

STEP Project Overview

- Title: Sustainable and Resilient Tanzanian Community Program
- The goal of the program was to provide an interdisciplinary education abroad experience by engaging students in community development work in the village of Marwa, Tanzania. We focused on the issue of access to clean, safe water. Difficulty of accessing water heavily impacts daily life in Marwa.
- **2 OSU departments:** The program was a collaboration between the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic Engineering & the School of Environment and Natural Resources
- **5 teams:** Students worked on teams of about 4-10. Our projects focused on education, ethnography, rainwater harvesting, topography, and water testing.



The Education Team conducting a meeting in a schoolroom. Photo by Amanda McCann.

- **1 class during spring semester:** We enrolled in a "Tanzania Seminar" where we learned about the country's history and culture, studied international development theory and practices, developed our team projects, and learned basic Swahili (Tanzania's national language).
- **3 (to 6) weeks in Tanzania:** We traveled to the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania to execute the projects we had planned in class. Four of us stayed for 6 weeks to participate in an internship program in which we continued to work with the community of Marwa. Throughout our time we also got to go on safari and visit neighboring cities.



Safari and hiking photos by Amanda McCann.

- **1 NGO partner:** We worked together with a local NGO, Kilimanjaro Hope Organization (KiHO). KiHO had previously agreed to work with Marwa on solving the problem of water accessibility. They acted as our partners in communicating and working with the village.
- **1 Tanzanian university partner:** We worked with 10 students from the University of Dodoma (UDOM). They joined our project teams and quickly became amazing friends and guides to Tanzanian life.

UDOM students with OSU students and faculty in front of our hotel.



Study Abroad: Sustainable Community Development in Tanzania

Why Did I Choose This Program?

- As an Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability major interested in International development, the Sustainable and Resilient Tanzanian Community program seemed like a perfect fit for me. It let me explore international development in a multidisciplinary setting (engineers, social scientists, environmental scientists) while gaining hands-on project experience in Tanzania.



Playing with kids on our first day visiting Marwa.



Conducting interviews.



The whole Ethnography Team including our UDOM counterparts.



My Experience on the Water Ethnography Team

- **What did we do?**
 - Designed interview questions about water usage, treatment, and values of the people of Marwa
 - Conducted almost 40 interviews with community members
 - Wrote a report on our methodology and findings with the goal of benefiting future groups that work with Marwa
- **What did I gain?**
 - An introduction to ethnographic research
 - A new perspective on research and development work – when working with communities it is vital to communicate with them and document the needs and priorities they identify. Research can be an effective way to accomplish this.
 - Transferable skills – I worked for 6 weeks with a diverse team and had to be flexible under new and changing conditions. I built time management, teamwork, and communication skills.
 - An expanded worldview from traveling to another continent
 - Excitement to continue to explore the field of international development through my studies and new experiences

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Where is Marwa?



Location of Tanzania in Africa. Image from Continental Outdoor.

Location of Marwa in Tanzania. Image from Google Maps.

More Highlights!

First day in Marwa.



Interns in front of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Visiting Tanga on the east coast.



Fabrics outside a tailor's shop in Same Town.