
2025 Annual Trip Report

Our trip in 2025 was exciting for a number of reasons. We had a jam-packed agenda that included our normal project related reviews/discussions/projections, visits to future potential villages, discussions with government agencies and a number of meetings with other organizations doing similar work related to clean water and WASH in the same geographic area. We also had Board Member Cindy Johnson join us for the second time! Cindy provides oversight and direction from TLP(USA) for the Empowerment, WASH and Hygiene programs and works closely with our TLP(T) team members. Cindy also leads individual business plan development and performance review process. Getting the hands-on, on-the-ground experience always helps in better understanding and creating adjustments to constantly improve what we do.

Meeting with Government Officials (RUWASA)

We met with the government group who is responsible for oversight and ongoing management of all rural water projects implemented in Tanzania, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA). We discussed the joint process we will use in handing off village water systems once they are complete. Sustainability has been a cornerstone of our efforts from the very beginning. We want to be certain the water projects can be run in a sustainable manner once they are turned over (i.e. not need any additional funding from outside the village to continue operating successfully). Many groups are involved in the projects, and it is vital to coordinate communication and execution of duties of each player in order for everything to go smoothly. We will be working with RUWASA to observe training of everyone involved in the operation of the water project and ongoing maintenance of the physical plant. We will share ideas and best practices with each other as we have more time working together. We will consider this post-cutover time as our “Sustainability Period.” How long that lasts will evolve with experience and demonstrated results.

Chipanga

We completed the project in this village in 2024. Part of our normal annual process is to visit recently completed villages to get feedback on how things have been working and discuss any challenges they may be experiencing. Given Chipanga was the first village we tried to “hand-off” to RUWASA after it was complete, there were a number of issues that were uncovered. Our experience and feedback in Chipanga helped guide the steps we took in the meeting with our current project, Bahi Makulu, and will influence all our future projects. Mistakes are great teachers, and we must always be prepared to learn and improve based on them!

Bahi Makulu

We visited this village of over 8,800 people which is our current project. After doing a lot of research and speaking with many groups who have done work in the country, we decided to implement our first solar project in this village! It was exciting to see the solar panels, pump and pumphouse in action. While the pumping of water was working well, the storage tank was not yet complete. Our expectation is the rest of the project will be done by the end of this year assuming we get sufficient funds between now and then. Anticipation was high with all the villagers who were VERY excited!

Sharing Experience and Ideas

We visited a group called Water for People who just established a location in Dodoma within the last two years. They are focused on the Mpwapwa District and have completed their first village project there. We shared our missions, goals, processes and challenges. Both groups learned a lot from each other that can help improve our overall operations and opportunity for success. We vowed to continue conversations and see how we can help promote greater participation from government and other organizations in addressing the clean water, WASH and hygiene challenges. We had a similar meeting in 2024 with a group called Water for Good/Lifewater International who is doing similar projects in the Northwest part of Tanzania (near Shinyanga). These types of conversations help all of us become better and understand how we can have greater impact by partnering in certain ways.

TLP (T) Board Meeting

We had the privilege to participate in the TLP(T) Board meeting during our visit. Topics covered included project updates, financials, and ways for TLP(T) to leverage the experience of Board members to improve their operation and efficiency. We discussed changes in responsibilities for some due to the new role the government agency, RUWASA, will play in our most recent villages and projects moving forward. We also celebrated a promotion on the TLP(T) team due to great performance and increased responsibilities.