

Zoe Empowers Tanzania Update: December 2025

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Graduated Group Continues Making Progress Together



In a remarkable display of lasting teamwork and entrepreneurship, the Upendo Group has continued to grow a group project past their Zoe graduation of December 2024 to achieve new levels of success. What started as a second-year group project with the purchase of a single pig has grown so that subgroups and individuals are now achieving significant profits by breeding and raising piglets.

The Upendo (Love) Empowerment Group was formed in January 2022 in a rural section of the Arusha region. It was comprised of 25 youths who during their time with Zoe progressed successfully through the program, creating businesses and improving their living standards. Once they graduated, they did not rest on their accomplishments. They decided to continue growing their group piggery project and made a strategic decision to share the piglets among smaller groups of five people each. As the piglets matured and began reproducing, the piglets were shared among the small group members such that each household now keeps an average of four pigs. The project remains sustainable since they sell the piglets born to the group's pigs to purchase food and other supplies essential to the pigs' upkeep.

These pigs are a special breed which produce 10-12 piglets at a time. A three-month-old piglet sells for 150,000 to 250,000 TZS (\$60-\$100 USD) and so the profits have accumulated quickly. Since graduation, collectively and individually, the group has achieved significant milestones using the funds raised from this project. Some examples include:

- 10 funded their siblings' tertiary education
- 6 invested in plots of land
- 8 purchased motorcycles
- 2 paid for vocational training in vehicle mechanics

Additionally, the majority of youth have used funds to expand their business ventures and many have diversified into keeping other types of livestock, such as chicken and goats, thus strengthening their economic resilience and food security.

This simple project, begun with one pig, has multiplied to serve all the members. At the same time, it has served as a unifying bond beyond graduation, enhanced collective responsibility, and taught valuable skills of teamwork, communication, and problem-solving which will benefit these young people throughout their lives.

General Update

The situation in Tanzania has calmed down since November and movement around the communities is better. Fortunately, because Zoe Empowers encourages independence and self-sufficiency along with peer group support, the program has been able to continue functioning even when large group gatherings are not possible (this was also the situation during Covid).

Usually, youth would be recruited and new groups formed in Tanzania in January, but because of inability to do the pre-recruitment community meetings, this could not happen. However, we do plan to have the regular July recruitment and we have a September Vision Trip planned for partners who would like to meet their groups.

Community Service

Youth from the Fighters Empowerment Group (formed in January 2024) joined forces and worked on the village road. It had become uneven and was full of large ditches that collected water during the rainy seasons and made it difficult for vehicles to pass. They leveled the road by adding soil and stones.



Special Mental Health Training

The Zoe Empowers Tanzania staff participated in a training session focused on strengthening mental wellness, led by a clinical psychologist. The aim was to enhance well-being and equip staff with the skills necessary for effective service delivery. By maintaining a healthy work environment they can protect themselves and better care for the youth in the program.



Working together to address a critical housing need



Members from Penuel Empowerment Group (formed in July 2024) collected funds and joined forces to construct a new home for one of their groupmates, Cecilia, whose original soil-built house was about to collapse. This heartwarming display of community spirit and collaboration highlights the power of unity and collective effort. Above and to the right is Cecilia working on her new home. Below, she shows her old, unsafe house.

