



Impact Story

Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth through Women-Centered Initiatives in Tanzania

Country: Tanzania

Program: Volunteer Cooperation Program 2020-2028

Partner: Pastoral Livelihood Support and Empowerment Program (PALISEP)

Date: September 28, 2023

Key Themes: Agribusiness, Community Economic Development, Environment and Climate Action, Gender Equality, Inclusion, Women's Economic Empowerment

Context



Map of Tanzania. The pin indicates the location of the Ngorongoro district in Arusha.

Since 2020, Catalyste+ has focused on promoting gender equality and reinforcing partners' capacity to develop gender-sensitive initiatives through the Accelerating Women's Empowerment (AWE) project. Working in 21 countries, Catalyste+ aims to improve the economic and social well-being of women and girls living in particularly vulnerable circumstances. One example of these efforts is our partnership with the **Pastoral Livelihood Support and Empowerment Program (PALISEP)**, a Tanzanian non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to the development of pastoralist communities in the Ngorongoro district, with a focus on advancing women's and girls' rights and financial independence. Catalyste+ has provided PALISEP with technical and financial support, which the organization has used to build its staff's skills in proposal writing and to support beekeeping and leather goods production initiatives targeted at Maasai women, including those living with disabilities.

PALISEP is an NGO that provides assistance and services to pastoralist communities living in the Ngorongoro district, located in the northern region of Tanzania. The organization works with the Maasai pastoralist communities, historically nomadic and centered on cattle as their main source of income and means to meet basic needs. This reliance on livestock has made Ngorongoro's indigenous communities particularly vulnerable to food and water insecurity, inspiring PALISEP to focus many of their projects on environmental conservation, agribusiness, and livestock management.

Having grown up in the communities the organization works with, Robert Kamakia, the Director of PALISEP, seeks to use the formal education he received to promote women's empowerment and develop local socioeconomic initiatives for the Maasai: "We put women at the heart of everything we do. There is no single project that doesn't involve women." The organization's efforts are dedicated to empowering women to use their voices and participate in their communities' economic and political decisions, knowing that their engagement helps the communities flourish. PALISEP's programs thus support the creation of income-generating activities for women and address issues related to rural poverty, governance, and environmental sustainability.

Partnership with Catalyste+

As a not-for-profit organization, PALISEP relies on external funding and donations to “provide a space for effective community participation and empower communities”. In 2021, they requested technical support from Catalyste+ to further develop their proposal writing knowledge and skills, and by extension, increase their ability to secure funding for projects in pastoralist communities.

To achieve this, Catalyste+ Advisor (CA), Ellen Passmore, supported PALISEP in improving their team’s ability to analyze calls for proposals and identify donors’ priority areas. These areas align with PALISEP’s focus on reducing poverty while advancing gender equality, environmental sustainability, inclusion, and livelihood development within Maasai communities. The four employees involved in the assignment (including two women) learned to identify specific needs, define clear goals and objectives, and outline expected outcomes for their projects using Results-Based Management (RBM) tools like the Logic Model.

Using a funding proposal to the Embassy of Finland as an example, they acquired real-time, practical knowledge of monitoring and evaluation tools used to track the project’s evolution, and introduced new elements into their proposal writing process, such as preparing preliminary budgets and setting targets that reflect their projects’ value for money. The overall collaboration also led to the development of a concept paper describing PALISEP and their priorities for future programming. This document serves as a critical first-step for international funders to determine whether the organization fits their key criteria and, as a result, is awarded funding.

CA Ian Crawford also provided support to PALISEP in reviewing and refining the content of a draft proposal for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This collaboration contributed to the successful selection of PALISEP for the project, and they received 75 million TSh (about CAD \$40,400). With the funds, PALISEP built two water wells in the savannah, one dedicated to livestock and the other for human use, with the objectives of improving gender equality and supporting environmental conservation efforts in the targeted communities.

Before the wells were built, the women from surrounding villages used to walk about ten kilometers through the forest to fetch clean water from the river. Farmers also relied on this water source for their livestock, leading to the frequent passage of cattle through the forest and damaging the local flora and fauna. Thanks to the new wells, more than 20,000 villagers and 30,000 livestock can now access clean water within their district. Women spend less time fetching water and can therefore dedicate more time to other income-generating activities, such as honey production and the sale of agricultural products. The farmers’ sheep and cattle are also able to access water more easily, while the forest’s vegetation and

Results-based management (RBM) is a management framework focusing on the optimization of an institution’s performance. Using specific indicators, RBM seeks to involve all actors working for the organization in the attainment of specific goals (measured in outputs, outcomes, or impact). This approach entails the use of information and data to guide decision-making.

The **Logic Model** is a visual tool used to define the causal relationships driving the attainment of a desired outcome. It provides a roadmap to the realization of an institution’s goals and helps outline the steps required to achieve them.

wildlife can flourish peacefully. Robert and the PALISEP team are thrilled to see the positive results and affirm that the program has been a source of pride for them.



A group of Maasai women and men celebrating the inauguration of the water wells

As part of another assignment, Catalyste+ provided support to PALISEP for the submission of a proposal to the government of Ireland. This proposal addressed issues of food insecurity caused by the severe droughts that pastoralist communities have been facing over the past few years, the last of which led to the deaths of about 39,000 livestock in the district of Arusha. As a result of this work, PALISEP started negotiations with the donor to receive 915,000€ (about CAD \$1,327,700) for a three-year project consisting of two components: the implementation of sensitization campaigns and a radio early warning system to help communities navigate drought cycles, and the development of a horticulture value chain in the region. The former project was designed to help the communities better manage their herds by encouraging farmers to sell their cattle when a severe drought warning is issued, and purchase them again when the rain returns, using the surplus money from the previous sale. This, in turn, is expected to allow farmers to minimize their losses and provide them with improved financial stability.

In addition, the development of the horticulture value chain was created as a way to encourage women to participate in the production and sale of fruits and vegetables to the nearest towns and eventually export their products to other countries, with the support of PALISEP and their donors. The value chain was envisioned to provide women with the opportunity to engage in more income-generating activities, empowering them economically and advancing gender equality within their communities. According to Robert, the proposal, which took about a month to write, is “one of the best proposals [they] ever wrote in PALISEP.” Beyond this specific project, Robert is confident that the skills and considerable knowledge they learned about food security, drought cycle management, and mitigation strategies during the Catalyste+ assignment will be very useful in PALISEP’s future projects.

The AWE Innovation Micro-Fund (AIMF)

The **AWE Innovation Micro-Fund (AIMF)** aims to financially support Catalyste+'s most vulnerable partners by funding the acquisition of supplies or equipment necessary to grow their organizations. The fund is dedicated to partners who have benefited or are in the process of benefitting from technical assistance with one of our Advisors, so that they can better apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills, or implement assignment recommendations.

In addition to capacity building, Catalyste+ provided financial support to PALISEP through the AIMF to strengthen two projects aimed at improving women's engagement in economic activities and inclusion in their communities. The organization received CAD \$5,030 for two applications to finance the purchase of modern beehives, beekeeping equipment - such as protective gear - and a honey-processing machine as part of a beekeeping project benefiting five women's groups of 40 to 50 members each. This project, which required little capital, little labor and only small areas of land from PALISEP, provided stable incomes for women while benefiting the surrounding forest's ecosystem thanks to the bees' pollinating activities.

The modern beehives were an astounding success for the women's groups: while traditional beehives only produced four to five kilograms of honey per harvest, the new, modern ones yielded up to 16 kg of honey each, representing a 70% increase in production. Over the course of three months between March and May of 2022, for example, the women's groups harvested 600 kg of honey and sold 300 kg of them for a total of CAD \$4,000, providing a 50% increase in revenues compared to similar periods in previous years of production using traditional beehives.

The funding also allowed PALISEP to purchase beekeeping equipment to facilitate the harvesting, extraction, and packaging of honey, including a machine used to extract clean honey and transfer it into glass containers of different sizes. These improvements in productivity and quality led to considerable increases in production for the Oloiren and Wasso women's groups, as the machines were able to process and filter 200 kg of honey per day, compared to 40 kg daily without the machine. The PALISEP team also helped the women's groups develop their brands, Lucinia Batemi Honey and Sidai Masai, and add labels to the containers, which ultimately led customers - tourists, townspeople, and firms working in hospitality within and outside Tanzania - to welcome the new products, which are now more attractive and pleasing to the eye.

As a result of increased production and quality, the women were also able to sell 1,000 kg of honey, totaling 10 million TSh (about CAD \$5,400). In Robert's words, "honey production and beekeeping brought about an income revolution for women." With this additional income, the 380 women beneficiaries invested in new beehives to further increase their production and were able to provide for their families, send their children to school, and buy school supplies for them.

More importantly, the project contributed to changes in gender dynamics among pastoralist communities and to environmental preservation efforts in the region. The project's success helped women's husbands and other men in the community understand the value of women's economic empowerment. Those who were initially reluctant or opposed their wives' participation in the project now

accept and even encourage it, having experienced its benefits themselves. Earning an income and providing for their households allowed women to gain recognition from the community and become more involved in economic and political decision-making. Moreover, the beekeeping initiative limited the impact of deforestation in the district, as women and children stopped going into the forest to cut down trees and search for firewood to sell for extra money. By pollinating their surroundings, the bees living in the beehives also contribute to the forest's well-being.



Member of a Maasai women's group selling jars of Lucinia Batemi Honey

Thanks to a third AIMF request, PALISEP also received CAD \$2,800 to support the development of a hide and skin value chain for other women's groups and people with disabilities. The organization purchased three heavy-duty sewing machines to produce leather products such as shoes and belts, replacing old machines that were hindering production and limiting the amount of money women could take home. This investment proved to be a great success, as it allowed beneficiaries to meet the increased demand for leather goods from big national buyers and tourists. By increasing the volume of production and cutting the time needed to sew each product in half, these additional and more efficient machines led to an increase in sales from 17% pre-pandemic to 50% mid-COVID-19.

As part of the project, PALISEP also provided training for the use of the new machines, leading to improvements in the quality of leather goods and the production of new designs that attract new tourists and local customers. These changes contributed to increasing the groups' revenues by 25%, purchasing raw materials, and splitting weekly profits among women (about 10,000 TSh in profits, or CAD \$5.38). They also allowed women with physical disabilities, who participated in the project by performing administrative tasks, to enjoy a stable stream of revenues. Overall, the success of the project brought great happiness to the beneficiaries and more than doubled its number of participants, from 50 women in 2021 to 105 in 2023. Robert is especially proud of the project, affirming that "PALISEP can [now] see the women smiling [and] wearing clean clothing."

Conclusion



Leather goods group's participants with the new heavy-duty sewing machines funded by Catalyste+

At Catalyste+, our core purpose is to bolster our partner's capacity in developing and implementing projects that safeguard the environment while also actively advancing the rights, inclusion, and economic empowerment of indigenous women. This unwavering commitment drives our mission forward. We are proud of the work accomplished with PALISEP. The changes achieved through the construction of water wells, the design of a project to mitigate food insecurity, and the strengthening of beekeeping and leather-related activities for women not only demonstrate PALISEP's dedication toward supporting Ngorongoro's pastoralist communities in coping with the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and the harmful effects of climate change but also Catalyste+'s goals of improving the economic well-being of our beneficiaries. In the coming months, PALISEP hopes to continue advancing Maasai women's empowerment by pursuing its ambition to support their candidacy in Tanzania's local and national elections that are planned for 2024 and 2025. Robert is

certain that "the moment we have women in decision-making bodies, [they] can speak for women's rights, economic empowerment, [and participation] in government."



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