



# New Vision School Arusha, Tanzania

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## Location: Arusha, Tanzania

- Tanzania is a breathtaking country located in East Africa.
- Arusha is a city in the northeast part of the country.
- The population of Tanzania is over 48 million with approximately 120 tribal groups.
- The main languages spoken are Kiswahili and English. The currency is the Tanzanian Shilling (TSh).
- The majority of the population are Islamic or Christian.

## Tanzanian Education Facts

- According to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), 75.5% of males and 60.8% of females 15 years of age and older can read and write Swahili, English, or Arabic.
- According to The World Bank, 94% of children in primary level education are enrolled in school.

## Tanzanian Social Work Needs

According to the CIA:

- 1.4 million individuals in Tanzania are living with HIV/AIDS which is the cause for 86,000 deaths per year.
- 16.7% of children in Tanzania under 5 years old are underweight.

## Project Information and Outcomes

My special studies was completed through Volunteer HQ. I stayed with a host family and volunteered at a school called New Vision. Over the two weeks that I spent in Tanzania, I had the opportunity to work with two teachers. The school had approximately 20 students in two classrooms (ages 4-5 years old and ages 6-7 years with one 12 year old student).

I researched the role of social work including the strengths and the needs in Tanzania. I communicated with an individual that worked at the Tanzanian Association of Social Workers Association, as well as, a professor from the University of Maine that hopes to assist in starting a School of Social Work in Moshi, Tanzania.

### While volunteering at the school I was able to:

- Assist the children and teachers in improving their spoken and written English by using photography, drawings, and flash cards
- Provide one-on-one tutoring to students that needed extra assistance
- Plan activities for the children during recess and in the classroom
- Engage in the teachers' and students' questions about the United States

## Skills Developed

- Communicating in creative ways with adults and children that speak little or no English
- Learning and utilizing teaching methods
- Kiswahili language acquisition and increased understanding of cultural beliefs and expectations



## Lessons Learned

- Expectations at the beginning of a placement are different from the actual experience. Flexibility is critical and allows for growth to occur.
- Engaging in open communication provides new perspectives and brings an increased awareness to an individual's privilege and power.

## Advice

- Learn common phrases and words in the local language prior to leaving the U.S.
- Be curious and ready to ask questions

## Acknowledgments

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## Connections

### Classroom:

- SW696: Social Work Practice with Children and Youth
  - I applied a strengths-based approach to my interactions with the children and understood the role that their families and community have played in their lives.
- SW605: Infant and Child Development and Behavior
  - By understanding the developmental stages of the children, I was able to engage at their level.

### Career:

- This experience will help me to work in new settings where resources are limited. The ability to work with individuals and groups is also invaluable.



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