



CRWRC

Changing Lives, Changing Me

Margaret Njuguna, Tanzania

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Please Pray

We thank God for . . .

- Continued comfort and strength after losing two family members in December and January.
- Son Marvin's successful completion and passing of national exams for primary school and for joining high school this year.
- The many successful projects with our partners that have seen more people earning more money from their activities and giving thanks to God.

We pray for . . .

- Victory over various forces that struggle against our success in reaching out to God's people in some of the areas.
- The safety of our staff in the country as they go about their various responsibilities.
- God to continue to provide the resources needed to keep our ministry going.

Training for Transformation

ABCF* women's group is one of the 28 member groups that form the Sengerema Informal Sector Association (SISA). SISA works with many rural groups in Sengerema District and beyond. Many rural people have only one asset, which in many cases is not well utilized for people's wellbeing—that asset is land. Continued training on how to utilize locally available resources lead to small groups of men and women coming together to effectively utilize their land.

They plant crops for food and for sale. Sometimes the result of continued training is that everybody starts to grow and few are left to buy the produces.

When many group members learn the skills and all start growing and harvesting their crops, the market gets saturated and prices for their products drop. SISA leadership concentrates on empowering youth and women to add value to their crops and products in order to increase income.

In November 2008, five women's groups were trained on food processing that helped them sun-dry vegetables and fruits. As these products are very perishable, the women learned skills that enabled them to not just store items for longer periods of time, but also to take the products to a wider markets. The groups started earning more income from selling dried vegetables and fruits. In mid 2009, those women started training others



on food processing and canning and reached out to other groups in the neighboring districts of Geita and Kahama.

ABCF women's group has a success story in that their products are sold in mini supermarkets in Sengerema. Their products include mangos, pickles, various jams, nutritious flour, peanut butter, banana wine, cassava flour, dried pineapples, banana crisps, and spices. Empowered with food processing skills, the women are also able to buy products from various other farmers, thus giving ready markets to several others.

Recently, one of the SISA leaders took some sample products to small supermarkets in Mwanza city to gain a market opportunity for this women's group. It was a great chance for ABCF to sell their product direct to Mwanza markets, and the challenge now is to meet the

market demand because many people like these products. SISA officials have arranged the collective marketing system to all SISA women processing groups to work together to produce and meet the current market demand. The group now has received orders for their products from a neighboring country and from many areas within Tanzania, and this is a great opportunity for more women to get involved in this kind of business.

SISA is one of oldest partners of CRWRC Tanzania and one earmarked for financial support phase-out in the next year.

*not their real name

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