

## Theme 2: "Economic and Employment Challenges"

### 1. What is the role and place of the church in Arusha in responding to the crisis of Economic and Employment Challenges?

The participants emphasised that the church in Arusha has a critical role in addressing economic and employment challenges. The church is not only responsible for spiritual growth but must also be actively involved in empowering the community through education and practical projects. The first responsibility of the church is to provide education on entrepreneurship and other livelihood projects. This education should go beyond theoretical knowledge and include practical training on how to start and manage projects.

Participants discussed how the church should focus on practical initiatives like beekeeping, agriculture, or small-scale businesses that can help congregants and community members gain employment and improve their economic standing. The role of the church extends to being a facilitator of economic growth by providing the community with resources, guidance, and continuous education. The church must not limit itself to spiritual matters but engage in socio-economic issues to empower its members.

**Summary:** The church's role is to provide both spiritual and practical guidance, with a focus on entrepreneurship and job creation. It should facilitate education in practical fields and initiate small projects to equip the community with sustainable income-generating opportunities.

### 2. What are three practical steps that the church in Tanzania can take to respond to the Economic and Employment Challenges?

The participants suggested three key steps for the church in Tanzania to address these challenges:

- 1. Provide Practical Education:** The church should offer ongoing education focused on practical skills that can help people start their own businesses or projects. This education should include training on entrepreneurship and how to manage small-scale projects such as farming or small businesses. It was highlighted that providing theoretical knowledge is not enough; education must be accompanied by practical application.
- 2. Initiate Community-Based Projects:** The church should lead by example by initiating small projects within the community, such as small farms, livestock keeping, or beekeeping. These projects can offer both employment opportunities and training for church members, enabling them to start similar projects independently. By investing in these small projects, the church will help address the lack of job opportunities.
- 3. Support Capital Creation:** The church should assist in providing small capital for individuals who have received training. Capital is essential for individuals to apply the skills they have learnt and start their own businesses. It was noted that without capital, education alone will not lead to sustainable income generation. The church should explore ways to support members financially, either through direct assistance or by helping them access small loans or funding.

**Summary:** The church can respond to economic and employment challenges by offering practical education, initiating community projects, and supporting individuals with the capital needed to start their own businesses. These steps will empower the community and create sustainable livelihoods.



### **3. What are three practical steps that your church community can take to respond to the crisis of Economic and Employment Challenges?**

At the community level, the participants identified three practical steps that their local churches can take:

- 1. Mentor and Support Church Members:** Church leaders should mentor and support members, especially the youth, who are looking to start projects or businesses. By offering guidance, mentorship, and encouragement, the church can help young people build confidence and navigate the challenges of entrepreneurship.
- 2. Provide Financial and Material Support:** Church leaders should actively support members who are starting businesses by offering financial assistance or material support. This can be in the form of small loans, grants, or even donations of equipment. By doing this, the church community can help individuals reach the next level in their businesses, ensuring that they are sustainable and grow over time.
- 3. Promote Accountability and Responsible Use of Resources:** The church must encourage accountability in how financial and material resources are used. This can be done by setting up systems of support that monitor and guide individuals who have received financial help, ensuring that they are making good use of the resources. Transparency and proper use of funds will not only ensure that projects succeed but also build trust within the community.

**Summary:** Local church communities should focus on mentoring and supporting individuals, providing financial assistance, and ensuring accountability in how resources are used. These actions will help members establish successful businesses and overcome economic challenges.

#### **Overall Summary:**

The church in Arusha has a significant role in addressing economic and employment challenges by offering practical education, starting community-based projects, and supporting members with capital. At both the national and local levels, the church should focus on empowering individuals through mentorship, financial support, and accountability. By taking these actions, the church can help alleviate poverty and unemployment, creating sustainable livelihoods for its members and the surrounding community.

