

Population Case Study: Protagonist Decision

1. A Family living in Karatu District

Your family consists of a mother, a father and three very young children. You live in a densely populated area and own enough land to provide for your family, but if your family's consumption increases (with more children or as children grow and start families), it will not be enough. You live in very close relationship with your neighbors and friends in your community. Recall that your situation is not "predictable" and you have no other sources of income. Discuss and share with the group: what are your priorities as a family? What is your plan for the future? What resources do you need in order to realize these goals?

2. The Minister of Health in Tanzania

You need to make policy decisions for the entire country, including the overpopulated Karatu district. What will be your priority areas? What specific problems do you see, and what strategies or policies are needed to address the problem(s)? Bear in mind that your plans will affect many families like the one described above.

3. A Visiting Doctor in Karatu District

You are a non-local doctor visiting the Karatu district for a one-month medical brigade. How will you work with regional healthcare professionals, the Ministry of Health, local and national government and local families to create good health in this overpopulated community? What are the problems that you perceive you can address in this limited timeframe? What is your strategy for doing the most good possible in your short stay?

4. Karatu District Physician

You are assigned by the Ministry of Health to a 3-year term as a Physician in the Karatu district. How will you work with other regional healthcare professionals, the Ministry of Health, local and national government and local families to create good health in this overpopulated community? What are the problems that you perceive you can address in a 3-year timeframe? What kinds of health programs will you plan to establish? What strategies will you pursue?

5. Community Leader

You are a local leader in the indigenous community where strong traditional values and beliefs persist. Here are some facts to assist you in developing your perspective and strategies:

Tanzania Population growth rate: 2.04%

Death Rate (general population): 12.59 deaths/1000 population

Infant mortality rate: 69.28 deaths/1000 live births

Child mortality rate (<5 years) for urban areas: 108.0/1000 live births

Child mortality rate (<5 years) for rural areas: 138.0/1000 live births

Religions: Christianity 30%, Muslim 35%, Indigenous beliefs 35% (Maasai)

How do you address the problem of overpopulation in light of these facts?

6. Development Officer in Dar es Salaam

You are in charge of ensuring the growth, overall health and vitality of municipalities throughout the country. What are your short- and long-term plans for the Karatu region? How will you work with other parties to develop these plans, secure funding and implement them? What will you do to gain community buy-in and to encourage participation in your development activities?