

Women's Microfinance Initiative



**2015 Tanzania Loan Program Fact Book
Karatu District**

2015 WMI TANZANIA FACTBOOK

Karatu District

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I. INTRODUCTION

WMI Background, Methodology, and Location

A. Background

WMI is a U.S. based non-profit organization that provides loans of up to \$250 to women in rural East Africa to help them start and expand small businesses. The loan programs are administered by village level organizations. Loans are issued to small groups of 20 borrowers, all of whom guarantee each other's repayment. WMI also provides borrowers with training in financial literacy, business management, record-keeping, and financial planning to ensure that borrowers have the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. After 24 months in the WMI loan program, borrowers graduate to financial independence. Women use their business profits to pay school fees, buy more food for their families, improve their homes, pay for health care, and expand their businesses.

B. Methodology

WMI partners with Ngorongoro Community Network, a US non-profit, and local community based organizations (CBOs) to operate each Tanzanian village loan hub. The CBOs supervise local data collection utilizing borrower surveys that are completed every six months, starting with a baseline survey when borrowers enter the loan program. The data is compiled and analyzed annually in the U.S. The data presented in this fact book was collected from July 2014 through April 2015. Data was collected from 51 borrowers in the loan program. The fact book was prepared by NCN intern, Siena Romano.

C. Location

WMI serves communities within the Karatu District of north central Tanzania, which is located outside the Ngorongoro Crater. Families living in Tloma, Gongali, and Buger villages mainly belong to the Iraqw tribe and have adopted Tanzania's national language, Kiswahili. These villages surround the town of Karatu where there is an active economy, not only providing the women in WMI's program access to the market, but also exposure to business practices. Most families in the Karatu District rely on raising livestock and subsistence agriculture, growing crops such as maize and beans.

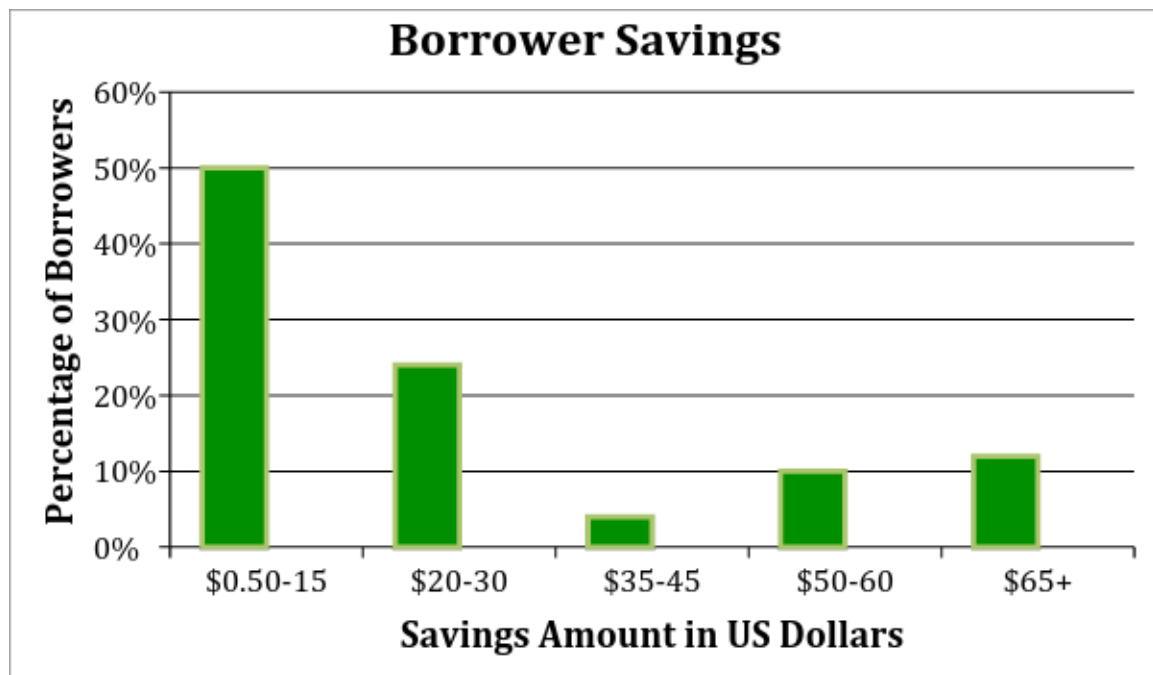


II. BORROWER DEMOGRAPHICS

A comprehensive understanding of the women from the Karatu District in the WMI loan program was obtained using the 51 surveys collected throughout the past year. The loan amounts range from 200,000 to 300,000 Tanzanian shillings, which is equivalent to roughly \$95 to \$150. The ages of the women in the loan program range from 26 to 56. A large majority of the women in the WMI program are married, only three are widowed and three are single. Furthermore, all but one of the borrower's families own land.

III. SAVINGS

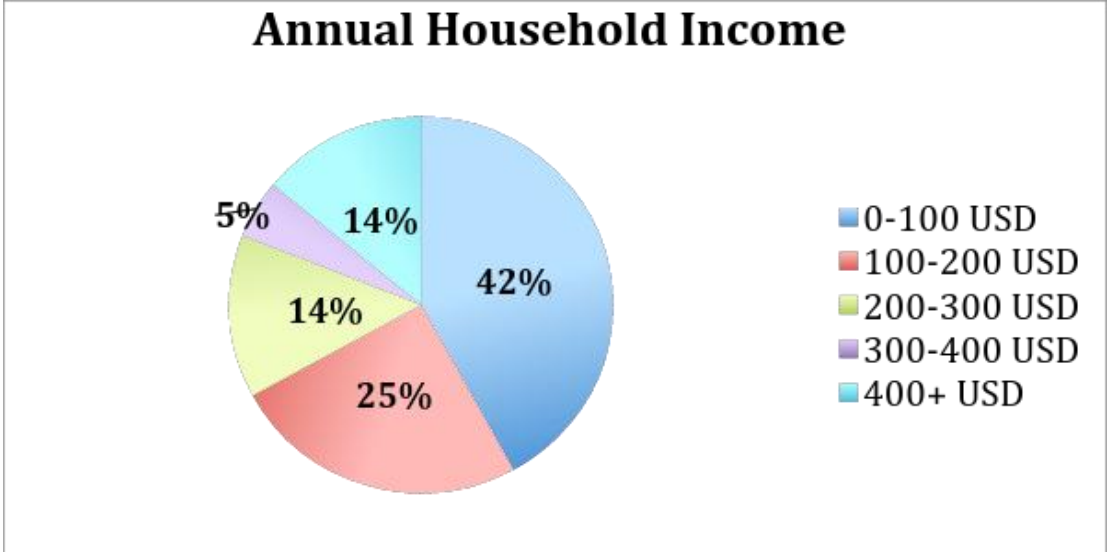
Almost all of the WMI borrowers reported that they had their own savings. Roughly half of borrowers save up to \$15 per month, while an astonishing 20 percent save \$50 or more each month.



IV. HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

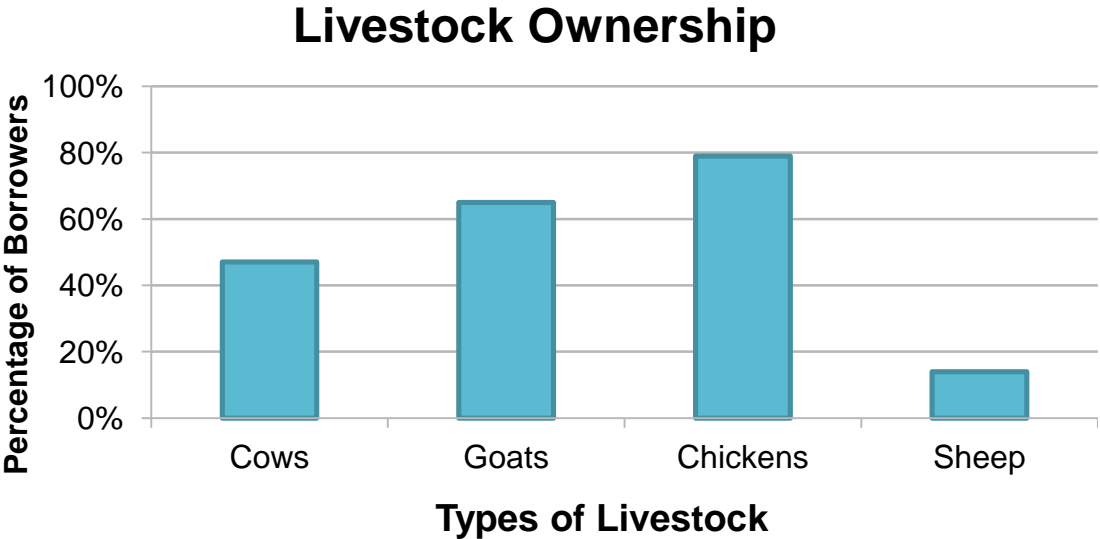
	Average	Mode
Number of Residents	8	7
Number of Children	4	4

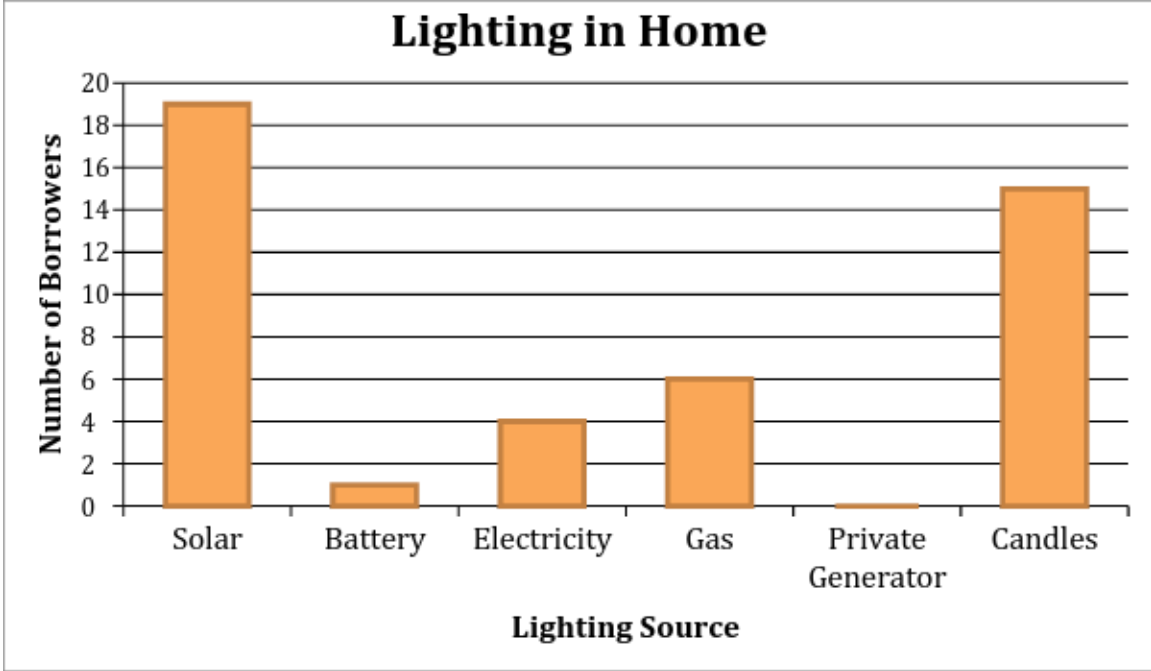
Borrowers reported an average of \$194 as their household's combined annual income, which correlates with an average of 53 cents/day. Furthermore, as indicated by the data below, this average is skewed by the disparity between incomes among the borrowers. The majority of borrowers live on \$152/ year.



As many families in the Karatu district raise livestock for both personal consumption and sale, all of the borrowers keep at least one type of animal listed in the survey. Cows and chickens are primarily used for milk and eggs while goats and sheep are raised for sale. Livestock is rarely butchered for family-consumption. Families reported having the highest number of goats and chickens compared to their other livestock.

Furthermore, as show in the second chart below, 40 percent of women who answered the survey question regarding household lighting use solar products to light their homes. This significantly improves household health as traditional open fires, kerosene lanterns and candles can cause respiratory problems; they are degrade the environment.





V. TOP EXPENDITURES

When borrowers were asked to rank their top household expenditures, food was number one, followed by business expansion and school fees. The table below depicts the rankings of the eight most frequently cited household expenditures.

Household Expenditures in order of Importance

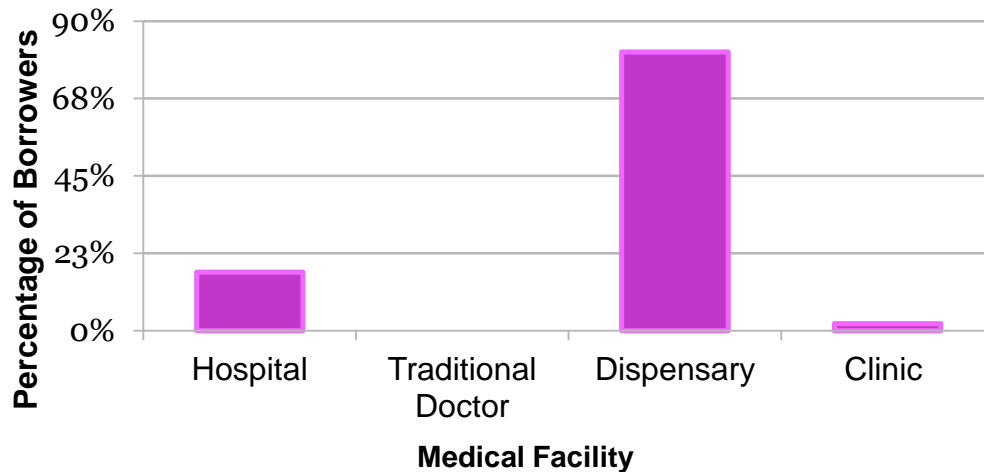
1. Food	5. Home Improvement
2. Business Expansion	6. Debt
3. School Fees	7. Helping Family Members
4. Healthcare	8. Transportation

VI. HEALTH

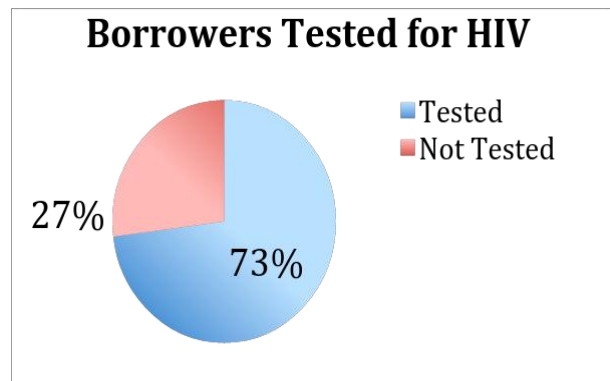
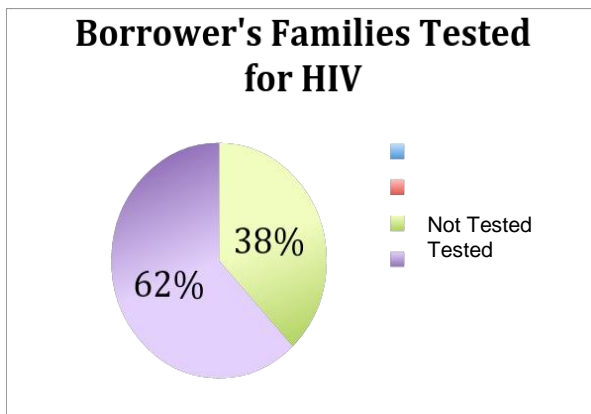
According to the surveys, all of the borrowers reportedly eat three meals a day, the most common food consumed is ugali - a mixture of maize flour and water made into a dough-like consistency. Additionally, all except two of the borrowers who completed the survey indicated that their source of water was a tap from a pipe.

The medical treatment chart below shows the frequency of use of various medical facilities. Most women primarily seek medical care at dispensaries, which are similar to small clinics.

Medical Treatment Locations



Most of the borrowers said they found it either “not difficult” or “somewhat difficult” to pay for medical expenses. However, there were a few outliers that found paying for medical care to be “difficult.” While the vast majority of the borrowers expressed that there were no major health issues in their family, conditions listed included: kidney problems, malaria, and HIV. In 2014, unaids.org estimated that the prevalence rate of HIV in Tanzanian adults aged 15 to 49 is 5.3 percent. There are currently 1,400,000 women aged 15 and up living with HIV in Tanzania¹



¹ Citation: Naamara, Warren. "United Republic of Tanzania HIV and AIDS Estimates (2014)." *Unaids.org*. N.p., 2014. Web. 23 July 2015. This is why HIV testing is so important.