Savannas Forever Tanzania – Whole Village Project

A Systems Approach to Improving Health, Livelihoods, Food Security, and Natural Resource Status in Rural Tanzania

Description

The Whole Village Project (WVP) is a collaboration between the University of Minnesota and a Tanzanian NGO, Savannas Forever (SFTZ). The WVP has worked with USAID, SNV, faith-based and government hospitals, NGOs, and district/village governments to develop a quantitative interdisciplinary baseline in 56 villages across Tanzania. Integrated household data on food security, nutrition, wildlife conflicts, livestock health, HIV/AIDS, agriculture and socioeconomics are presented to village stakeholders to support evidence-based village planning.

Purpose

We consider the "whole village" to be the unit of successful poverty alleviation, taking advantage of synergies between health, agriculture, energy, water, conservation and civil society projects and innovations. WVP research findings provide a platform to convene villagers, donors, NGOs, hospitals and other institutions to better understand linkages between different aspects of village life. Survey findings are used to design targeted communication trainings in which multiple partners participate in grass roots planning and training sessions. These discussions allow rural communities to prioritize and improve existing development programs or begin new ones. Return visits will enable quantitative measurement of the impacts of development projects at the household/village level.

Scope

Tanzania. Future work will include Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

Primary Funders

USAID, SNV, Partners for Development, Canadian FoodGrains Bank, African Wildlife Foundation, Friedkin Conservation Fund, Univ. of Minnesota.

Participants & Key Collaborators

Tanzanian National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzanian Wildlife Research Institute, district and community HIV/AIDS officers and hospitals in 13 districts, including Arusha Lutheran Medical Center mobile clinic staff, village leaders and councils in 56 villages.

Definition of One Health

The effects of climate change, wildlife conflicts, pastoralism and local ecology on livestock health and human well-being (childhood diseases, family nutrition and economic development).

Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

We collect interdisciplinary evidence that can be used to design, implement, monitor and evaluate development projects. We conduct rigorous data quality assessments and field team productivity measures.

Sources of Information

www.wholevillage.umn.edu/

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