

World Vision's **THRIVE** model

Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments

INDEPENDENT STUDY OF PROGRAM EFFICACY
KEY FINDINGS BY TANGO INTERNATIONAL

NEW STUDY REVEALS GAME-CHANGING IMPACT

As an organization committed to stewardship, World Vision commissioned an industry-leading researcher, TANGO International, to evaluate the performance and impact of its proprietary livelihoods model, *Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments* (THRIVE).

The seven-year study targeted Tanzania, the first of five countries to complete a full THRIVE cycle in 2020. THRIVE Tanzania was a \$12 million program directly targeting 9,000 smallholder farmer households in three area programs: Magugu and Garowa in the Manyara region and Kisongo in the Arusha region.

The overarching goal of THRIVE is to equip families to lift themselves out of poverty through building improved and resilient livelihoods that enable significantly better incomes, food security, and child well-being.

The study revealed that THRIVE delivered on promises and drove significant impact across all key measures.



"I have to say that World Vision is leading its peers—very much at the forefront—of applying this type of rigor to their programs. Others don't do this type of rigorous study and miss the impact and evidence needed."

—Bruce Ravesloot, Vice President,
TANGO International

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF THRIVE?

Foundation: Biblical Empowered Worldview

This powerful curriculum builds confidence, shifts mindsets, and promotes a biblically based view of identity and accountability. It teaches that all people are created in the image of a loving and redeeming God who has made each of us accountable to love, respect, and care for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, people in need, and God's creation.

Pillar 1: End-to-end business systems of farming

Helps farmers embrace savings groups, new agricultural techniques, income diversification, and improved access to markets and finance.

Pillar 2: Natural resource management systems of farming

Enables communities to be active stewards of natural resources like soil, water, and forests.

Pillar 3: Situational awareness

Prepares families to be aware of and cope with shocks, disasters, increasingly variable weather patterns, and market changes.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STUDY

When comparing endline data (2020) to baseline data (2013), TANGO found that households in the THRIVE program **showed significant improvement on all components:**

- Smallholder farmers and their families moved from dependence to an empowered worldview
- Household incomes and productive assets increased
- On-farm and off-farm natural resource management improved
- Household livelihood systems became more resilient to shocks and disasters

» Incomes are now nearly **10 TIMES** initial incomes

» Farmers with diversified income sources **INCREASED FROM 44% TO 95%**

» **95% OF THRIVE FARMERS** handled shocks without negative coping strategies

» Food insecurity **DECREASED BY 51%**

MORE KEY FINDINGS



» IMPROVED MINDSETS

Biblical Empowered Worldview equipped families to move from dependence to active agency. There have been **positive changes in how communities and households view themselves and perceive their environment**. Some participants said that the curriculum helped shift mindsets from discriminatory beliefs about the role of women in society, the family, and economic activities, which in turn improved women's standing and roles in the community and family.

» IMPROVED INCOMES

THRIVE household annual **incomes skyrocketed to a reported \$1,370 a year from \$138 a year**—9.93 times higher than at baseline. Families used the money on **things that improved their quality of life**: their children's education, housing improvements, medical care, and investments in their businesses.

» IMPROVED RESILIENCE

In response to shocks both before and after COVID-19, **94.5% of THRIVE households at endline were avoiding negative coping strategies** like taking children out of school; sending children to work for money; reducing food intake; or selling off productive assets like land, equipment, or farm animals.

» IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY

The THRIVE program had a positive impact on household food security, driven by increased quantity and diversity of crops. Households used their income and livelihood sources to meet food needs and contribute to the household's overall resilience. Families participating in THRIVE:

- Were **40% more food secure** than control households at endline
- Showed a **51% decrease in food insecurity** from midterm to endline

» IMPROVED CHILD WELL-BEING

The percentage of THRIVE households reporting that they could provide for the **basic needs of all children (5 to 18 years) in the household increased from 46.8% at midterm to 60.2% at endline**. Basic needs are defined as at least two sets of clothes, a pair of shoes, and a sleeping mat or blanket, without any assistance from family, the government, or any nongovernmental organizations.

» SAVINGS GROUPS AND LOANS

More families can access loans. At endline, **85.7% of THRIVE households reported they could obtain a loan** if needed, compared with 13.8% at midterm.

» IMPROVED FARMING PRACTICES

THRIVE promoted enhanced agricultural technologies to boost productivity across supported value chains. Farmers were widely exposed to better technologies and markets. **Currently, 7,942 THRIVE farmers (86% of those we worked with) are using improved tools and practices.** More farmers are also increasingly adopting more profitable and resilient opportunities like banana production, poultry farming, and beekeeping.

» NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM)

NRM grew across all groups. THRIVE households who engaged in on-farm NRM **grew from 24.7% at midterm to 45% at endline.**

THANK YOU World Vision thanks TANGO for its comprehensive evaluation. Most importantly, we thank God the Great Provider, the visionary and generous donor partners who invest in farming families, and our dedicated Tanzania staff.

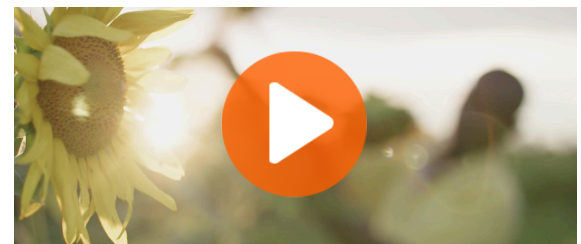
» IMPROVED WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The program empowered women economically, socially, and personally.

Women joined in income generation and decision-making, and husbands and wives showed improved relationships.

Many women now have their own money, savings, and income sources, and men increasingly see women as capable leaders.

Qualitative interviews reported a **decrease in domestic violence in THRIVE households,** whereas control households saw no change.



[WATCH THRIVE farmers in action](#)

[View the 24-page Summary Report here.](#)

For more information, contact Christopher Shore, Chief Development Officer, Economic Empowerment at cshore@worldvision.org.