



2026 Annual Trip Report

Our 2026 trip was unique in that our travel team was small—just three people—but we were able to accomplish a great deal during our time in Tanzania. From improving our project process and strengthening our local team to working with government officials and visiting potential project sites for 2027, the trip was both productive and encouraging.

Change in Process

In the past, we divided projects into several phases and began each phase as soon as we had raised enough funds to complete it. The goal was to bring water to each village as quickly as donations allowed. While well-intentioned, this approach created significant challenges for our contractors.

First, contractors could not schedule construction teams for a definite period because there could be significant delays while we waited for funding for the next phase. Second, we held contractors to their original cost proposals even though costs could increase if a project took a long time to become fully funded.

In 2026, we changed our approach. We will now wait to begin construction until we have raised enough funds to fully support the project. This allows us to be fair to our contractors, provides greater certainty in scheduling, and enables us to complete projects in a shorter, more concentrated period—something the villages greatly appreciate.

A Greater Focus on Development

Because projects now begin only after they are fully funded, our Tanzania team has more time between projects to participate in formal professional development courses. Previously, much of their development came through coaching and guidance from our leadership team in the United States.

The new courses, delivered in their native language and from the perspective of their local culture, have been extremely beneficial. During this trip, we spent considerable time working with the Tanzania team to review what they had learned and discuss how they could apply it to improve their performance and service to TLP.

The combination of local professional development and extensive collaboration between our U.S. and Tanzania teams has already resulted in very positive changes. We are seeing stronger performance, better communication, a greater sense of teamwork, and improved morale.

Meeting with Government Officials (District Commissioner Offices)

Our last two completed projects, Chipanga and Bahi Makulu, are located in the Bahi District, while our current project, Mloda, is in the Chamwino District.

A critical component of each project is connecting the pumphouse to electrical power from the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO). Electricity can provide a lower-cost energy source for systems that

use diesel generators and serves as an important backup for solar-powered systems when there is insufficient sunlight or when a village needs to operate the pump at night.

For our last two projects, TANESCO assured us that electrical connections would be completed during construction. Unfortunately, those commitments were not fulfilled.

The head of TANESCO in each district reports to the District Administrative Secretary (DAS), who reports to the District Commissioner. During our visit, we met with the DAS in Bahi. She was very concerned that TANESCO had not fulfilled its commitments. During our meeting, she contacted the TANESCO leadership directly and arranged for the electrical connections at Bahi Makulu and Chipanga to become top priorities.

We also met with the District Commissioner in Chamwino to make a similar request for our current project in Mloda. She immediately engaged her staff during our meeting to help ensure that the electrical connection will be completed during construction.

We will continue to follow up with both district leaders to ensure these commitments are fulfilled. Just as importantly, these meetings are helping us build strong relationships with local government leaders—relationships that will benefit future TLP projects in their districts.

Chipanga

We completed the Chipanga project in 2024. It was the first village where we attempted to formally transition responsibility for the water system to the government agency responsible for rural water systems, RUWASA. The transition revealed several issues that needed to be resolved.

During this year's trip, we had the opportunity to meet with all of the key groups involved in managing and using the system and work together to resolve the final outstanding issue. It took considerable time to fully understand the problems and brainstorm solutions that would work for everyone.

It was especially rewarding to see the open dialogue, honesty, and commitment demonstrated by everyone involved. The collaborative effort gave us confidence that the solutions developed will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the water system for the entire village.

Bahi Makulu

We completed the Bahi Makulu project, serving more than 8,800 people, in late 2025. It was our first solar-powered project, and the system is operating very well. The project was so successful that it received the **Uhuru Torch Award**, recognizing it as one of the top water projects in the country. The award was celebrated with a large event attended by dignitaries from throughout Tanzania.

Unfortunately, a tragedy occurred in the village within hours of our arrival, and our planned meetings had to be canceled. We quickly adapted our plans and held several informal meetings with the technician responsible for operating the system and visited local schools.

These conversations and visits provided valuable insight into how the system is functioning and where improvements may be possible. This information will guide further consulting and discussions with the village team, which are an important part of our normal three-year sustainability program.

We will most likely return to Bahi Makulu next year to ensure the system continues to operate effectively and to help identify and implement any needed enhancements.

Visiting Candidate Villages for a 2027 Project

We visited two new villages that are candidates for a TLP water project in 2027. We have formalized a new process for selecting villages that will reduce our costs while creating a stronger partnership with the appropriate government agencies.

A key part of this new approach is leveraging existing boreholes that the government has already drilled in areas with significant need. This allows TLP to focus its resources on developing the infrastructure necessary to bring those existing water sources to the people who need them.

Both villages we visited are deserving of a water project. More importantly, each has strong local leadership that we believe will be an excellent partner in developing and sustaining a water system for many years to come.

We wish we had enough donations to complete projects in both villages in 2027. Unfortunately, we will have to make a difficult choice early next year after we have raised enough funds to begin construction.

Every contribution makes a difference and brings us closer to providing clean, reliable water to another Tanzanian community.

TLP (T) Board Meeting

We were also privileged to participate in the TLP(T) Board meeting during our visit. The Board has recently been refreshed, with two members completing their terms and four new members joining the Board.

Each new member brings valuable experience, skills, and insights that will strengthen the Tanzania team and enhance our overall ability to succeed. We are excited to partner with these new Board members and continue the positive evolution of our organization in Tanzania.

Looking Ahead

Our 2026 trip demonstrated the value of investing not only in water infrastructure, but also in the people, partnerships, and processes that make these projects sustainable. The changes we are making—from fully funding projects before construction to investing in professional development and strengthening relationships with government leaders—are positioning TLP for greater impact in the years ahead.

We are grateful to everyone who makes this work possible. ***Your support helps bring clean, reliable water to Tanzanian communities and creates a foundation for healthier, more sustainable futures.***