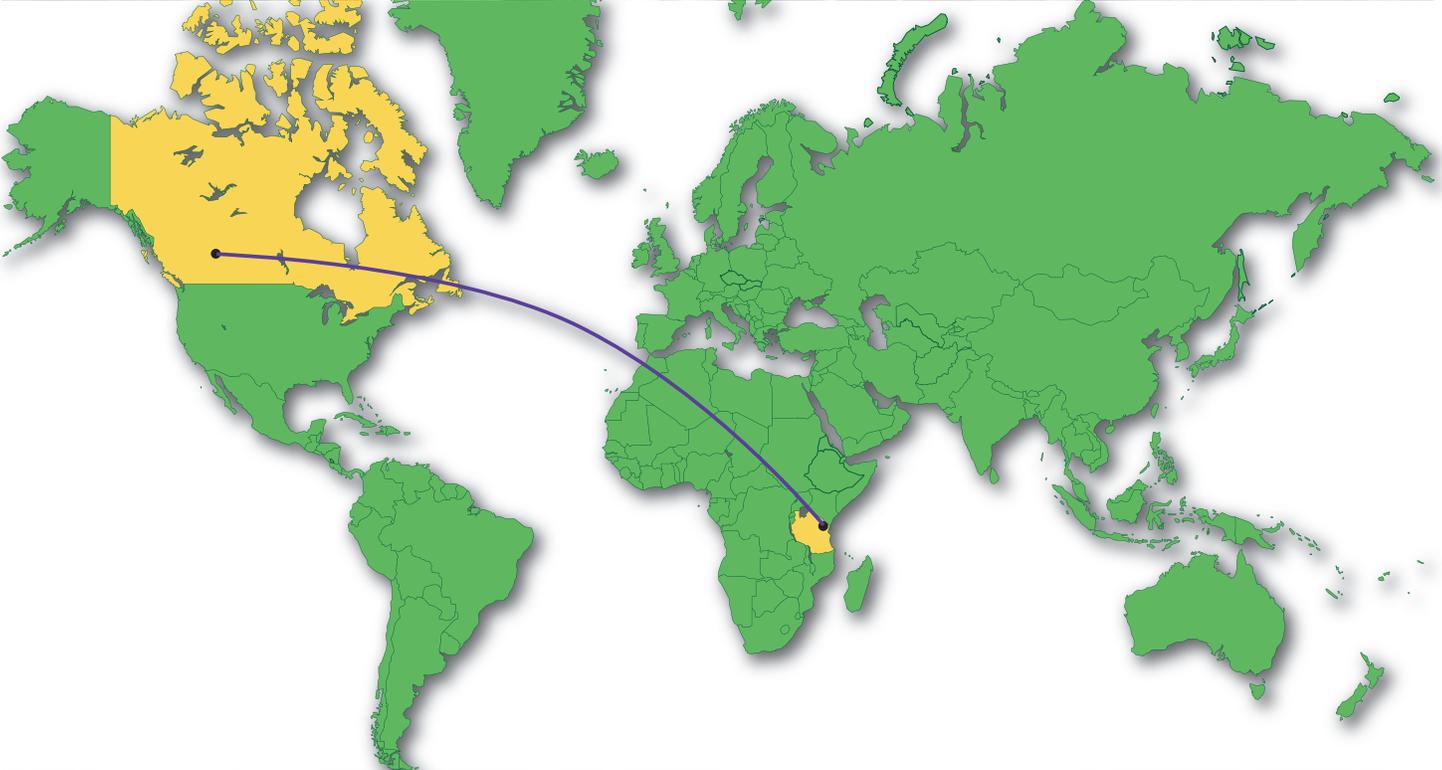


Stories From the Field

DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA AND LUSHOTO, TANZANIA



WHAT Were the Challenges?

The municipal council of Lushoto District, one of the poorer regions of Tanzania, needed to increase its revenue base in order to provide services to its citizens. Lushoto also needed to care for its growing orphan population, caused largely by the AIDS epidemic.



Lushoto District in Tanga Region of Tanzania.



Drayton Valley Town Manager Manny Deol shakes hands with Obed Mwashu, Executive Director of Lushoto Municipal District Council. Former Drayton Valley Mayor Diana McQueen pictured in background.

HOW did Drayton Valley Help?

From 2004 to 2010, FCM member Drayton Valley, Alberta worked with the Lushoto District Municipal Council to improve tourism services, provide marketing support to small farmers and foster economic development. Drayton Valley council members, municipal experts, community leaders and volunteers from all walks of life joined forces to provide support and guidance to their counterparts in Lushoto, helping them find ways to effectively meet their challenges.

For example, the Lushoto District Municipal Council established a tourism office, collecting fees from hotel and tourism service operators to help fund site access and maintenance. This allowed the municipal council to increase the district's revenues while at the same time free up valuable public funds.

The Lushoto cause soon became well-known in Drayton Valley through public events, media coverage and word of mouth. Reports on the AIDS grandmothers of the Irente orphanage and their young charges moved volunteers from Drayton Valley and surrounding communities to begin collecting funds and donations such as quilts, soccer balls and school bags. These volunteers were soon travelling to Lushoto to help establish a community foundation to serve as a permanent structure to channel donations directly to those most in need.



Jeannette Vatter and Barb Matheson of the Drayton Valley Community Foundation meet with the Lushoto Community Foundation and William Kusaga, Executive Director of Lushoto Municipal District Council (far right).



Toddlers sit down for a meal at Irente orphanage in Lushoto.



Drayton Valley team meets children in Lushoto. Soccer balls were among the many donations provided by the Drayton Valley community to the community in Lushoto.

WHAT Were the Results?

Drayton Valley and Lushoto went above and beyond by engaging the public and mobilizing civil society organizations in their communities. As a result, their partnership made great strides in reducing poverty and improving service delivery in Lushoto. The Lushoto District Municipal Council increased transparency and public participation of both men and women at all levels of decision-making, gaining the confidence of its citizens.

By pulling together to help men, women and children a world away improve their daily lives, the citizens of Drayton Valley witnessed first-hand the power of partnership.

Drayton Valley and Lushoto won the 2008 FCM Award for Outstanding Volunteer Cooperation (Institutional Category). Their partnership is considered a best practice in public engagement and civil society collaboration, achieving one of the highest levels of community engagement ever seen in an MPP project.

About FCM International

Through its international programs, FCM provides ways for Canadian municipalities to engage with their counterparts around the world, to contribute knowledge, and to foster cooperation across a global network of local governments.

Our development initiatives bring partners together to find solutions to practical problems, help deliver basic services, promote economic growth, and encourage citizen participation.

FCM gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). To find out more about the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 25 years of international municipal development, visit FCM.ca.

