

HAND IN HAND EA COMMUNITY UPLIFT PROGRAMME



Members of Songa CBO during poultry keeping training

18-month report: Nthunguni Village

Prepared for: Ansar Consulting AB (Ansar Decotex S.L)

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Welcome back to Nthunguni Village

Thank you again for your support and engagement in Hand in Hand Kenya's Community Uplift Programme (CUP). This is the fourth update from Nthunguni Village. In our report, you will read about our progress in fighting poverty and promoting entrepreneurship over the past eighteen months.

A brief summary: December 2022

In this period, we have been able to achieve our target of recruitment having mobilized 12 groups of 250 members. Most of the groups in Nthunguni village have a functional table banking, merry go round and welfare activities. Upon training, the members have created and enhanced 126 enterprises, which comprise of farming activities like poultry keeping, Vegetable farming and selling and goat farming. There has been creation of 213 jobs by the entrepreneurs in the village. In March 2022, we formed a Community Based Organisation, which is implementing poultry keeping and green grams farming as their value chains.

Our targets		
Indicators	Targets	Achieved
Membership	250	250
Groups	12	12
Enterprises	175	126
Job	228	213

The progress we have achieved

❖ *Social mobilisation*

Currently 248 members, 202 women and 46 men, have been taken through group formation and savings mobilisation. The training has helped to improve on group leadership, group cohesion and enhanced their group activities. In our social mobilisation endeavour, we ensure the members joining the program are the target and this is done through a poverty scorecard. This helps in ensuring the right target is secured. Members have adopted the training well and so far they have good records and their group activities like table banking are now well coordinated.

The project is geared to working with all groups and so far, we have recruited a wildlife conservational group which is keen on training the community on how to co-habit with wild animals in the area.

❖ *Entrepreneurship training*

So far, the trainings are proceeding on well, 221 members 183 women and 38 men from eleven groups have completed entrepreneurship training. 126 enterprises have been created which includes, poultry keeping, green grams selling and beekeeping practices thus creating 213 jobs. The trainings are also tailored to fit the member's needs and request. For instance, we

conducted a feeds formulation training for 86 members from Songa CBO in September 2022. The training was meant to equip members with skills of formulating their own feeds for their poultry using local available materials. In addition, the skills was to help lower the cost of production in poultry farming hence increase in profits. Through the training the CBO took up the initiative and influenced its members and formulated six bags of feeds and sold to its members at affordable price. Currently more than 60 members can produce a balanced feeds for their birds. The training helped the members to adopt modern practices in aspects of raw materials, production and different feeds formulas. Currently, our CBO is in the business of formulating feeds and selling to their members at affordable prices.

❖ *Marketing and micro-finance*

The members are learning the aspect of inculcating a savings culture, a component they will use in long run to acquire more financial muscles from the microfinance institutions to boost their businesses. As the training progresses, 207 beneficiaries have received training on financial management and Credit access to equip them with knowledge on financial planning, loan borrowing and repayment. At this point groups have invested in group's table banking with amuka wone with highest revolving amount of KES 64,000 (USD 512) and Mwangaza pipeline with the lowest of KES 13,000 (USD 104). Members are able to save the little they have and borrow from group with favorable terms of repayment. Currently 47 members are saving with HIHEA credit platform with a total savings of KES 121,010 (USD 968) and 18 of the members have accessed tanks and cash amounting to KES 289,000 (USD 2,312). HiH EA have created this platform where members can access loans, cook stoves or water tanks or link them to micro-finance institutions for financial growth and stability.

❖ *Environment and gender*

Hand in Hand EA is in the forefront to ensure high commitment to internal capacity building on gender issues by organizing trainings for the members. 95% of our groups are governed by women and through the leadership trainings their confidence in leading has gotten better. During the trainings we noticed a gap on issued to do with human rights for people with disabilities more so women and their dependants. With the help of a partner, the training was held in September with attendance of 50 members and their dependants. The training equipped the members with knowledge on human rights, government's policies that affect them, empowerment programs, discrimination and stigmatization in the society and economic empowerment projects.

The training had a positive influence to the members improving their self-esteem and social acceptance. They selected a PWD(people living with disability) leader who would represent them in all government forums and source for partners with intention of empowering their community. In addition, 115 members have been trained on climate resilience building and we look forward to continue training more members. The members have acquired adaptive capacity strategies for business and household levels, adoption of various climate resilient practices and members are now able to understand the impact of climate change on rural life. In addition, members have started climate resilient practices that are environmental friendly. For example, we have 20 women who have started tree planting enterprises. Previously this was not the case, they bothered neither to conserve nor to practise tree planting.

Some news from our entrepreneurs

Case story 1: Jane Mwendi's story



Jane in her kitchen garden

Jane Mwendi is 58 years old, married and a mother of three children and one grandson. She lost her eyesight ten years back and she is grateful she has been able to cope with the situation despite the challenges. She is a member of Kyeni for change self-help group, which joined Hand in Hand Eastern Africa in 2021 with an aim to empower each other socially and economically. The group has 21 members who have gone through the seven training modules. The training has affected them positively and they have been able to create 13 enterprises and 17 jobs. Currently they are doing a monthly savings with hand in hand to be able to access credit.

During the last ten years' Jane has learnt to accept her condition which has encouraged her to step up and come with ideas and ways she can make an income to help her husband meet the day to day basic needs. When she heard about HiH EA and what they do, she was thrilled and decided to join. Her interest was on value addition, financial management and Enterprise development modules. Her special case did not hinder her ambition to support her family and was able to attend the whole training. She uses her fifth sense to keenly listen and understand the training.

On life skills, they have been trained on soap making, cake baking and kitchen garden. This influenced her to request the trainer for a multi storey garden and through the help of her children; she established a small garden of vegetables near her home where she would easily access. This is a way to cater for their day-to-day meals. In a day she would use up to KES 150 (USD 1.2) to buy vegetables, through this project in a month she saves KES 4,500 (USD 36). She has invested more time to the garden with the help of her daughter. She sells the vegetables to her neighbours and makes KES 250(USD 2) in a day. This translates to KES 7,500 (USD 60) in a month. She uses KES 1,500 (USD 12) to buy vegetable seedlings and KES 3,000 (USD 24) on water; this leaves her with a profit of KES 3,000 (USD 24) in a month. She feels happy she is now able to help her husband to feed the family. She plans to have more improvised multi storey garden to be able to increase her production.

Case study 2: Stella Maris Mumbua



Stella Maris Mumbua modern poultry house after the training



Stella Maris feeding her birds

Stella Maris is a mother of six, married and a member of Wikwatyo wa Kyuasini self-help group. As shared before she was working towards becoming the best vegetable farmer in Nthunguni village but due to continuous attacks from elephants, she continued counting losses. This has pushed her to giving up on vegetable farming and adopting poultry keeping as her main enterprise. She appreciates Hand in Hand EA for sensitizing and empowering the community to form a community based organization (CBO).

Through Songa CBO, they choose poultry production as their main value chain. Hand in Hand EA ensured they received intensive training on poultry management, housing, diseases, breeding, feeds formulation and marketing. As a beneficiary, she believes this is the way to go. As shown (picture1) through our partnership with the government, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock officer identified this need and stepped in to support her construct a standard poultry house which currently accommodates 250 healthy two month old birds. In our next report we will be highlighting her progress in this new venture and we hope she will have sold her first bunch of birds, she wants to keep meat birds known as rainbow roaster and sasso breed for

eggs. Her current challenge is feeding the birds, which consumes 50 kilogrammes in one week. She will take up the feed formulation process with the trainer as we work on reducing the cost and increasing production.

Cases study three: Abigail Mwende



Abigail at her shop

Abigail Mwende is 31 years old, married and a mother of two. She is a member of Eitu ma Mba Ngene Self-help group located in Mbetwani cluster and currently undergoing financial management module. They have been involved in goat training activity with Ngwatanio CBO and have gained skills in yoghurt making. She joined Hand in Hand EA in March 2022 aiming to gain skills on savings mobilization, entrepreneurship training and learn more on financial management.

She depended on her husband in all household expenditures, financial decisions and basic needs. Her children were not going to school and at times, they would survive with one meal in a day. After Covid-19, times got hard and this challenged Abigail to take an initiative to borrow KES 5,000 (USD 40) loan from the group and KES 3,000 (USD 24) from the family's joint savings account and she decided to open a small shop at Mbetwani shopping centre.

Before long she continued to do more feasibility study of the area and spotted a potential gap and shared with her husband the business idea of opening a maize-milling machine within Mbetwani shopping centre. The idea was embraced by the husband and immediately took the initiative of looking for start-up capital. She now manages the shop as the husband runs the maize milling machine just behind her shop. She makes KES 600 (USD 4.8) in a day, less KES 250 (USD 2) as day-to-day expenses. She makes a profit of KES 9,100 (USD 72.8) in a month. She is able to make financial decisions in their home and pay school fees for her children.

An update from the team



Edwin Mutiso (standing) training members on financial management module

Edwin Mutiso is the Business Relationship officer in charge of Nthunguni Village. He is tasked with conducting outreaches, recruitment, training the recruited members and following up on their progress for impact assessment.

He tells us, “The trainings are proceeding on well. We have been able to form a Community Based Organisation and the proposed Value chain will be green grams farming and poultry keeping. I look forward to continue supporting the members get the necessary skills needed for sustainability of their livelihoods.”

[We would like to hear from you!](#)

You will receive our next progress report on June 2023.

In the meantime, if you would like more information, have any questions or just would like to talk about our Community Uplift Programme or other initiatives, please don't hesitate to contact Nils Garcia-Grundström at donor relations from Hand in Hand Sweden.

E-mail: nils.garcia@handinhandsweden.se

Phone: +46 (0)70 493 32 94