

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

# Tanzania

## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

SOKOINE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE 1984 ASOMI NI HAZINA

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## Tanzania Partnership Program Partners

Michigan State University (MSU)

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Institute of Resource Assessment

Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE)

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

Milola Village, Lindi Municipality, Tanzania

Naitolia Village, Monduli District, Tanzania

*Cover photo* TPP and MWEDO teams discuss income generating options with community members in Naitolia.

## About TPP

The **Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP)** is the first initiative of the **Partnerships for Sustainable Community Development (PSCD)**, a long-term collaborative alliance of local and international organizations dedicated to improving local livelihoods.

Tanzania was selected as the first location for PSCD based on need, potential for success, university experience in the region and an array of interested partners.

**pscd.isp.msu.edu**

## Our Mission

To find long-term solutions, build capacity and create collaborations that promote resilient and sustainable communities. To unite development, education and research that boldly pushes the frontiers of knowledge and the role universities play in transforming local communities and the lives of individuals.

## Our Goal

Promote resilient communities in Milola and Naitolia, Tanzania, and create a model for sustainable prosperity.

## Our Strategy

Acknowledge interdependency and create long-term partnerships among local communities, governments, non-governmental organizations, private corporations, universities and invested individuals to address local challenges and respond to emerging opportunities in economic development, food security, public health, education and community empowerment.

## Core Principles

### Ensure Sustainability

Increase community strengths, enhance community resiliency and promote community empowerment while maintaining economic well-being, environmental health and social equity.

### Commit to an Integrative Approach

Remove the barriers that separate research, education and development to create a dynamic and synergistic relationship.

### Engage in Interdisciplinary Research

Draw on a range of disciplines and perspectives to address the interrelated and complex nature of challenges faced by communities in the developing world.

### Promote Participation

Unite the knowledge, skills and experiences of villagers, local government officials, researchers and development professionals to expand understanding, enhance responsiveness and improve practice.

### Adaptive Learning

Focus on a process that continually improves research, education and development activities and involves villagers, scholars, development professionals and local government.

### Establish Long-Term Commitments

Create relationships based on mutual trust that welcomes research and innovation and is responsive to new challenges.

# Letter from the Directors

Reflecting on this remarkable year, we are pleased to share the key initiatives and accomplishments that have shaped our journey. This year has been one of profound learning through our work to enhance existing initiatives, strengthen partnerships, build local capacity and expand knowledge on development practice.

Because of the collaboration with partners, we maintained and enhanced several signature initiatives critical to our success. These include a school feeding program providing daily nutrition to over 600 students, cattle dip combating tick-borne diseases and water infrastructure that serves more than 3,000 people across five communities. Also, with the support of the TAG Foundation, we initiated the construction of a life skills training center, supplementing the dormitory program that is already driving positive change and enhancing educational outcomes. Additionally, our education abroad program offered immersive cross-cultural experiences for both MSU and Tanzanian students, further strengthening TPP's global reach.

Significant strides were also made in local capacity building through educational programs that equipped various community groups (e.g. animal health committees, school boards) with the skills needed to serve effectively. We are also proud of our progress in constructing a model playscape at the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, which will integrate play-based learning into the curriculum in Tanzania.

In our commitment to continuous learning, TPP staff and faculty participated in a learning exchange with the Iowa State University Uganda Program, engaging in community development activities, networking with peers and gaining valuable insights into sustainable development best practices to inform our work.

Strengthening collaborative alliances has been another cornerstone of our efforts. Our relationship with the Maasai Women Economic Development Organization (MWEDO) has led to new programs that provide critical life skills to youth and expand economic opportunities for women. Partnerships with the local government and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) are also expanding access to water and sanitation in our communities.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities before us. With your continued support, we are confident in achieving even greater success in the coming years to address global poverty and hunger.

## Kwame Yeboah

DIRECTOR, PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND TANZANIA PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

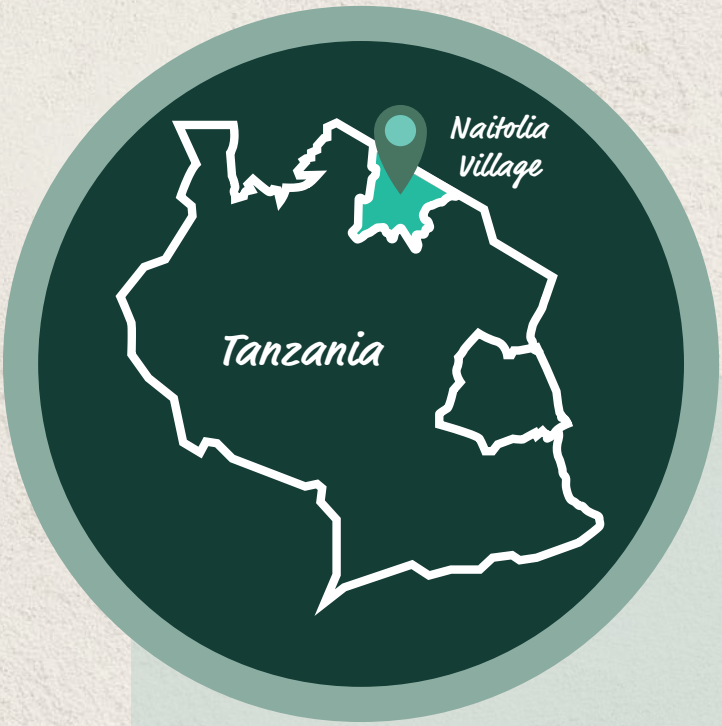
## Joel Nobert

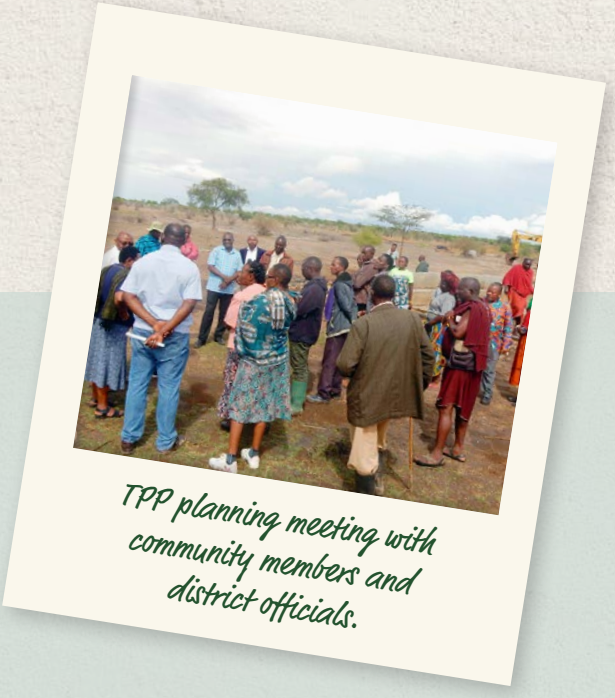
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM



Kwame Yeboah (L) & Joel Norbert (R)

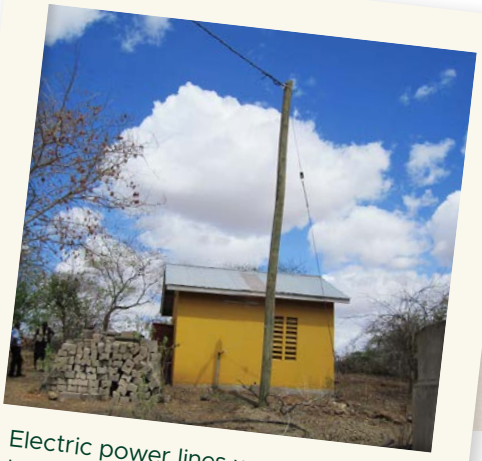
# Naitolia Village



TPP planning meeting with community members and district officials.

Naitolia village is in Monduli District and lies in a Wildlife Management Area. Home to an agro-pastoralist community of approximately 3,800 people, Naitolia comprises two sub-villages, Ormang'wai and Engusero, and the main ethnic groups are Maasai Wa-Arusha, Iraqw and Barabaig. Households are spread across 178 square kilometers, and 79% earn a living by keeping cattle and goats, with some households also raising chickens. A community pond assists in increasing access to quality water during the dry season, and a health clinic in Ormang'wai provides basic health services. Across Naitolia and the two neighboring villages of Mswakini Chini and Mswakini Juu, there are four preschools and three primary schools. To help ensure students regularly receive a nutritious school lunch, TPP supports school-based feeding programs and gardens.



Electric power lines were extended to the borehole.

# Powering Sustainable Water Access

In 2023, Naitolia achieved a significant milestone with the transition of the village's main borehole from generator power to electricity. This crucial step marks a major advance in securing a more reliable and cost-effective water supply for over 2,400 residents and several neighboring communities. For years, the generator-powered borehole faced frequent breakdowns, fuel shortages and high operational costs, making it challenging to maintain a consistent water supply. Recognizing these issues, TPP collaborated closely with the Naitolia Water Committee and local authorities to enhance the borehole's infrastructure — funding essential repairs, providing technical training for local technicians and advocating for a more sustainable, long-term solution.

With the borehole now connected to the electric grid, operational efficiency has dramatically improved. The transition to electric power has eliminated the need for expensive fuel and reduced the frequency of technical issues. The community now benefits from a more stable water supply, and the funds previously allocated for fuel are being reinvested into maintaining and upgrading the system. A key initiative currently under discussion with TPP involves replacing the aging and inconsistent distribution pipes, a move that will further secure the water supply by ensuring efficient distribution throughout the village.

This successful transition, along with ongoing support for the water committee in managing daily operations and planning for future improvements, underscores a model of sustainable, community-managed water access in rural Tanzania. As TPP and the community continue their collaboration, Naitolia's water system stands as a testament to the strength of partnership and local ownership in driving long-term development.■

*New electric wiring systems were installed at the borehole.*



# *Ongoing Revitalization* of Naitolia's Pond



*The pond in 2017 dry season prior to restoration.*



*Naitolia village pond in 2023 after significant restoration efforts.*

In partnership with the Naitolia community and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), TPP continues to lead the critical restoration of the village's primary pond, a vital water source for livestock, especially during the dry season. This project is designed to be adaptive and evolve in response to ongoing environmental changes to ensure the pond's long-term sustainability. Since 2017, restoration efforts have included deepening the pond, reinforcing embankments and implementing erosion control measures. RUWASA's more recent involvement has been crucial in integrating local expertise and ensuring that the solutions implemented are both sustainable and culturally appropriate.

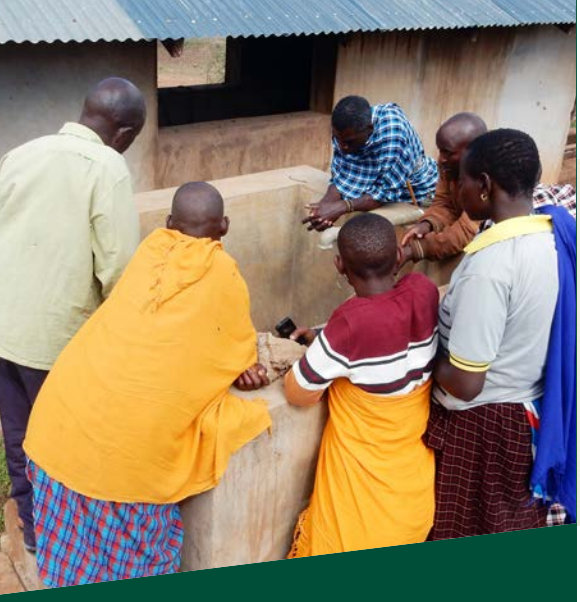
TPP is exploring further recommendations and next steps, including enhancing the pond's capacity to withstand extreme weather events and improving the surrounding infrastructure to reduce future erosion risks. These efforts will be guided by continued collaboration with the community and RUWASA, ensuring that the pond remains a reliable resource for years to come. ■



# *Advancing* Local Water Management Practices

TPP continues to focus on advancing the management capabilities of Naitolia's Community-Based Water Supply Organization (CBWSO). Alongside the electrification of the village's main borehole, TPP prioritized training initiatives in financial management and governance, equipping the CBWSO to handle daily operations and future challenges. TPP is also laying the groundwork for research-driven improvements, with plans to integrate findings into the CBWSO's ongoing management strategies. This approach emphasizes the importance of not just building infrastructure but also ensuring effective, sustainable management for years to come. ■

*Photo: A district engineer provides water meter training to a member of CBWSO.*



## *Sustaining* Community-Led Animal Health Management

The Animal Health Committee (AHC) in Naitolia continues to exemplify the success of TPP's capacity-building efforts. Recently, the committee demonstrated proactive management by addressing critical maintenance needs at the cattle dip. When the committee noticed the iron sheets on the roof had rusted, they leveraged funds generated from dipping fees to complete the necessary repairs, ensuring the facility's readiness for the upcoming rainy season. The seamless transition to a newly elected AHC, facilitated by outgoing members, further underscores the community's growing ability to manage and sustain TPP-supported projects independently. ■

*Photo: Outgoing AHC members orient the newly elected members at the cattle dip.*

# *Improving Animal Health* Cattle Dip Operational Success



*New holding yard at the cattle dip.*

Since 2013, the Naitolia cattle dip and allied veterinary services supported by TPP have played a vital role in reducing infectious diseases and improving livestock productivity and household incomes. The dedication of the local village-level Animal Health Committee (AHC) and the community's support has been crucial in maintaining the cattle dip's operations. Throughout the past season, the AHC dipped over 1,200 cattle a month, generating revenues that funded essential maintenance and improvements, including the construction of a new holding yard and latrine.

In November 2023, the community elected a new AHC, with former committee members providing comprehensive orientation and training to ensure a seamless transition and uphold high standards. TPP continues to support the management and record-keeping of the cattle dip by working closely with the AHC. This success highlights the collaborative spirit and shared commitment to sustaining and improving this essential resource for the pastoralist community. ■

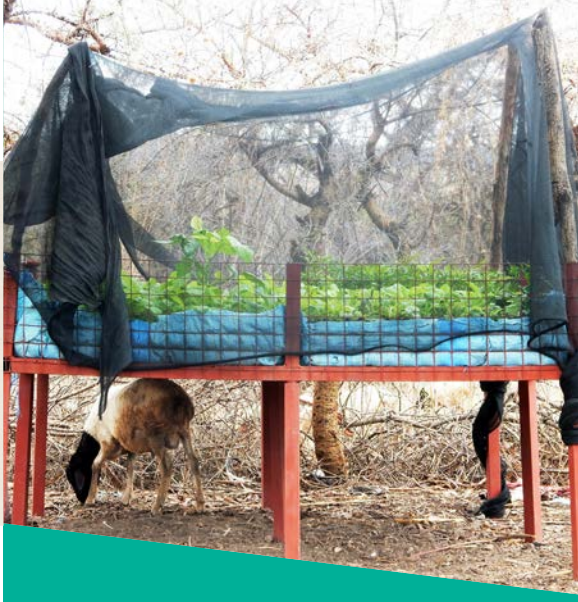
# *Sustaining* Community School Feeding Programs

In 2024, the school feeding programs (SFP) at Naitolia Primary School and Engusero Preschool became even more crucial due to the severe drought that affected local agriculture. With food production severely impacted, TPP's intervention ensured that more than 500 students continued to receive daily meals. Throughout the year, TPP supplied Naitolia Primary School with approximately 8,000 kilograms of maize and 2,700 kilograms of beans, along with cooking oil and salt, all sourced from local markets. At Engusero Preschool, TPP provided a unique blend of local cereals, along with baobab powder and peanut butter, to prepare nutrient-rich porridge. These provisions ensured that students remained nourished and ready to learn despite the harsh environmental conditions.

Community involvement has been crucial in sustaining these SFPs. Parents contributed financially to pay the cook and school guard and provided food supplies when possible. In December 2023, the School Committee, Village Government and parents agreed on contributions of maize, beans, oil, and salt to support the program through June 2024. While the challenges have been significant, the community's commitment, supported by TPP's ongoing efforts, has been vital in maintaining this lifeline for students during a period of crisis. ■



*Lunch time at the Naitolia Primary School.*



# *Household* Vegetable Gardens

Household gardens remain an integral component of TPP's efforts to disseminate agricultural best practices and improve incomes, nutrition and food security. This year, the raised household vegetable gardens in Naitolia saw significant advancements. The addition of protective nets to keep out wildlife, an innovation supported by TPP, along with efficient water management techniques, have helped these gardens to produce despite the challenges of Naitolia's semi-arid climate. Families are now able to grow a variety of vegetables, which they use to feed their households and sell to generate income. Education abroad participants further contributed by introducing gardening to 10 new households, bringing the total number of TPP-supported household gardens to 27. These small-scale gardens not only provide essential fresh vegetables but also strengthen the community's resilience to food insecurity. ■

*Photo: A raised and netted household garden protects plants from local wildlife.*

# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN NAITOLIA:

## *The TPP-MWEDO Partnership*

Established last year, TPP's formal partnership with the Maasai Women Development Organization (MWEDO) is grounded in a shared vision of supporting the economic growth and resilience of marginalized communities, particularly women and youth. In Naitolia, this collaboration has led to significant initiatives focused on both economic and educational development.

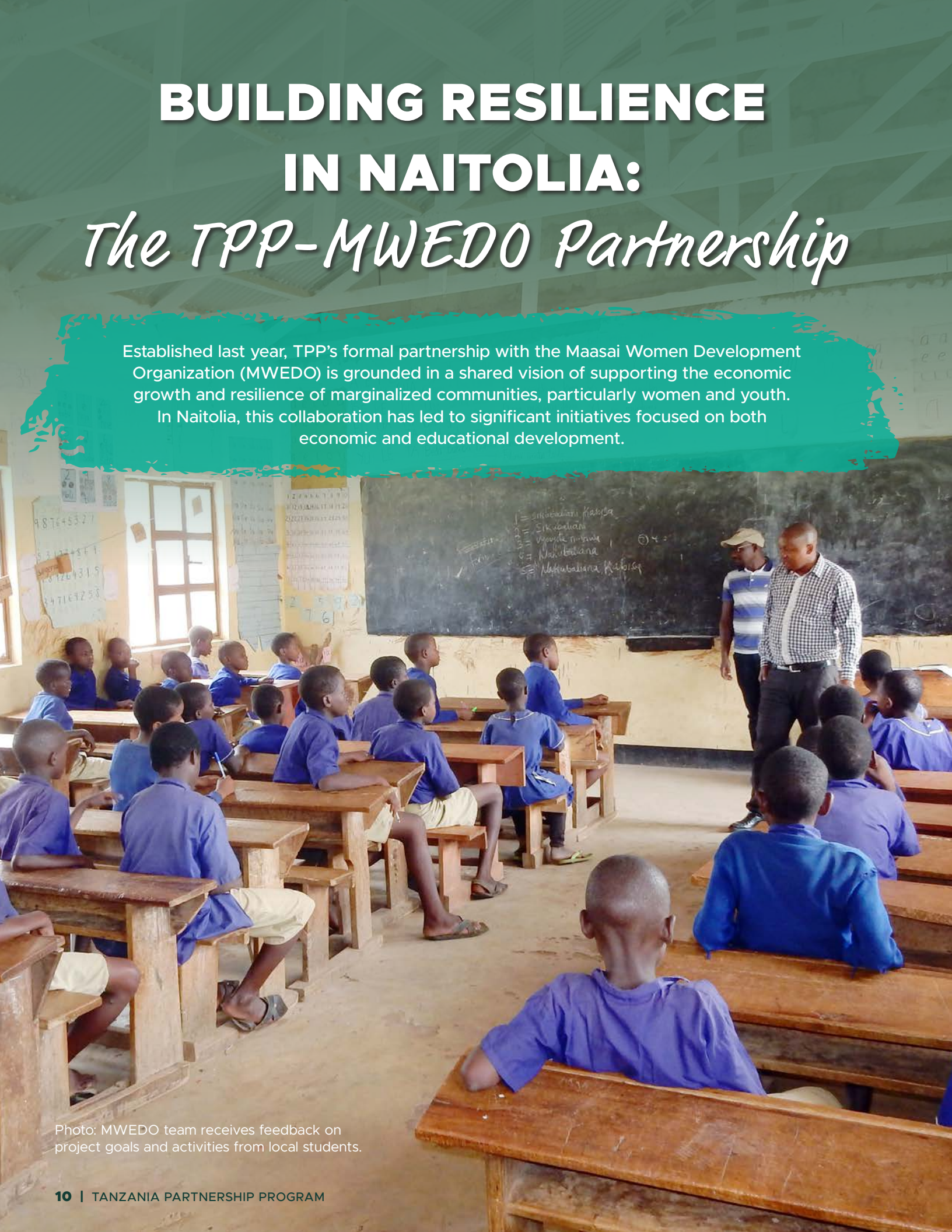


Photo: MWEDO team receives feedback on project goals and activities from local students.

## Strengthening Women's Economic Opportunities

In October 2023, TPP and MWEDO conducted a situational analysis in Naitolia, developing and testing a comprehensive assessment tool to better understand the economic landscape and challenges faced by local women. This initiative, shaped by direct input from community members, ensures that the training and support provided are tailored to their specific needs and aspirations. The full launch of these economic groups is set for spring 2025, with plans to offer advanced training in poultry raising, crafts and financial education. The initiative has already garnered strong community support and is designed to foster long-term economic resilience in Naitolia, reflecting TPP's commitment to sustainable prosperity.



A TTP and MWEDO project planning meeting.

## Imparting Youth with Critical Life Skills

Building on the success of mentoring programs in Milola, TPP is also collaborating with MWEDO to develop mentoring clubs for boys and girls in Naitolia. These clubs are designed to foster a supportive environment for personal and professional growth while imparting essential life skills to young people. To ensure the activities resonate with Maasai culture and align with Tanzania's national educational goals, TPP and MWEDO have engaged in extensive consultations with local stakeholders, including parents, youth, teachers and representatives from the Tanzania Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Community members have shown strong support for expanding the mentoring clubs to Naitolia, and Ministry officials are planning to visit next year to observe and support the clubs. The launch of these clubs is expected in the fall.



Village-Based Officer Jonathan Simon collects valuable insight from a community leader.

## Looking Ahead: A Growing Partnership

MWEDO, founded in 2000, has been instrumental in shaping these efforts. Their local knowledge and translation abilities, combined with TPP partner universities and faculty expertise, have created a powerful model of collaboration. Together, we have designed programs that are both culturally relevant and locally driven, directly addressing the most pressing needs of women and youth in Naitolia. As we move into the next fiscal year, we are excited to launch these new projects, building on the strong foundation already established and further amplifying our collective impact. ■



TPP and MWEDO team members.

# Milola Village






Milola Secondary School Cooking Club members receive instructions from a local caterer.

Located in Lindi Municipal about 60 kilometers inland, Milola comprises two villages—Milola A and Milola B. Approximately 6,000 people live in Milola A and B, and the main ethnic groups are Mwera, Ngindo, Makonde and Yao. Ninety-two percent of households earn a living by growing sesame, rice and maize on small farming plots. Due to limited inputs and market access, agricultural production is low but chicken raising has been introduced as a way to generate income and improve food security. A small clinic in the sub-village of Ngwenya is helping ensure the community has access to basic health care. The regular presence of DUCE student teachers in Milola schools has improved the quality of education. Reading, writing and arithmetic lessons for adults are facilitated by TPP.

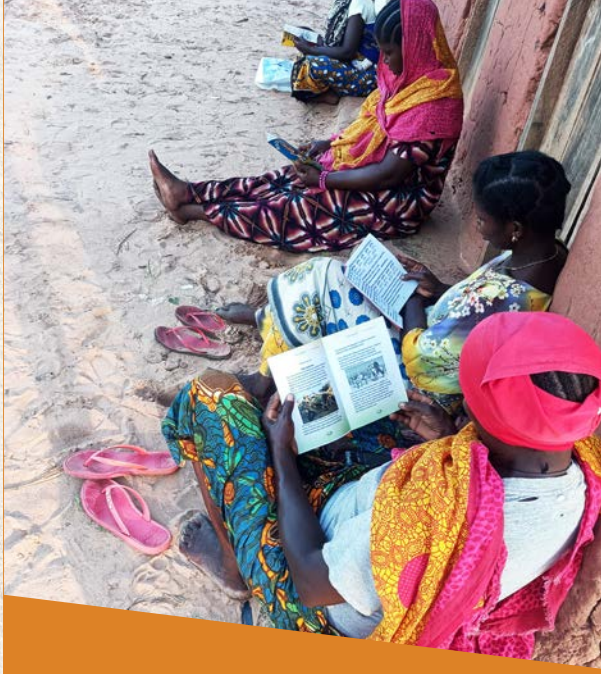
# *Stengthening Local* School Oversight Committees

In December 2023, TPP organized a comprehensive training program for school boards and committees in Milola, focusing on leadership, planning and school management. This initiative was aimed at equipping local leaders with the skills to effectively manage school operations and ensure the delivery of quality education in their communities. Conducted in collaboration with the Lindi Municipal Education Office, the training covered a range of essential topics, including the roles and responsibilities of school committees, the difference between leadership and management, and the intricacies of budgeting. A total of 32 participants from school boards and committees attended, engaging in interactive sessions that combined theoretical knowledge with practical exercises, such as group discussions and planning workshops.

The impact of the training was immediate and significant. Participants reported a deeper understanding of their roles and a renewed confidence in their ability to contribute to the development of their schools. The training also highlighted the importance of collaboration between school committees and teachers, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for student success. A notable outcome from the training was the participants' commitment to applying their new skills to improve school governance. The chairperson of one of the school committees expressed her gratitude for the training and stated, "This training has given us the tools we need to make informed decisions that will benefit our schools for years to come." ■



*TPP faculty (DUCE) and workshop participants.*



# *Building* Adult Literacy Foundations

Initiated in response to a community needs assessment, TPP's Adult Literacy Program in Milola has become a signature project in the southern region, providing essential literacy and numeracy skills to community members who missed the opportunity to attend school as children. This year, the program enrolled more than 100 adult learners, with 77 having already completed the program. The program's success is guiding us to create pathways for adult learners to apply and build upon their new skills through other initiatives, such as practical training in poultry keeping. The Adult Literacy Program is more than a classroom; it provides the foundational skills needed for participants to thrive within their communities and beyond. ■

*Photo: Adult literacy students engage in an independent reading exercise.*



Milola Secondary students at the school farm learn what goes into planting and growing crops.

# Expanding School Farms

TPP's school feeding program is intricately linked with the success of local school farms, which experienced considerable growth in 2023. Milola Secondary School's farm expanded from 3 to 14 hectares, significantly boosting the school's ability to produce food for its students. This year, the farm yielded 390 kilograms of legumes, directly supporting the school's feeding program. Beyond providing meals, the farm serves as a hands-on learning environment where students engage in agricultural activities, gaining skills that are valuable within their community.

The active involvement of parents, who contribute seeds and labor, underscores the community's commitment to the success of these farms. In February 2024, parents raised significant funds to till the school farm and purchase seeds, demonstrating their ongoing support and investment in the program's success. Their dedication extends to maintaining school gardens and farms, with contributions of manure and labor ensuring productive yields. This collaborative effort not only enhances student nutrition but also strengthens the community's resilience against food insecurity. ■

# Transforming Education

# Girls' Dormitory Programming

TPP has significantly improved educational outcomes for girls through programming at the girls dormitory near Milola Secondary School. This initiative excels in enhancing academic performance and facilitating the transition to advanced-level education for girls. A foundation of the program is life skills development, which has made the dormitory experience more meaningful to students, teachers and the entire community. Students are enthusiastic and actively participate in school clubs imparting life skills in various areas including poultry raising, cooking, sewing and gardening. The poultry club teaches students the fundamentals of raising chickens for income, with the eggs produced providing additional protein for their diets and the recent additions of new chicks to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. The dormitory programming continues to drive positive changes, enhancing educational outcomes and providing valuable life skills to students. An on-site life skills training center, funded by the TAG Philanthropic Foundation, is scheduled to open at the girls' dormitory this fall. This center will provide enhanced vocational education, supporting students' academic and personal development. ■



*Sewing Club members learn how to properly measure and cut fabric.*




*Photo: DUCE student teacher Hafidhi Huseni Kimbyoko teaches a biology class.*

# *Inspiring the Next Generation:* PLACING STUDENT TEACHERS AT MILOLA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Since 2017, TPP has partnered with Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) to place student teachers at Milola Secondary School, addressing the shortage of mathematics and science teachers in rural, resource-poor areas like Milola. In 2024, six student teachers were placed at Milola, supporting subjects such as physics, chemistry, biology, English literature, history and geography.

*"Working with the students in Milola has shown me how much potential exists in rural communities. With the right support, these students can achieve great things."*

**EVELIUS MATUNGWA CHRIZOSTOM, DUCE STUDENT TEACHER**

This program has had a noticeable impact on academic performance while providing DUCE students with invaluable teaching experience in a challenging environment.

Among this year's student teachers, Hafidhi Huseni Kimbyoko and Priska Baraka Mollel are particularly noteworthy as former students of Milola Secondary School. Their return as educators underscores the long-term impact of TPP's support for community schools, serving as important role models who demonstrate that post-secondary academic success is achievable for children in the community.

The Milola Student Teacher Program remains a vital component of TPP's efforts to strengthen the education sector, ensuring students receive quality education and the inspiration needed to achieve their full potential. ■



DUCE student teacher Priska Baraka Mollel teaches a mathematics class.



*Fall 2023 DUCE student teachers.*

## Fall 2023 DUCE Student Teachers

BARAKA A. NDARO
History and Geography

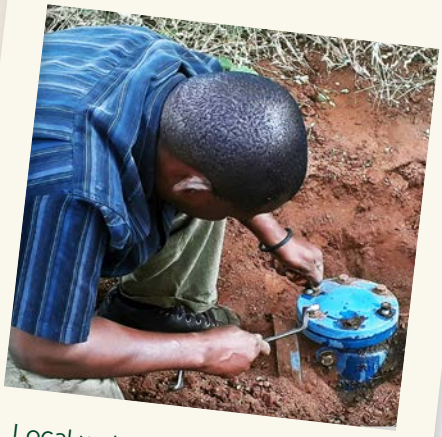
HAFIDHI HUSENI KIMBYOKO
Chemistry and Biology

PRISKA BARAKA MOLLEL
Physics and Mathematics

ONESMO EZEKIEL MASOTA
Chemistry and Biology

LUCIA DAUD SAMWEL
Geography and Linguistics

EVELIUS MATUNGWA CHRIZOSTOM
Physics and Mathematics



Local water committee member repairs a leaking pipe.

# *Water Conservation and* Managing Human-Wildlife Conflict

This year, TPP supported the community in taking significant steps to address the intertwined challenges of water conservation and human-wildlife conflict. These issues, exacerbated by climate change, pose increasing threats to both the availability of clean water and the integrity of vital water infrastructure. A key project designed to mitigate these risks involved reinforcing natural barriers to protect water sources from wildlife damage. The Water Committee strategically placed thorny bushes, live fences made from dense vegetation and simple ditches around water points to prevent animals from accessing and disrupting water systems. Additionally, TPP and the committee collaborated on a comprehensive survey to identify and repair leaks in the village's aging water infrastructure. These efforts have not only stabilized the water supply but also enhanced access to clean water for nearly 2,000 residents.

TPP continues to focus on providing additional training for the Water Committee, expanding conservation efforts and ongoing monitoring of current interventions. These initiatives are part of a broader strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of local water resources for future generations. ■

# *Enhancing Health Care* Infrastructure



Clinic services in progress at the Ngwenya clinic.

Rural communities in Tanzania face significant barriers to receiving timely and adequate medical attention. In Ngwenya sub-village, TPP's support of a mobile clinic has revitalized a service that previously struggled due to limited funding and a structurally unstable facility. TPP stepped in to stabilize the clinic's operations, supporting regular services and assisting with necessary repairs. These efforts have led to better health outcomes, including higher vaccination rates and regular check-ups for mothers and children.

Recognizing the community's growing need for consistent health care, TPP has collaborated with local leaders and district officials to plan a permanent solution. We are facilitating the construction of a government-approved, district-managed clinic that will provide comprehensive services. While TPP will support construction, the district will staff, manage and maintain the facility. As we seek funding to provide a lasting solution to health care challenges in Ngwenya, TPP continues to support the current clinic to ensure health care services remain available. ■

# Learning Exchange with

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY UGANDA PROGRAM

In May, TPP faculty and staff embarked on an exciting learning exchange with the Iowa State University Uganda Program. This journey to the vibrant Mpirigiti Rural Training Centre (MRTC) in Kamuli, Uganda, provided an invaluable opportunity for cross-institutional collaboration and knowledge sharing. The TPP team, composed of faculty and staff from MSU, UDSM, DUCE and SUA, immersed itself in various community development activities, engaged in fruitful discussions and shared experiences in several areas that enriched both programs.

*"Your school feeding program ensures exact caloric intake and safety, which we need to adopt."*

**RICHARD SAMSON, TPP FACULTY, SUA**



Products produced by the MRTC, support the women's weaving cooperative.



TPP and MRTC teams discuss how to integrate research discussion at MRTC's demonstration plots.



*TPP and ISU-UP participants of the learning exchange in Uganda.*

## A Dream Realized

The TPP team was inspired by MRTC's successful school feeding program. Through comprehensive nutritional analysis and meal planning strategies, they have achieved high nutritional and food safety standards in very resource-poor environments. The teams discussed how MRTC's strategies could be adapted to the local dietary preferences and resources that define TPP's partner communities.

## Market Linkages

The teams explored strategies for creating linkages between rural producers and broader markets. MRTC's successes in this area offered valuable insights into economic sustainability for women entrepreneurs. In return, the TPP team shared their experiences and strategies for engaging community producers, particularly women and youth in entrepreneurial activities. The mutual exchange of ideas reinforced our knowledge of the importance of marketing strategies in community development.

## Research Integration

The significance of combining academic research with practical, on-the-ground expertise is a key priority. TPP shared its methods to enhance the relevance and impact of development projects by involving in-country faculty and village-based officers in research activities. MRTC's approach to engaging local graduate students in community development projects provided TPP with new insights on how short-term internships for university students can enhance their learning and benefit the program.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

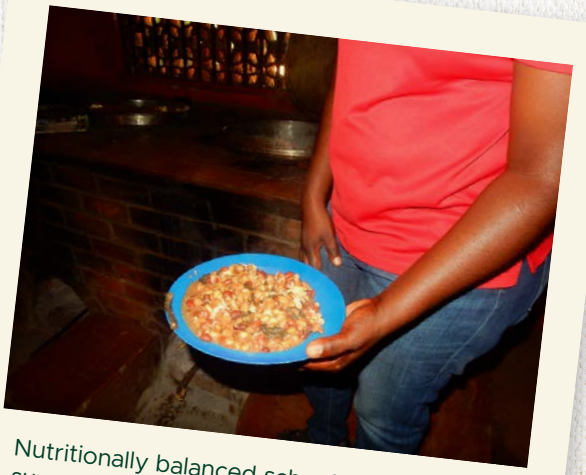
TPP and MRTC team members shared their experiences on monitoring and evaluation practices, enriching each other's understanding and inspiring enhancements to their respective approaches. Specific practices discussed include using mobile technology for real-time data collection and soliciting community feedback to assess project impact. Further exchanges on defining criteria for program participation and tracking progress helped TPP refine its strategies for sustainable growth and effective implementation. This includes creating well-defined pathways for participants to engage with TPP's diverse options of support and ensuring that all community members can access the resources they need for sustainable development.

*"Continuous follow-up is crucial for ensuring our programs are implemented correctly and making necessary adjustments in time."*

**BEATHA MKOJERA, TPP FACULTY, SUA**

## Celebrating Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

The opportunity to engage with peers from Iowa State University and Uganda fostered a rich exchange of experiences and lessons uniquely relevant to our shared contexts. This exchange was a shining example of the potential of collaboration and knowledge sharing to improve sustainable community development practices and explore effective ways to partner across U.S. and African institutions. ■



Nutritionally balanced school lunch supported by MRTC.



TPP and MTRC teams visit communities to observe ISU-UP collaborations with community members on program monitoring and evaluation.



TPP team tours a post-harvest processing station supported by MRTC.

# *Expanding Educational Access for* Economically-Disadvantaged Students

In 2023, TPP significantly deepened its commitment to reducing barriers to education by expanding a successful pilot program that began in 2022, providing vital resources to the most financially-constrained students in Naitolia and Milola Schools. At Naitolia Primary School, five students from families severely affected by drought received essential resources, including school uniforms, shoes and educational materials, which allowed them to continue their studies without interruption. Additionally, supplementary nutrition support was provided to stabilize their attendance and improve academic performance. In Milola, the program expanded to support eight students across both primary and secondary levels, covering tuition fees, school uniforms and other necessary supplies. Such comprehensive support allowed these students to remain in school and focus on their studies.



The success of this initiative was greatly enhanced by the active involvement of local administrators and community members, who contributed both funds and hands-on support for the students' educational journeys. This collaborative approach ensures that the program reaches the students who need it most.

Recognizing these early successes, TPP partners are exploring avenues to further expand this initiative. The goal is to better integrate this support into our broader educational programming while also addressing additional needs, such as nutrition, health care and psychosocial support for the communities' most vulnerable students. This research phase will explore the most effective strategies for scaling the program and ensuring its long-term sustainability. ■

*Photos: Primary school students (in both communities) who received free educational materials.*

# *Focused Teacher Development for* Rural Schools

In 2023, TPP made significant strides in enhancing the quality of education in Naitolia and Milola by facilitating targeted training programs for teachers. These sessions were meticulously designed to address the unique challenges faced by educators in rural Tanzania, introducing innovative teaching methods that significantly improve student engagement and learning outcomes.

In Naitolia, TPP organized a series of workshops for 15 teachers, focusing on using playgrounds as educational tools. This approach integrates play into the curriculum, enhancing cognitive development and fostering a more engaging learning environment. Teachers learned to create structured play activities that align with educational goals, making learning both enjoyable and effective for young students. One teacher from Mswakini Juu remarked, "The training on using playgrounds in teaching has transformed the way we engage our students. They are more excited about learning, and we can see the difference in their performance."

Similarly, in Milola, TPP supported the professional development of teachers by organizing training sessions that reached a total of 32 educators across primary and secondary schools. These sessions emphasized classroom management, refined pedagogical techniques and the effective use of local resources to enrich the learning experience. The training also underscored the importance of leadership and collaboration within the school community, equipping teachers with the skills needed to foster a more cohesive and supportive educational environment.



The impact of these training programs has been profound. Teachers in both communities have reported feeling more confident in their roles and better prepared to engage their students, leading to noticeable improvements in student participation and academic performance. These initiatives are a testament to TPP's commitment to supporting educators in rural Tanzania, ensuring they have the tools and knowledge needed to provide the highest quality education to their students. ■

*Photo: Teacher training in Naitolia.*

# Education Abroad Program: Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania



Education abroad students receive guidance from TPP village-based officer Jonathan Simon.

TPP continues to support the development of students into globally engaged scholars through its Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania (SCDT) Education Abroad Program. Generously supported by Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation, this immersive six-week program brought together students from MSU and Tanzanian partner institutions—UDSM, UDSM/DUCE and SUA—to work collaboratively on community-driven projects in the villages of Naitolia and the sub-village of Mswakini.

The SCDT program offers a unique blend of academic and experiential learning where students from diverse cultural and scholarly backgrounds engage in hands-on projects that address real-world challenges. MSU students start the program with a two-week introduction to Swahili. Working in interdisciplinary teams, the students then tackle a range of issues identified by the community—from health and education to agriculture and environmental sustainability. Guided by faculty from MSU and Tanzanian universities, students apply their knowledge to develop practical solutions, fostering a spirit of collaboration and mutual learning. In 2023, these projects not only met immediate community needs but also contributed to long-term resilience in Naitolia and Mswakini.

*SCDT 2023 students and faculty leads.*





The Agricultural/Environment Team helped build raised gardens for five Naitolia households.



The Education Team speaks with parents of Naitolia Primary School students.

*"I can say with confidence that this trip has changed me for the better; and I am not the same person I was. I hope to come back and continue the work we have created."*

**MADDIE QUINTANILLA, EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENT, MSU**

*"It is hard to overstate the benefits of gaining new viewpoints and sharing perspectives with people from differing backgrounds. Soaking up a new culture and exploring the natural world was phenomenal."*

**DAVIS BRUNEAU, EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENT, MSU**

## The Agriculture/Environment Team

The Agriculture/Environment Team addressed the critical issue of food insecurity in Naitolia by building raised gardens for five households. These gardens, inspired by a successful 2022 project, were designed to improve food production in the region's semi-arid climate. The team collaborated with local families to better understand the challenges they faced growing food; then, the team tailored its approach to meet these needs. To ensure the long-term success of the gardens, the team organized a workshop on garden maintenance, facilitated by an expert from ECHO, a local TPP partner organization. Through this experience, the students not only enhanced their practical skills in sustainable agriculture but also gained valuable insights into local agricultural practices and the cultural importance of food security in Naitolia.

## The Education Team

The Education Team tackled a significant challenge at Mswakini Primary School, where over 700 students attended classes all day without a meal. With guidance from TPP faculty and staff, the team engaged with local stakeholders to initiate a school feeding program (SFP). They mobilized the community to contribute maize, beans and other essential supplies, culminating in the successful launch of the lunch program in August. While working on this project, the team learned about local dietary habits, the logistical challenges of food distribution and the importance of community involvement in educational initiatives. The SFP is now integrated into TPP's broader initiative, ensuring ongoing support and continued success.

## The Community Health Team

The Community Health Team concentrated on improving adolescent health in Naitolia and Mswakini. They conducted an assessment of the current status of health education and organized workshops for parents, teachers and older students at the local primary schools. The team also distributed essential health supplies, including sanitary pads to support well-being of students. During these activities, students gained a deeper understanding of the community's health challenges and cultural perspectives on adolescent health, enriching their academic experience and practical knowledge in public health.

## The Youth Empowerment Team

The Youth Empowerment Team built on the success of a previous student-led project by assessing the chicken coops constructed by the 2022 cohort. After learning from community members about the positive impact of the project, the team expanded it by building five additional coops. They also organized a training workshop on poultry management for new recipients, facilitated by a specialist from ECHO. This experience allowed students to learn the intricacies of local economic practices and the significance of livestock management in rural economies, enhancing their understanding of sustainable development. ■



The Youth Empowerment Team stand in front of a chicken coop they built.

*"Being a part of the 2023 education abroad program has been one of the experiences that I will cherish and remember throughout my life."*

**GETRUDE HUNGIRO, EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENT, SUA**



## *Welcoming a* New Minor Tanzania Fellow

The Daryl and Glenda Minor Tanzania Fellowship offers Tanzanian students the opportunity to pursue a master's degree at MSU while contributing to sustainable development in their home communities. In Fall 2024, TPP proudly welcomed Catherine Ramadhan Mfinanga as the newest Minor Fellow. Catherine is pursuing a Master of Social Work (MSW) with a focus on organization and community leadership. Her strong commitment to social justice and community development is evident in her extensive work with women and girls in Tanzania, including initiatives like the Mwanamke Mwezeshe Project, where she helps women gain financial independence and leadership skills.

As part of her fellowship, Catherine will engage closely with TPP through a graduate assistantship and a summer experience in Tanzania, allowing her to apply her academic learning to real development challenges in Tanzania. We are excited to see the impact Catherine will have through her work with TPP and the contributions she will bring to MSU. ■

*Photo: Catherine meets Sparty at the School of Social Work orientation.*

# Cultivating Local Expertise to Guide Community Development:

# Master's Students Research Scholarships

TPP is committed to fostering sustainable community development by advancing the education of Tanzania's future scholars. This year, TPP awarded research scholarships to six master's students from UDSM, DUCE and SUA, supporting thesis research in community health, food security, education and environmental conservation in Naitolia and Milola villages. Their work is generates valuable insights that will inform TPP's development efforts. By investing in these scholars, TPP is building a strong, locally-driven knowledge base to support sustainable community development. ■



Scholarship recipient Veronica Mafifi (DUCE) conducts a focus group with women in Lindi District, Tanzania.

*2023 scholarship recipients receive an orientation to TPP from Perpetua Urio (DUCE) and the UDSM-IRA team.*



## 2023 Scholarship Recipients

**HELENA EDWARD KIDIMWA, UDSM**
"Assessment of Rainfall Water Harvesting Potential in Semi-Arid Areas in Northern Tanzania"

**MARIAM MANENGELO, UDSM**
"Investigation on Morbidity and Determinants of Malaria and Helminthic Co-Infection Among Pregnant Women in Lindi District"

**PAUL MWACHALI, DUCE**
"An Assessment of Adaptation Strategies to the Impacts of Climate Change in Semi-Arid Region: A Case Study of Pastoralists in Monduli District"

**VERONICA M. MAFIFI, DUCE**
"Investigation of the Urogenital Schistosomiasis and Associated Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues among Girls and Women in Lindi District Southeast Tanzania"

**MARYCRISTER ARISTARICK UISSO, SUA**
"The Potential of School Feeding Programs In Improving Food Security and Nutrition In Tanzania Primary Schools: A Case Study of Monduli District"

**MGESI G. NYAISA, SUA**
"Exposure Assessment of Antimicrobial Residues in Cow Milk Consumed by Children under Five Years in Morogoro Municipality and Monduli District Tanzania"

# Innovating Early Childhood Education



Students interact with the market stall.

The playscape project at DUCE, which began construction in November 2023, marks a major advancement in TPP's early childhood education efforts, building on playground initiatives launched in TPP partner communities in 2016. This collaborative project, led by Bethany Wilinski (MSU) and Maregesi Machumu (DUCE), is designed as a model for integrating play-based learning into Tanzania's national curriculum. The playscape, featuring zones for construction and creativity, culture and performance, and games, is intended to provide a replicable example for Tanzanian schools, bridging the gap between policy and practice.

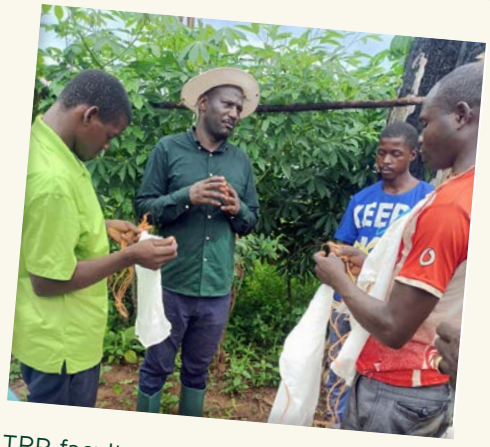
The project team, comprised of experts in early childhood education, architecture and play-based learning, has made significant strides in research and innovation. A forthcoming article in "Childhood Education: Innovations" highlights the playscape's potential to transform educational environments in low-resource settings. The design of the playscape allows visiting teachers to leave with blueprints and practical ideas for implementing similar spaces in their own schools using local materials.

Generous support from MSU Alumnus Ray Ginther, who funded the construction and provided an additional gift to support pilot programming at the DUCE Playscape, was instrumental in bringing this project to life. As construction nears completion, with a full launch and celebration planned for next spring, the playscape stands as a testament to TPP's commitment to expanding local capacity, supporting teacher development and setting new standards for early childhood education in Tanzania.■



*Students enjoy the interactive wall at the new playscape.*

# Researching Human-Wildlife Conflict and Land Conservation



TPP faculty Elikana Kalumanga (UDSM) works with wildlife officers in Naitolia to identify the key drivers of human-wildlife conflicts.

As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainable development, TPP has been working closely with the Naitolia community and Monduli District to address the intertwined challenges of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and land degradation. These issues, exacerbated by climate change, pose significant threats to both the livelihoods of local residents and the ecological balance of the region. TPP faculty Elikana Kalumanga (UDSM) recently conducted a comprehensive situational analysis to better understand the patterns and drivers of HWCs in Naitolia. This research informed a series of targeted interventions, including the introduction of passive, non-confrontational methods to deter wildlife from crop raiding and predation. Some of these methods, such as beehive fences and chili powder barriers, have shown promise in other parts of Tanzania. Additionally, TPP supported the establishment of predator-proof enclosures *(bomas)* and worked to enhance community awareness through targeted training and education programs.

The initial findings from this research highlight the effectiveness of these interventions in reducing conflicts and protecting livelihoods. Moving forward, TPP plans to expand its research efforts to include a deeper analysis of the environmental impacts of these interventions, ensuring they are sustainable in the long term. This includes monitoring the success of these measures and exploring additional strategies, such as establishing designated water points for wildlife to further reduce the likelihood of conflicts. By integrating research with practical solutions, TPP is laying the groundwork for a model of community-led conservation that can be replicated across other regions facing similar challenges. ■

# TPP Showcased at Prestigious Trade Fair



This year, TPP received significant recognition for its impact on sustainable community development. At UDSM's Research and Innovation Week, TPP earned 3rd place in the Best University-Industry Partnership Project category, a reflection of the strong network of local partners working together to improve lives in rural Tanzania. Building on this achievement, TPP was invited to showcase its work at the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, Africa's largest trade event.

Represented by in-country Program Officer Mary Malekala, TPP highlighted key initiatives, including school feeding programs that have improved attendance and nutrition, a mobile clinic that reaches hundreds of rural patients with limited access to health care, and efforts in water resource management that have enhanced rural communities' access to clean water. This recognition underscores the growing impact of TPP's work and its potential to attract partnerships with government agencies, NGOs and private sector stakeholders committed to sustainable development in Tanzania.

*Photo: Mary Malekela, in-country program officer, represents TPP at the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair.*

*SUA participants meet in small groups to workshop their research questions.*



# Building Research Capacity in Tanzania

As an evidence-based development initiative, TPP is committed to actionable research that informs community development and expands the knowledge base of development practice. In collaboration with the Alliance for African Partnerships (AAP), TPP initiated the Strengthening Capacity of Early Career Researchers (ECR) project in 2022 to nurture the environment for knowledge generation and create a pipeline of research collaborators. This initiative focuses on training and mentoring early career academic staff and researchers on various aspects of the research proposal development process as well as post-award preparations and management.

During the review period, the project conducted a series of bimonthly webinars for ECRs to address identified knowledge gaps. The webinars were organized in partnership with AAP and MSU's Global Innovations in Development, Engagement and Scholarships (GIDEAS), and they focused on topics such as grant writing, how to find funding and the technical writing process.

Participating ECRs with shared research interests were grouped together and paired with seasoned researchers to receive targeted support to develop a proposal. The pairings were carefully curated to enhance collaboration across institutions and academic ranks as well as deepen partnerships among Tanzania institutions and with U.S. universities. The seven groups are at various stages of their proposal development and have identified potential funding sources for their submissions. ■



TPP intern Enock Mwendo instructs students at the girls' dormitory in Milola.

# *Internships in* Community Development for Tanzanian Graduates

TPP's Community Development Internship Program offers short-term placement for recent TZ graduates in underserved communities that are struggling to attract teachers. Building on past successes, this year, TPP supported two internship placements in Milola. Enock Mwendo focused on formal English language instruction for students, recognizing that English proficiency is essential for their academic progress. Yosefa Elias Kanyama was recruited to support the poultry project at the Milola girls dormitory, ensuring its continued success and providing valuable support to partner faculty and the community. This year's internship placements exemplify how TPP continues to build local capacity by offering recent Tanzanian graduates meaningful opportunities to apply and build their professional experience in real-world settings, while also helps to build better communities. ■

# *TAG Advances* TPP Initiatives

Through the generous support from The TAG Philanthropic Foundation, TPP is advancing two education-related construction projects, with completion expected next year. The first project involves constructing onsite teacher housing at Engusero Preschool, crucial to stabilizing the teaching staff and enabling the school's expansion to the primary level. The second project focuses on creating a life skills training center at the girls' dormitory in Milola, which will serve both the dorm's residents and local secondary students. These facilities will provide practical skills in leadership, entrepreneurship and financial literacy, while aligning with TPP's research and outreach goals of enhancing educational outcomes and community resilience in rural Tanzania. ■



*Photo: Construction for a life skills training center at the Milola dormitory is in progress.*



Ramadhani Sebu (RUWASA) trains new members of the Naitolia water association.

# *Deepening Collaboration* with Tanzanian Government Agencies

TPP has continued to strengthen its partnership with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), a key national agency established in 2019 to enhance rural water supply and sanitation services across Tanzania. Our collaboration with RUWASA has been pivotal in addressing critical water management issues in both communities including next steps for ongoing improvements to the Naitolia pond. This growing collaboration underscores TPP's strategy of building strong in-country networks, ensuring that our development efforts are not only sustainable but also deeply rooted in local expertise and leadership. ■

# *TPP Team Members* at PMI Africa Conference

This year, Mary Malekela and Erasto Mang'enya, both members of the UDSM-IRA TPP management team, attended the Project Management Institute (PMI) Africa Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference, themed "The Africa We Want: Together We Can," provided an invaluable platform to deepen their skills and knowledge. In international partnerships like TPP, investing in the growth of in-country administrative teams is key to ensuring that our efforts are impactful and sustainable. We are incredibly proud of how Mary and Erasto represented TPP at PMI Africa 2023; their achievements reflect the dedication and excellence that are vital to our mission. ■




*Mary Malekela and Erasto Mang'enya at the PMI Conference in Nairobi.*



*TPP stakeholders visit MSU Kellogg Biological Station to discuss ways to integrate research and educational initiatives.*

# *From East Lansing to Dar es Salaam:* Advancing TPP's Collaborative Mission

Collaboration is at the core of TPP's commitment to sustainable development and academic excellence. This year, TPP hosted two pivotal in-person team meetings to strengthen the collaborative ties between MSU and university partners in Tanzania. In September 2023, key stakeholders from UDSM, UDSM-DUCE and SUA convened at MSU in East Lansing. This meeting provided an important opportunity to share program updates, address challenges collectively and connect with TPP donors. The agenda also featured presentations from MSU students who participated in TPP's education abroad program, highlighting the program's focus on cross-cultural learning.

A special session at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station allowed partner faculty to explore potential research synergies with MSU colleagues and discuss ways to integrate ongoing research with educational initiatives. This session was part of a larger TPP effort to foster innovative, interdisciplinary approaches that respond directly to community needs.

In May 2024, TPP partners reconvened in Dar es Salaam to set priorities for the year ahead, focusing on integrating research with practical development efforts and ensuring effective financial management. The discussions highlighted the importance of partnerships among academic institutions, government agencies, non-profits and communities in achieving long-term, sustainable development outcomes. It also generated useful insights and strategies that will guide TPP's research, education and community development efforts in the coming years.

# Fiscal Activity 2023-2024

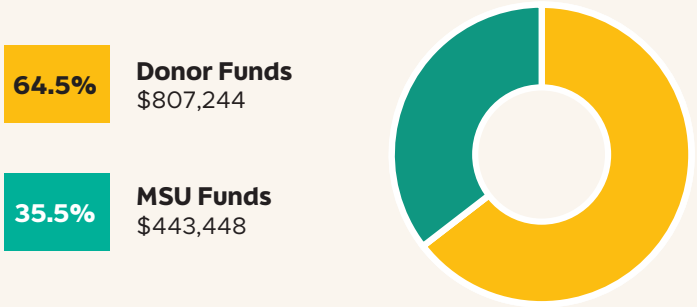
The Tanzania Partnership Program (TPP) thrives through the generous support of individual donors, academic institutions and a coalition of diverse partners who collaborate to advance our mission. Executive leadership is provided by Michigan State University, working alongside global partners and donors to drive sustainable impact in partner communities. We are committed to the responsible management of resources and upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability is a top priority.

Figure 1 provides a breakdown of funds received and expended, underscoring the critical contributions of external donors and Michigan State University. Figure 2 illustrates the allocation of program funds for the fiscal year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, highlighting key areas of impact.

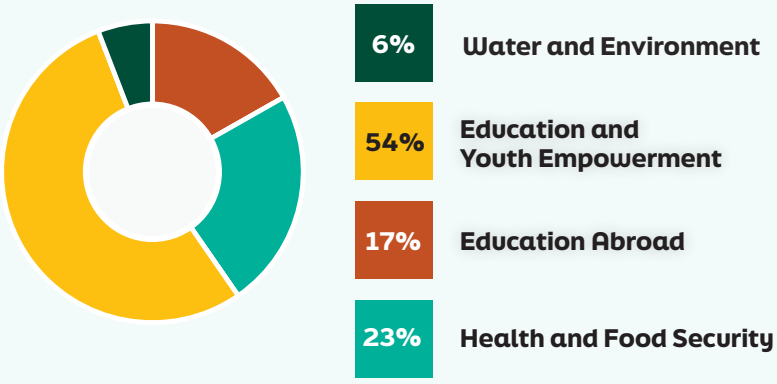
## *Welcoming a new* TPP Finance and Program Officer

In the summer of 2023, MSU welcomed Alan Conceicao as the TPP finance and program officer. He holds a Bachelor of Science in applied workplace management from Northern Michigan University and an Associate of Applied Business in finance from Eastern Gateway Community College. Alan brings a wealth of experience from his previous roles at MSU, the University of Michigan and the non-profit Science Debate Inc. In his role with TPP, Alan oversees financial accounts and provides essential administrative and financial support, including budgeting, reporting and program logistics.

### *Figure 1: Program Budget*




### *Figure 2: How are donations spent in Tanzania?*



# Tanzania
## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Tanzania Partnership Program is made possible through the generous support of our donors—thank you!

To make a gift in support of the program, please contact:

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