



2019 Annual Trip Report

This year's traveling team was comprised of Paul and Catherine Trescony (MN), Ed Johnson (OR), and John and Mary Vanderheyden (TX). We were excited to have Ed join us as a first-time traveler. He brought extensive experience in water system management from his career managing the water systems in Astoria, Oregon.

Team Meeting

The USA team along with Ben and Vincent discussed a number of administrative issues, including the process and criteria used to establish the priority for villages to be considered for water system installation. The key criteria are: population (bigger is better), extent of need, stability of leadership, within a two-hour proximity to Dodoma (to properly service and support), and positive results of a hydrological study already completed by the village.

We also discussed improving our communication with new villages at the initial all-village meeting. We realized that a particular village misunderstood how donation money flows through the water system installation process and incorrectly surmised that TLP (USA) profited from the water system, which it does not in any way. We determined the use of diagrams and pictures to talk about donations and money flow, village ownership and responsibilities related to a new water system will help improve understanding, reduce questions, and gain greater buy-in and support from all members of the village.

Banyibanyi

We had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate the activation of the new water system in this village of over 14,500 people! We were told the water in this village is so good that people come from over 20 miles away to buy this water.

Iringa Mvumi

We were excited to visit this village (population 12,000) which will be the next project after we complete the water system in Zepisa. We received a warm welcome and were impressed with the village leadership emphasizing the need for cooperation of the entire village.

Iwondo

The reservoir serving the water system we completed at Iwondo in 2014 recently suffered major damage from an earthquake. This was the first time in our 15-year history a natural disaster had such a dramatic effect on one of the water systems. Fortunately it was only the reservoir that was damaged. TLP designed a new reservoir with greater tolerance to better withstand the impact of an earthquake. The team visited the village to see the new reservoir and get village feedback. This new design will be implemented for all future TLP installations.

Zepisa

The team visited the village to review the progress implementing the new water system. The borehole was complete and the sites selected for the new reservoirs, distribution points, and water lines. The spirits were high and the villagers were very excited for the completion of the new water system. We look forward to celebrating the completion with them next year.

The team also gathered feedback on the men's and women's empowerment seminars. The seminars continue to be extremely well received. The villagers commented on the life-changing impact the new information has had on their individual family lives and the community overall.

TLP (T) Board Meeting

We had the privilege of participating in the board meeting of TLP (T) during our visit. All the board members were invested and passionate about the work of TLP. Each of them shared their vision for TLP's contribution to their society. Some of their key visions:

- to continue implementing water systems that are truly self-sustaining;
- to expand the reach and effectiveness of the women's programs;
- develop an advisory group with representatives from each completed village to share best practices and learn from each other;
- continue to improve the health, well-being, and economic impact to the region we serve.

Days for Girls

The team visited Dodoma Technical Institute which hosted the training for the first Days for Girls enterprise in Dodoma. This new enterprise will now allow TLP to obtain the Days for Girls kits year round and support the local group of women entrepreneurs producing the kits!

LVIA (Lay Volunteers International Association)

The team met with the leader of the LVIA program in the Dodoma Region. One of the many projects LVIA focuses on is providing hygiene/latrine facilities in high-traffic areas within villages (e.g. schools). We discussed the possibility of coordinating efforts to have LVIA implement these facilities in each village as TLP completes a new water system. Future discussions will be needed to establish this collaboration with LVIA and its related volunteer organizations, and will continue in the future.

Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics

The team visited the bureau to investigate the resources available to determine populations of the villages in Tanzania. The country does a census every 10 years and the last one was done in 2016. TLP received all of the data from that census. We will use this together with the records of each village to ensure we understand the actual number of people served by each new water system.