

Regenerative agriculture for rural livelihoods

Results summary

Over a 24-month programme, Hand in Hand, in partnership with Boeing, trained 1,600 people (76% women) in business skills and soil improvement, boosting yields and incomes. This led to the creation or enhancement of 1,149 enterprises and the generation of 1,628 jobs in one of Tanzania's most disadvantaged rural regions.



106%

income uplift



92%

of businesses still operational at the end of Hand in Hand's project



56%

of women have the power to make decisions about the things that affect their lives



53%

of project members are financially resilient

Problem

Seventy percent of Tanzanians live in poverty, surviving on less than \$2 a day. Even more concerning, 1 in 7 face extreme poverty, subsisting on less than \$1.25 a day. In the Kilimanjaro region, a location survey found that only 7% of its residents had some kind of formal employment and only 5% had formal employment as their main source of income.

Over 80% of Tanzanians turn to agriculture due to a lack of other options. A 2015 Hand in Hand survey revealed that most respondents relied on selling crops from their farms as their primary income source. Consequently, many are vulnerable to food insecurity and economic shocks.

Drastic climate changes have caused droughts and disrupted crop planting cycles. These dry spells have also deteriorated soil quality, making it more difficult for Tanzanian farmers to achieve good yields.

Objectives

Following our well-proven model, Hand in Hand aimed to train 1,643 participants, supporting the creation of 1,150 small businesses set up and run by project participants, and creating 1,632 jobs in these businesses. We aimed to boost:

- incomes
- sustainability: enterprise survival rates
- financial resilience: participants with the capacity to deal with a financial shock without borrowing money or selling assets
- women's bargaining power: Women participating equally in household decision-making

Our solution

The project aimed to train hundreds of women and men in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania to launch their own small businesses. This contributed to long-term impacts across three related areas: women with money from business and influence at home, financially strong families, and improved quality of life for an estimated 3,024 women, men, and children. Overall, 70% of participants adopted regenerative agriculture practices.

The "Regenerative Agriculture for Rural Livelihoods" project addressed a lack of stable, profitable income-generating opportunities for rural communities, specifically for women. The project focused on supporting women to grow farming-based enterprises that incorporated improving soils and boosting yields and incomes.

By offering tailored training and skill development, the project intended to give participants the tools to start and manage their own businesses. This was achieved through Hand in Hand's four-stage training model with an additional 5th stage for regenerative agriculture training:

- **self-help group mobilization:** participants learned together and supported each other throughout the project
- **business training:** participants grew the skills and knowledge to start and run a business
- **credit access:** offered support to access credit, so participants could grow their farm businesses
- **market linkages:** connected participants with large markets, allowing them to source cheaper suppliers and gain more customers
- **regenerative agriculture training:** taught planet-friendly farming techniques to restore soils and boost incomes

The project's approach was based on the belief that skill development and empowerment could create a positive impact on the lives of the beneficiaries and the broader community. By promoting self-sufficiency and economic independence, the project aimed to create a lasting impact that went beyond its duration.

Results



Income

- The overall average monthly net enterprise income is 178,296 TZS (\$212 PPP). This is an increase of 106% since the baseline when the average monthly net enterprise income was 86,509 TZS (\$103).
 - The average monthly net enterprise income for women is 139,407 TZS (\$166 PPP). This is an increase of 105% since the baseline when the average monthly net enterprise income was 67,990 TZS (\$81 PPP).
 - The average monthly net enterprise income for men is 305,803 TZS (\$364 PPP). This is an increase of 76% since baseline when the average monthly net enterprise income was 179,102 TZS (\$213 PPP).
- 56% of participants have daily net enterprise income above \$2.15 PPP, including 51% of women and 72% of men.
 - This is an increase of 26 percentage points since baseline overall, when 30% of members had daily net enterprise income above \$2.15 PPP.
- Additionally, 43% have a daily net income above \$3.65 PPP, including 37% of women and 64% of men.
 - This is an increase of 23 percentage points since baseline overall, when 20% of members had daily net enterprise income above \$3.65 PPP.



Enterprise survival rate

- 92% of businesses are still operational at the end of Hand in Hand's project.



Women's decision making

- 56% of women are able to make decisions about the things that affect their lives, such as healthcare, visiting friends and family, and household purchases, up from 40% at baseline.



Financial resilience

- 53% of participants said they could raise emergency funds within 30 days without borrowing money or selling assets, including 52% of women and 58% of men.
- This is 32 percentage points higher than the baseline, where 21% of participants reported being financially resilient.

For more information

Or to talk to our monitoring, evaluation and learning team in more detail about our impact and evidence, please contact admin@handinhandinternational.org or call us on +44 (0)20 7514 5091.

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