

## Tanzania Questionnaire Results: Analyzing Beneficiaries' Needs

A staggering seventy percent of Tanzania's population currently lives on less than \$2 a day ("Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment"). The youth populations in both rural and urban areas are particularly susceptible to the dire effects of poverty. Lack of access to social services coupled with inadequate employment and education opportunities significantly increases the likelihood of perpetuating the cycle of poverty. The necessity of providing assistance to Tanzania's youth becomes increasingly apparent when it is revealed that half of the country's population is under the age of 25 (Banks 441). In an effort to alleviate the often desperate conditions of Tanzania's youth and ending the cycle of poverty Tanzania's youth population are subjected to, Embrace Relief has partnered with the Dogodogo Training Center to combat poverty on a fundamental level.

Established in 1992, the Dogodogo Center in Dar es Salaam has profoundly altered the life trajectories of youth participants in their training program. The word "dogodogo" translates to "young ones" in Swahili. As such, the Center's focus is on eliminating economic hardships plaguing the youth of Tanzania, and, ultimately, freeing program participants from the bondage of poverty. With a focus on transforming Tanzania's neglected children into economically self-sufficient adults, the Dogodogo Center provides children with their basic needs including housing, shelter, and food, as well as preparing them to contribute to the formal economy through vocational training programs. In order to equip youth with the necessary skills to achieve financial self-sufficiency, the Center collaborates with Embrace Relief to ensure that program participants will leave the Center fully capable of joining the job market. For nearly 30 years, the Dogodogo Training Center have provided over 1,350 youth with vocational training including carpentry, welding, and tailoring, among other trades. The Center's success in transforming neglected children with no prospects for the future into economically empowered contributing members of society is well founded.

An integral part of the success of Embrace Relief's collaboration with the Dogodogo Center is the focus on obtaining input from beneficiaries in order to continuously strengthen and improve our efforts. At Embrace Relief, we believe that closely engaging with beneficiaries is essential for creating optimal programs that will ultimately uplift and benefit individuals and communities. For instance, Embrace Relief conducts qualitative research with participants in the Dogodogo Training Center in an effort to ensure that organizational participation in the center is adequate in addressing beneficiaries' needs. In accordance with this, qualitative research in the form of questionnaires was conducted with beneficiaries at the training center. Data collected from participants proved to confirm the necessity of Embrace Relief and the Dogodogo Center's efforts in Tanzania.



Based on 42 questionnaire respondents, feedback from students further highlighted the necessity of a vocational training program for Tanzania’s youth. For instance, all students surveyed expressed awareness of the employment opportunities available to them in their chosen fields after completing training. In addition to that, all 42 participants conveyed a sense of eagerness and willingness to attend training sessions. More than half of students detailed their significant efforts to commute to the training center through various means of transportation including walking up to 10 kilometers in extreme heat in order to attend their training. In fact, the vast majority of questionnaire respondents affirmed their determination to finish their training and seek employment opportunities.

Considering the confirmation of need expressed by respondents in addition to students’ eagerness to undergo training, Embrace Relief’s partnerships with the Dogodogo Center has proven to be both necessary and valuable.

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Banks, Nicola. "Youth Poverty, Employment and Livelihoods: Social and Economic Implications of Living with Insecurity in Arusha, Tanzania." *Environment and Urbanization*, vol. 28, no. 2, 2016, pp. 437–454., doi:10.1177/0956247816651201.

"Tanzania Mainland Poverty Assessment: A New Picture of Growth for Tanzania Emerges." World Bank, [www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/publication/tanzania-mainland-poverty-assessment-a-new-picture-of-growth-for-tanzania-emerges](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/publication/tanzania-mainland-poverty-assessment-a-new-picture-of-growth-for-tanzania-emerges).

