



Empowering Village Women



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📍 Tanzania - Arusha

Maasai Tribe communities are traditionally patriarchal, but now these amazing women are making their own way, which allows them to have their own say!

This program provides insight into the unique culture of the Maasai Tribe and the impact that is felt when the education of girls is not prioritized. The primary focus is on the development of basic skills and financial literacy of the local women, who are learning how they can earn funds to support themselves and educate their children.



Program Description

Maasai society have their own lifestyle which differs from other societies in Tanzania. They have their dressing styles, decorations and way of living. They wear the rectangular fabric popularly known as Shuka in Swahili language and which come in different colors. The majority of Maasai women throughout the many Maasai communities live a life of poverty and cultural oppression. Men are the heads of the households and the village. They have control of almost every aspect of life and hold almost all the leadership roles.

Moreover, Maasai women's main source of income is through selling traditional beaded jewelry. However, due to their vulnerability in lack of education, women do not have a systematic way of financially protecting their own economic interests. In this regard, here is where you can support the Maasai women through a mutually beneficial exchange of information in making informed financial decisions.

In its essence, most of the women from Maasai tribes devote their time to milking, taking care of calves, and domestic work. This kind of labor is currently the priority allowed for women as there is less emphasis on education and community engagement which might allow women to have more options for sustainable development in the future.

The majority of the women in the village do not speak English, as such, you will be supervised on the ground by a locally trained coordinator to ensure there is a smooth communication between the women and yourself. The main goal is to facilitate Maasai women with a view to prepare their future that will guide them to have fruitful life into their old age.

Due to the remote location of this program and limited local transportation, you may be required to stay the first night in Monduli. Additionally, placement is in a Maasai village in Arusha, but to increase immersion you may get spread across various villages.

Program Duration & Availability

Min duration (weeks): 1

Aims & Objectives

- To help Maasai women to have income generating activities in order to cover costs for common service for their kids like pens, exercise books food and security.
- To assist the women to contribute to community development through their active participation.
- Strengthening the group and initiating subgroup projects to find and provide solutions to the challenges faced by the women.
- To mobilize and encourage women to enroll their kids (boys and girls) to schools and prevent early marriage.
- To facilitate workshops on Saving, loans and financial literacy for the group.

Schedule

Monday to Friday

- Breakfast
- Meet the Women of the group and provide insight into healthy measures to cater for their children and themselves
- Discuss sustainable projects with the Maasai women to be financially independent
- Lunch
- Discuss the importance of education with the Maasai women
- Engage with the women in different ways of mobilising their own resources (Table Banking and Saving Strategies)
- Dinner

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Please keep in mind that in the village things are done on an as-needed basis. This is just an example of what your week might look like during your homestay, but activities may change depending on weather, community needs, ceremonies or other circumstances. Your flexibility and ability to adapt to changes in your new surroundings well will be of great benefit during this amazing experience.

Starting Dates

During 2019

This program starts every week.

During 2020

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Minimum age:	-
Maximum age:	-
Minimum English level:	Basic
CRB required:	On Signup
Passport copy required:	No
Resume copy required:	No
Required qualification:	None

Additional Requirements

There are no further requirements for this program.

Additional Equipment

- Modest clothing i.e. covering the knees and shoulders
- There is little or no electricity so flashlight, batteries, solar charger and a sleeping bag may be needed
- Sturdy shoes for the long walks you will take part in
- The village sometimes gets cold in the evening, so make sure to pack some warm clothes
- Mosquito and insect repellent is highly recommended
- Alcohol based hand sanitisers, as there is limited access to water within the village