

KWIPI STORIES OF CHANGE TO SHARE

OVER 1,000 CHILDREN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES GET SAFE WATER IN BUKWO.

Families in Mokoyon Cell in Bukwo Town Council lacked clean water for a very long time, the only water source was a small swamp which was over 9Km away, and served both the children of Mokoyon Primary school and the surrounding community. With this water problem they didn't have hope of ever getting clean water ***“As girls, it was very hard for us to access clean water. We moved a long distance to collect water from a swamp with sharp stones and thorns”*** says Chebet Ruth of Mokoyon Primary School. However this all changed when, KWIPI supported by Actionaid organized children parliaments and reflect group meetings and sensitized the children and the community on their rights based service delivery.

“I am Chebet Ruth aged 9 years and in primary three at Mokoyon Primary school, MY mother Nait Jane Rose actively participates in community meetings and encourages us to also participate in school activities, this is what motivated me to join the child rights club after attending a sensitization of children's rights facilitated by KWIPI and supported by Actionaid, this made me aware of our rights and with the support of Actionaid and KWIPI we quickly mobilized our leaders, parents and teachers and demanded for a borehole, they promised to ensure that the water problem is resolved. We then held a series of meetings with the community, councilors and teachers, in the meetings we found out that the District had planned to construct a borehole near our school but it had been transferred to another area, we quickly engaged the District and Town Council leadership demanding for safe water and construction of the planed borehole and as a result, the local leaders combined efforts with the district leadership and Catholic Relief Services to construct a borehole that now serves over 1,000 pupils and their communities with clean drinking water”. We thank Actionaid and its partner KWIPI for making us aware of our rights and creating a platform for us to engage our leaders.

Children in this village especially girls moved longer distance to find water in a swamp which was not clean water, this affected their school attendance and performance but with the construction of the borehole we believe more children will spend more time at school than looking for water.

STRONG COOPERATIVE SACCOs EMERGE FROM REFLECT METHODOLOGY

Using the reflect methodology, KWIPI ActionAid Uganda availed spaces for communities in Tulel and Kamet Sub County through child sponsorship. Through training of financial management, food security, community members came together to form Village Savings Groups to enable them access easy credit.

In 2013, Masasha SACCO no a registered cooperative (Bukwo-Masasha Multipurpose Cooperative Society) was formed and supported with financial management exposure tours to Bugiri and Kampala SACCOs. Currently, the SACCO operates a loan portfolio of over 600,000,000/= and has constructed a village bank in Tulel which avails famers with agricultural and business loans.

In 2014, Coffee Farmers' SACCO was formed and supported with exposure visits and trainings on group dynamics and record keeping. The SACCO currently operates a loan portfolio of over 60,000,000/= and supports farmers with easy access to credit and savings which earn dividends. Other groups include Tulel Youth with 20,000,000=, Kapkumolon SACCO in Kamet with 15,000,000=, Kapswama SACCO with 20,000,000 to mention a few.

The above SACCOs have economically empowered women who now engage in farming and small scale businesses.

FROM A DEPENDANT HOUSE WIFE TO A MONEY LENDER

Cheptoyek Niva is a female adult aged 30. She is from Cheptarei Village in Tulel Sub County; Bukwo District. Nipha is the Chairperson of Coffee farmers Reflect Circle (now a SACCO) which they formed with 30 other women and men after attending a capacity building training of women organized by PDF-KWIPI in early 2014.

“Before attending the women capacity building training organized by –KWIPI and ActionAid Uganda, we were working in isolation as women in this area. As a result, we were solely dependent on our husbands for livelihood” She says.

The patriarchal nature in this community makes women subordinates of men with limited political and socio-economic opportunities but as Cheptoyek explains, -KWIPI’s intervention has shown her light with other women as well.

“After saving nine million shillings in our group in 13 months, women have easy access to credit, engaged in business and money lending which has greatly increased our incomes!” She happily says. *“Today, I am a female money lender and can afford to pay fees for my 3 school going children. This what I want to see every woman do”* Adds Cheptoyek.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON LAND USE DECISIONS

Access to and control over land by women is usually a myth in Sebei. With the way men who call themselves “famers” in this area cherish growing maize, Chebet Catherine; a member of DRR Reflect Circle in Korosi Village, Tulel Sub County explains how this practice used to ‘rob’ her of better livelihood with her 8 children.

“It was hard to depend on maize growing alone for all the family needs. First, there was no balanced diet at home and no other source of daily income” She narrates.

In early 2014, Catherine was one of the participants in the Land rights training organized by KWIPI in Bukwo.

“During the training, we were told that women have a right to access and also control land as spelled out in the constitution” Catherine says. After the training, she discussed with her husband and sons to plant a banana plantation and inter crop the three acre garden in order to raise daily money.

“My husband agreed with me and we planted bananas, Irish potatoes, beans, fruits among other crops. In less than two years, we started getting daily money from sale of Matooke; we can use the money to buy meat, chicken, rice and other foods for balanced diet in addition to Matooke. ” She says with a smile. *“Using the money, we can raise tuition for our university children and those in high school”*

CHILD ADVOCACY RESULT TO SCHOOL FEEDING

“I am Cherop Hilda aged 12 years from Mokoyon Cell in Bukwo Town Council, I go to school at Bukwo Primary school in primary 6. In March 2014 Kapchorwa Women in Peace Initiative (KWIPI) a Community Organisation supported by Actionaid come to our school and trained us on child rights and the 10 Core Education Rights, they told us that we have the right to quality education and that we can fight for our rights. KWIPI supported us to form a child rights club, I joined the club in April 2014 and through a democratic election I was elected the speaker of the club. KWIPI with support from Actionaid trained us on participatory tools for prioritizing our school needs; they also trained us how to use power analysis tools to help us identify key influential leaders. Using these skills our club realized that our school was performing poorly because we had no meals all day. As informed and empowered children, we quickly engaged our Head Teacher through our child rights club master who supported us organize a dialogue meeting with the district leaders this result to a parents

meeting. We educated our parents on our rights and also about the things that lead to good performance at school, our parents resolved that all parents will contribute maize and beans to start a school feeding program, we now eat at school. We can concentrate in class with full attention from our teachers and this year we anticipate getting first grades in the on-going Primary Leaving Examination”.

I thank KWIPI and Actionaid for creating our awareness and building our capacity, we also thank them for the financial support. I am encouraged by their continuous support to our school and particularly our club to improve education standards. I am determined to use the leadership skills that Actionaid trained me in and offer good leadership to our club for the good of our school, next year we plan to start a school tree gardening program to conserve our environment.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH VSLAs

Phanis Chebet is 45 years old and married to Chemutai Alfred with 7 children (2 girls and 5 boys). The couple lives in Mashasha community Bukwo district. She joined Masasha SACCO in July 2013 as a member. “Immediately, I was selected to participate in the financial management and food security training that was organized by KWIPI and ActionAid KLRP. After the training, I applied the knowledge in agriculture.

“Before intervention of KWIPI and Actionaid, women in Tulel Sub County had limited or no sources of income. We used to rely solely on our husbands for everything” She says

“Currently, some women in our SACCO are doing business in selling milk and bananas in Bukwo. Others even own boda-bodas!” She proudly adds

So far I have planted 3 acres of Bananas and 2 acres of coffee. I hope to harvest and sell to local hotels and Coffee processing industry at a competitive price” She proudly says that at the end of the sale, she expects to fetch up to UGX 2 million. “I will use this money to pay fees for my children and also contribute to the SACCO as savings” she adds. Phanis also plans to buy more heifers for milk purposes

TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In 2015, KWIPI and Actionaid Uganda implemented tree planting campaigns in Bukwo District. As a result, a Disaster Risk Reduction Community Group was formed. The group was supported with conservation trainings both within and outside Bukwo.

Actionaid provided funding to purchase 5,000 tree seedlings that were distributed to greater Chesower Sub County. Households and institutions like schools and Health Centres benefited. The trees are monitored by the community quarterly and in the next few years, greater Chesower Sub County will be green. The DRR group is being supported to make tree nurseries for distribution and to conduct district wide awareness on environmental protection