Encourage Adaptive Learning
• Establish Long-term Commitments

Tanzania Partnership Program Partners
Milola Village, Lindi District, Tanzania
Naitolia Village, Monduli District, Tanzania
Michigan State University
Institute of Resource Assessment (IRA), University of Dar es Salaam
Dar es Salaam University College of Education
Aga Khan Foundation, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)

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P: 517-353-8570
Photos of Tanzania and TPP villages by: Britt Larson, Diane Ruonavaara, Patty Peek and Mary Malekela.
Impact

Milola Village

• Worked with district officials to incorporate the rehabilitation of the Milola water system into the district governments plan. As a result water access was restored for 10,000 villagers.
• District repaired 29 kilometers of damaged water pipes so that water was available to the village.
• Laid pipes to supply water at the two primary schools (1,350 students).
• Connected the ward health dispensary to the village water supply.
• Laid a distribution line to supply water to the secondary school (300 students).
• Built a centrally located water distribution center to reduce the distance women must walk to get water.
• Installed 22 water meters to ensure that fees are properly collected to cover the costs of maintaining the water system.

Naitolia Village

• Installed pump and generator at rehabilitated well. Laid 7 kilometers of pipe to newly constructed storage tank and built three public water taps. This reduced the distance to water and improved access for more than 1,000 people.
• Acted as a catalyst with World Vision for the construction of a water storage tank at the primary school (400 students).

The Challenge

Access to clean water is essential for health, education, food security and economic well-being. Yet over half of the people in rural Tanzania lack access to clean water. In fact, access to clean water in schools and health facilities is actually declining. The lack of safe water leads to poor health and disease, increased workloads for women and children, and loss of economic well-being.

Last year, Milola’s 25 year old water system broke down — the pipes that carried water from a natural spring, 29 kilometers away, deteriorated because of age and lack of maintenance. Women had to walk great distances to fetch water or use closer but unprotected water sources, putting people’s health at risk.

Access to water is a major challenge for Naitolia village. Climate change and drought are making matters worse. With the main water supply 9 kilometers away, women and children must walk long distances to collect water or pay high prices for water brought to the village by truck.

Water Access and Quality

Access to clean water is a necessary condition for resilient and sustainable communities. TPP focuses on water projects in Naitolia and Milola villages and on sustainable management of village water systems by working with district governments and communities to improve water access and quality, enhance community water system management, and expand community understanding of the importance of water quality and sustainable water resource management.
Impact

Milola Village
• Provided equipment and seeds to the school farm, which feeds more than 1,350 primary school children.
• Trained two village members to operate and maintain school farm equipment.
• Secured funding to construct a pre-school and conducted a census to identify children eligible for pre-school.
• Sparked village support for education, which led to the village’s donation of 100 acres for school projects, clearing of four acres for a preschool construction, and the formation of a pre-school parents’ committee.
• Started a community-based organization that will focus on developing skills and opportunities for youth who have dropped out of school.

Naitolia Village
• Helped village qualify for the World Food Program’s School Feeding Program by constructing a school kitchen with an energy saving stove and a food storage room.

The Challenge

In Tanzania, primary school enrollment rates are approaching 100 percent. Despite this national achievement, many children, especially rural children and girls, drop out. Many of those who stay in school lack basic reading and math skills.

Several barriers confront children who want to go to school, especially children in rural areas. Children often go to school hungry and walk long distances to school.

At school there are not enough teachers and many of them do not have adequate training. Classrooms are crowded and lack basic educational materials.

Education

Quality education is key to increasing economic well-being, improving health, strengthening civil society and conserving environmental resources. When families, schools, and communities collectively agree upon educational goals and decide how to reach them, everyone benefits. TPP’s work in education focuses on re-embedding schools in the community to improve student learning, teacher professional development and the overall learning environment.

EDUCATION A KEY TO ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

In Naitolia, children walk as far as seven kilometers to get to school. When they arrive they are hungry and have no energy to devote to their studies.
Impact

Milola and Naitolia Villages

• Promoted the formation and training of village health teams. This effort included training for the district medical officer, district school health coordinators and a laboratory technician to work with the Milola dispensary and school teachers to implement school health assessment program.
• Purchased equipment for school health assessment program.
• Printed school health cards for each student in Milola and Naitolia to record school health assessment data.
• Conducted health assessment for more than 800 students.
• Referred students with identified health problems for medical services.

Naitolia Village

• Completed plans for construction of a cattle dip with district veterinary officers.
• Identified two community members to attend a paraprofessional training on animal health and public health.
• Created and trained animal health committee on roles and responsibilities, sustainable water and pasture improvement, livestock diseases and wildlife/livestock interface.
• Reviewed an animal health assessment and recommended action plan with villagers and TPP partners.

The Challenge

Despite concentrated efforts in Tanzania, access to health services remains a serious challenge with little improvement over the last decade.

HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and parasitic diseases are major causes of death. Childhood diseases and malnutrition are serious problems, especially in the countryside.

Water-associated diseases are also a growing concern as inadequate, unpredictable and contaminated water supplies can contribute to the transmission of diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis.

Livestock is a major part of the economy in many parts of Tanzania. The health of livestock impacts public health via the transmission of zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases are transmitted between animals and humans and with globalization, zoonotic diseases have the potential to impact global health. In northern Tanzania, where livestock are a central part of Maasai social and economic life, a family’s health and well-being is intrinsically linked to the health of the family’s livestock.

Human and Animal Health

For a community to achieve good health and economic prosperity access to healthcare, safe water, nutritious and safe food, education and economic opportunities are essential. TPP takes a holistic approach to health and works with local healthcare, veterinary care and education professionals and government to address challenges in human health and the human-animal health interaction.
Impact

- Assessed gaps in knowledge and skills of village committee members and desired areas for training.
- Worked with TPP partners and local government officials to develop or adapt existing training materials for the local context.
- Trained village committees, local leaders and other key community members on how they can promote and implement sustainable community development efforts.

The Challenge

A conventional approach to community development suggests that planning and control of the development process is best left to “experts.” In this approach, community members may provide information or labor, but are not seen as active participants in the development process. Placing local people in such a passive role does not lend itself to sustainable development.

In Tanzania, village leaders and committees are charged with implementing local development, collecting village revenue, resolving social conflicts and enforcing village bylaws. However, villagers say that they do not fully understand their roles and responsibilities as leaders or as committee members, nor do they feel they have the knowledge, skills or resources to carry out their functions.

Community Empowerment

TPP engages in a new form of learning and problem solving with communities that promotes participation and adaptive learning. This participatory approach helps identify and address gaps in knowledge, skills and resources. At the same time, TPP supports training of local people so that they can become more confident and effective in addressing community issues and development needs.

Related activities:
- Trained six member Village Water Committee and Village Water User Association in the sustainable management of local water systems.
- Formed and trained an animal health committee in Naitolia to address the health and productivity of village cattle.
- Trained school health committees and District Officers to implement a school health assessment to identify and respond to student health problems.
The Challenge
Communities around the world are struggling to cope with a broad range of formidable problems, from hunger to illness and drought. Yet the results of research done in many institutes of higher education are often of little direct use in addressing these complex problems.

Addressing these problems head-on can challenge the usual way that research is often conducted. It requires universities to question the nature of expertise and the purpose of knowledge creation. Research that is responsive to a community’s interests and needs requires community involvement, interdisciplinary cooperation, collaborative relationships and long-term commitments. It means universities must become directly engaged with communities in an ongoing dialogue that leads to transformative change.

Engaged Research
TPP research focuses on the generation of knowledge to enhance TPP development interventions and community well being. Research collaborations between Tanzanian and MSU researchers promote understanding of the causes and solutions to real world problems. The goal is to create a model of integrated research and development that expands knowledge while informing the practice of development.

Impact
Hunger and Poverty
• Conducted several studies on the causes of hunger and poverty, and how communities are responding. Examined the productivity of current agricultural practices in Milola, and the impact of drought and climate variability on food availability and poverty in Naitolia.
• Completed fieldwork for an in-depth study on the impacts of drought on households and their agricultural livelihoods in Naitolia. Completed research report and currently working to link findings to other climate and ecological data.

Health and Water
• Conducted two studies on cultural and social factors affecting water use, management and health practices.
• Continued research on livestock diseases and shared results on tick-borne diseases with villagers in Naitolia.

School and Education
• Collected baseline health data for primary school students in both villages.
• Completed research on school gardens and published the findings in a book chapter, “Cultivating Schools for Rural Development: Labor, Learning, and the Challenge of Food Sovereignty in Tanzania.”
• Linked new research on school gardens and the value they provide to community development in rural Tanzania.
• Developed teaching materials on school gardens and other educational topics.
Financial Highlights

The Tanzania Partnership Program is a private-public partnership supported generously by individuals, academic institutions and a coalition of diverse partners advancing the mission of TPP. Executive leadership is provided by Michigan State University. The initiative is committed to good stewardship of the resources and assets entrusted to the program. We are dedicated to the highest level of accountability.

Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

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* Includes carry forward from FY 2010.

Total donor funds expended in FY2011 were $202,826. Of this amount, 82% was spent on in-country implementation activities ($166,317), 13% was spent on MSU administration ($26,367), and 5% on MSU/TZ research ($10,141), including faculty and student research and baseline/monitoring expenditures. MSU expended an additional $279,262 towards the project.

During FY 2011, the first full year of operation, TPP efforts were dedicated to establishing administrative structures, building in-country relationships and tackling many of the issues related to water access and water management. The majority of the in-country expenditures went toward the water projects in Milola and Naitolia.
The Tanzania Partnership Program is a multi-college, university-wide program

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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