



---

## 2022 Annual Trip Report

We were excited to resume our annual trip after a three-year hiatus due to COVID. This year's traveling team was comprised of Jaisa Blegen (MN), Sam and Mary Claassen (MN), Paul and Catherine Trescony (MN), and John and Mary Vanderheyden (FL). We were excited to have Jaisa, Sam and Mary join us as first-time travelers. They each brought extensive experience in various areas that contributed greatly to the success of our trip.

### **Team Meeting**

The TLP(USA) and TLP(T) teams discussed a number of operational and project issues including:

*Business Plans* – The team reviewed the new business plans, reporting process and monthly Zoom meetings to discuss progress and provide coaching and support. We will be making several adjustments based on our collective agreement.

*Impact of Inflation on Fuel Costs* – The cost of fuel has gone up dramatically in a very short period of time. Adjustments needed to be made to the budget in order to properly deal with the impact.

*WATER Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) training, monitoring and evaluation* – The team discussed the effectiveness of our training programs (village leadership and schools) and the strategy for monitoring reporting and evaluating progress.

*Empowerment Seminars* – We discussed adjustments to both women's and men's seminars based on recent feedback.

*Leveraging Technology* – The team discussed using Google Translate to help support communication between members to improve clarity and understanding.

*Photography Lessons* – The professional photographer (Jaisa Blegen) who joined our travel team provided lessons to all USA/Tanzanian members on how to effectively use phones to take great pictures for use in communication and social media.

### **Zepisa**

The team visited this village of over 5,600 people to review the completed water project. The system has been running for two years and serving the village very well. Another NGO built latrines at the school which helps promote many of the practices we teach in our WASH (WATER, Sanitation & Hygiene) programs.

### **Iringa Mvumi**

The team visited this village of over 11,000 people to review the completed water project. It has the largest reservoir we've ever built, so we were excited to see the system and learn from their experience. The system has been running for over a year. We found several opportunities to update our procedures to improve the construction process in future villages.

### **Ikombolinga**

This village of over 7,300 people just completed their water project. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm, sense of ownership and pride the entire village took in supporting the ongoing success of this project. The village has very strong leadership who have created a positive environment that will promote the health and happiness of the village moving forward.

### **Chitope**

We are currently working on this village's water project. The borehole was complete and engineering work was about to begin to select locations 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 later in 2023.

### **Chipanga**

We were excited to visit this village of over 6,400 which will be the next project after we complete the water system in Chitope. We received a warm welcome and were impressed with the village leadership, emphasizing the need for cooperation of the entire village.

### **Rotary Club**

The team met with the Dodoma Region Rotary Club to learn about their history and focus on water projects in the area. The Rotary Club was also interested to learn more about TLP and our water projects.

### **TLP (T) Board Meeting**

We had the privilege of participating in the TLP (T) board meeting during our visit. All the board members were invested and passionate about the work of TLP. The group covered a range of topics including communication and ideas to enhance board input and consulting support to the TLP (T) leadership.

### **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)**

The team met with two local businesses (DTI-DfG and Umoja Group). Both are run by women who create reusable MHM kits for girls and women in the region TLP serves. We discussed their operations, resources and business plans. TLP acquires kits from both organizations for initial distributions in villages which supports these local businesses and establishes relationships so girls/women have a resource for additional or replacement kits in the future.

### **LVIA (Lay Volunteers International Association)**

The team met with the new leaders 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. The group agreed to hold further discussions with LVIA leadership in Italy to see if our respective planning timelines could provide an opportunity to align efforts over the next several years.

### **Hydrogeologist**

We met with a senior hydrogeologist in Tanzania to learn more about the hydrogeographic make-up of the region and understand best practice methods for searching for water. We will be updating our process to incorporate some of the lessons learned.

### **Videography**

We filmed interviews with villagers to hear their personal stories of life before and after the water project is completed. Videos will be created to post on our social media platforms.