

2023 Annual Trip Report

Our trip in 2023 was very special for a couple reasons. First, we dedicated the office in Ipagala, Tanzania to our Co-Founder Jim Vanderheyden. Second, Jim's granddaughter, Bridget Koch, her husband Brad, and their daughter Sophia (Jim's great-granddaughter) joined us on the trip after climbing Mt Kilimanjaro to raise money for TLP! They made it to the summit and raised awareness of the water problems in Tanzania while also raising a lot of money for TLP. We were also very happy that our friend and very generous supporter Ed Johnson was able to join us for his second trip with the TLP team. His insight and experience have been invaluable to us over the years.

Team Meeting

Monitoring & Evaluation Tool

We are preparing to distribute our first Monitoring & Evaluation tool for use by villages to track the progress they have made in all the programs they've partnered with TLP to implement (Empowerment, WASH, MHM). The purpose of these reports will be to provide insight to the village so they can celebrate their successes and understand where there are opportunities for change to improve. TLP will support them in this process and coordinate peer sharing of best practices with other villages.

MHM Contact Coordination

Once MHM education is provided and kits distributed, there is an ongoing need to get education for new classes of girls and a source for obtaining new or replacement kits. The team discussed ways to help villages select the right contact person to coordinate this activity with two different sources in the area.

Succession & Transition of Civil Engineering and Hydrogeologist

The civil engineer contractor we've used for years is retiring and the contract hydrogeologist we've used unfortunately passed away. So we spent time discussing a process for succession and transition of these functions. We interviewed several candidates for these roles and are continuing our due diligence to make the best choices.

Manufacturing Bricks for Projects

As part of an ongoing process to continually improve what we do and investigate options to lower our costs, one of our team members in Tanzania proposed the idea of setting up our own brick manufacturing function for our projects. This is a popular approach with other groups in Dodoma who use bricks in their projects. We are doing a lot more due diligence to evaluate the pros and cons of establishing such a capability.

Chitope

This village of over 7,700 people just completed their water project. We had the opportunity to celebrate its completion with the leaders and many villagers now that COVID restrictions have been completely lifted. They were very proud to give us a tour of the two reservoirs and a number of the distribution points. We enjoyed singing, dancing and exchanging gifts.

Chipanga

We visited this village to kick off the project for a new sustainable water system! Their population has grown from 6,400 when we visited last year to over 7,800 this year. The leadership and villagers are very committed to doing everything they will need to as part of this joint effort and to ensure the project's success.

Ikombolinga

We visited this village to get feedback on the Empowerment, WASH and MHM programs. They have very strong leadership, and all the villagers were extremely impressive in their adoption of the lessons learned and sharing feedback with the team. They also are expanding the number of distribution points in the village based on increasing demand.

Mloda

We visited this village of over 7,800 people as one of the potential candidate villages for a water project after we complete Chipanga. The villagers were very enthusiastic and showed us first-hand the challenges they deal with in everyday life. They committed to being great partners and doing what's required to ensure the project's successful completion and ongoing operation.

Chisichili

We visited this village to get feedback on the WASH and MHM programs. TLP completed this water project of 9 Distribution Points in 2007 when the population was just over 1,800. The village has run the water project successfully ever since and now has a population over 15,000 and expanded the system to 195 Distribution Points (sustainably, on their own!).

Bureau of Statistics

Tanzania performed a census in 2022. It was the most comprehensive one they've ever done, and it is taking some time for the data to become available for public use. We visited the key players in the Bureau to request access to the data pertinent to TLP. Once we receive it, we can better understand the impact our projects are having on our partner villages.

TANESCO Meeting

Several of our village partners are experiencing problems with electrical power provided by the utility (TANESCO) being inadequate to drive the pumps. This causes villages to use the diesel-powered engines to run the pumps which is much more expensive. We met with the leadership at TANESCO to discuss possible solutions and potential timeframes for implementation.

TLP (T) Board Meeting

We had the privilege to participate in the TLP(T) Board meeting during our visit. Topics covered project updates, financials, communication, and succession/transition of the civil engineering and hydrogeological work.

Innovation Africa

We exchanged ideas and practices with members of this organization and visited one of their recently completed water projects. They do a very impressive job using solar energy and partnering with other organizations. We will continue doing due diligence on this technology.