

Picture Power

Understanding Christian Aid's impact through a community lens

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Foreword

Jimmy Obuya, Programme Officer, Kenya

Rarely do we get a chance to capture the genuine voice and input of women, men and their agency within our resilience programmes. Of course, one can argue that we capture their contribution at the design stages using elaborate participatory processes, such as the PVCA, and that our routine monitoring activities ensure their participation and engagement. However, measuring, gathering and analysing community feedback has always been a challenge.

Through participatory photo-based evaluations, for the first time in many years, we are able to incorporate genuine community voices and perceptions into what impact our resilience interventions have. We can now further investigate the soft and hidden issues that surround our work. This has mostly been left out by conventional methods of information extraction which deny us these rich insights. Our ability to zoom in and focus deeply into the communities' interpretation and view of our PPA resilience interventions has become sharper, more targeted, credible and cost-effective.

How did we do it? We used a model similar to the participatory photo M&E that was piloted in Ghana through the UK Aid Match-funded PhotoVoice project. Such an approach aims to capture community voices and their interpretation of what our interventions mean to them. The difference in Kenya was that this was first of all a Christian Aid driven process using internal resources, expertise and tools. Second, it was partner led through defining sites, outcome pathways and points of significant change, and finally community owned in that they dictated and determined what aspects of change they wanted to measure and document. The results were then triangulated with findings from an intensive but more traditional Outcome Assessment M&E process.

Matt Gonzalez-Noda, our photo trainer from the Christian Aid photo unit in London, calls this approach 'vernacular photography' which is the creation of photographs, usually by amateur or unknown photographers, who take pictures of everyday life and common things as subjects. The images that came out of this process were unexpectedly powerful, deep and revealing as this report demonstrates.

INTRODUCTION

Since 2011, members of Kalawani community, Makueni County in lower eastern Kenya, have been working with Christian Aid and our partner ADS Eastern on a PPA¹ funded Thriving Resilient Livelihoods programme. The aim of the programme is to empower communities to identify and address the risks and problems that prevent them making the most of opportunities to develop. Through the programme, the community is addressing issues of disaster linked to water shortages and drought; climate change; food shortages; lack of employment and income generating opportunities; water-related conflict; environmental degradation and a range of social issues including lack of women's empowerment, low levels of education and high levels of poor health and disease.

As part of a PPA outcome assessment & review process in March 2015, three community photo monitors from Kalawani - Jackson Kawewa, Justus Nzioki and Mary Mutungi - were trained in basic photography. After two days training in 'vernacular photography' delivered by Christian Aid's Matt Gonzalez-Noda, they spent two weeks taking photographs of the most significant changes that they and their peers in their community have experienced as a result of the PPA programme. At the end of the period, Christian Aid worked with the photo monitors to select and caption the photos that illustrate the most significant changes that have occurred since the start of the project. The monitors then selected a maximum of 20 photos to exhibit at a community exhibition where community members and local officials were invited to view, assess and validate key findings.



(L-R) Jackson Kawewa, Mary Mutungi and Justus Nzioki

¹ DFID Programme Partnership Arrangement

FINDINGS AND IMPACT

Sand dams and Village Savings and Loans Groups (VSL) emerged as the most valued instigators and contributors (project outputs) to the changes that have taken place. Sand dams were implemented as a solution to a range of risks including drought and conflict. VSL groups were initiated to tackle issues around economic empowerment - for women especially - for example access to credit and opportunities for income diversification. The results range from greater opportunities for diversified income generating opportunities (e.g. poultry keeping, trading and fish farming), securing better access to energy (especially the use of solar), affordability of education, improved environment and ecosystem, better health & hygiene, and a perceived sense of greater well-being.

In this report, photos of **activities** and **changes** have been categorized into sets according to the **six components of resilient livelihoods** as set out in Christian Aid's Resilient Livelihoods Framework (below), (while many findings straddle several components at the same time). Christian Aid believes these six components are the key characteristics that are needed for individuals, households and communities to become resilient to disasters or other shocks.



During the photo and data verification process, the majority of men claimed sand dams were the most significant cause of change, while women attributed the most significant changes they have experienced to Village Savings and Loans groups.

The RESILIENCE CHAIN REACTION (or causal pathway)

The **resilience 'chain reaction'** in Kalawani begins with both sand dams and village savings and loan groups. Males mostly identified sand dams as the instigator of major change whereas women found VSL groups to be the most valuable catalysts of change. Men tend not to get involved with VSL groups, regarding it as 'beneath them' according to the photo monitors and others in the community. The monitors explained that many men - although not all - see meeting in a group and 'counting small money' as a trivial activity. However, according to Justus who is employed as coordinator and monitor for all VSL activities in Kalawani, the success of the VSL groups and the impact on household income is beginning to challenge gender and power norms and perceptions.

Catalyst 1: SAND DAMS

Sand dams, which are managed by a CBO, have led to the community being better organised. (Note: not all members of the community decided to participate in the PPA activities, however. Therefore not all community members now benefit directly from the sand dams but new casual labour opportunities mean more are in fact benefitting indirectly, and more community funded sand-dams are now distributing water and wealth more widely, it appears.

Sand dams enable water to be piped to fields. Farmers can grow new and abundant crops (mangos, French beans, tomatoes, kale, passion fruit etc), some of which they sell locally, some to Nairobi market traders, and then French beans for export. With the increased productivity and income, they can employ farm labourers in the community who have little or no land themselves.

Catalyst 2: VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS

Additional income allows households - and especially women in families - to start to save through VSL groups. As a member of a group, after contributing savings for 3-4 weeks, they can take out a loan to invest in new

income generating opportunities or household goods and assets, such as poultry or livestock, fish farming, solar energy, or to pay for school fees while they wait for their harvest, for instance. The group savings and loans (at 10% interest) also generate community income which can be invested in new sand dam construction, additional pipes or water pumps, or other community initiatives.



MANAGING RISKS AND RESOURCES

Members of Kalawani community are now managing natural water resources using technologies like sand dams. This enables them to irrigate their crops, which they could not do before. It also helps them, mitigate against drought.

JACKSON's photos



The plaque showing completed construction of the Kalanzoni sand dam in 2013.

0035



A woman collects water from the Kalanzoni sand dam.

0030



An irrigation pipe piping water to a woman's crops.

0043



Mr David Muli, a member of Musumbuni water project uses water from a sand dam built by the ADS E project. He used money from the village savings & loans group to buy seeds and fertiliser for his farm. Other neighbours cannot cultivate vegetables like this nor get the benefits because they are

not part of the group that built the dam. The dams benefit those that agreed to form the groups and participate in the building of the dams. - 0029



Members from Muumbuni water project group and other community members attend a thanksgiving service at Kanoto Seventh Day Adventist Church. Community members can access water to grow cash crops and for domestic use, they are thankful to God for their blessings and

usually share testimonies in the church.

0048

JUSTUS's photos

Village Savings and Loans groups help community members to diversify their incomes, manage their cash flows and save or build assets which can keep them going even if a disaster or crisis hits. Access to savings and loans enables families to improve their health and livelihoods, as well as send their children to school.



This is a member of Kivioni VSL called Michael. He got a loan in his Kivioni VSL group and has managed to purchase a water tank with capacity of 10,000 litres for harvesting rain water so he can use it for drinking and domestic use. - 0058



0031/32

After they have got their loans from the VSL, these women are going off to buy sacks to put their harvested crops in for storage. An ADSE officer is here explaining that if they put food in these sacks, they don't need to buy pesticides so the food isn't infested by pests. Normally, if we apply pesticides we can't use the food immediately, but if we use these sacks, we don't use pesticides and we can use the food immediately.

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Here is Joseph Mbithi transplanting his tomatoes from his nursery to the farm so that he can water them to get money for his livelihood.

0070/71



This is where Joseph will plant his tomato seedlings on the farm

0069

MARY'S photos

Mary shows how it is not just a handful of people who benefit from the water projects. By improving water management and agricultural productivity, the benefits are felt far and wide across the community through the opportunities for employment and income generation.



Before ADS came the land was like this. It was like a desert. It was so dry. People were suffering on where to take their animals for grazing.

0068



In Kalawani it used to be like a desert. ADS E explained to us how we could have a sand dam, so we were asked to collect materials. They provided cement and things to build the dam. These are the materials that the community worked together to collect.

0065



These are some of the people who have benefited from the sand dam. This is Agnes and Miriam who are now employed by one of the farmers, Leah Musyoka. These people are getting their money through this farmer and Agnes is one of the beneficiaries

because she is now educating her child through casual labour. Even in the community, people are getting green vegetables from Leah's farm. Others are being employed. Before ADS came, people were suffering so much because they had to go so far to find work. Now

'ADS Eastern explained to us how we could have a sand dam, so we were asked to collect materials. They provided cement and things to build the dam. These are the materials that the community worked together to collect.'

'Before ADS came, people were suffering so much because they had to go so far to find work. Now they can find employment in the community. Leah is also able to earn money to educate her own children. Through this work, Leah was able to buy a water pump. She grows tomatoes, kale and green beans. The farmer is a good lady because she is helping other farmers who also want to use a water pump like me!'

they can find employment in the community. Leah is also able to earn money to educate her own children. Through this work, Leah was able to buy a water pump. She grows tomatoes, kale and green beans. The farmer is a good lady because she is helping other farmers who also want to use a water pump like me Mary! So I also have benefited from the water pump. As a result of using her pump, I was able to buy 10 pipes myself. - 0066

'Leah says she still has challenges but believes if she got water tanks she could grow more. And she also wants a drip kit.'



Leah's farm. I took this photo to show how Leah grows her crops in rotation because there is water. On the left there is tomatoes and maize. On the right is the second crop of maize. Leah says she still has challenges but believes if she got water tanks she could grow more. And she also

wants a drip kit. - 0067

'Before ADS E and Christian Aid came, she was planting green veg on a small piece of land because there was not enough water, but since we got sand dams, after she sold her first produce, she bought water pipes and a pump. People have been coming and buying green vegetables from her farm. She even employs casual labour so people can earn an income from this woman.'



This is Rodah Ndolo. Rodah is one of the community members who has also benefited from sand dams. She has grown some kale and maize. She has been growing tomatoes too. Before ADS E and Christian Aid came, she was planting green veg on a small piece of land because there

was not enough water, but since we got sand dams, after she sold her first produce, she bought water pipes and a pump. People have been coming and buying green vegetables from her farm. She even employs casual labour so people can earn an income from this woman. People had to travel so far - 5kms - to get water from the source, but now they just go for a small distance... at most 2-3 kms. People who live uphill can't use the water pumps to pump water uphill to their farms. If we can get water pumps and tanks, it would help solve the problem. They say if they could get pipes and water pumps they could grow more vegetables. So they work on other people's farms. Rodah said that last term she was able to send her children to school and pay for it herself, even though her husband is able to. - 0069



Rodah and her pipes. You see how green it is now!

0070-71



This is what it used to be like for Rodah. You see the land is so dry. Rodah used to have to carry the jerry cans very far to go and get water to water her vegetables.

0072

'We don't have to walk a long distance (anymore) so we are not wasting time. We use the extra time to do things on our farms, or if we are called for meetings or other things we can go.'



This is the Kwa Mbuku sand dam that was supported through Christian Aid.

0075



This is the sand dam now. It's full of water. When it rains it is full of water and people use it to take their animals to drink and people go there to fetch water. We don't

have to walk a long distance so we are not wasting time. We use the extra time to do things on our farms, or if we are called for meetings or other things we can go. – 0076

'Because we have been trained in how to look after livestock, people can now keep livestock. They can sell them and use the money for many things including education or labour. You know, education is important, it should be the first priority.'



Because of the availability of water, the animals can drink water. Because we have been trained in how to look after livestock, people can now keep livestock. They can sell them and use the money for many things including education or labour. You know,

education is important, it should be the first priority. - 0077

INCREASING INCOMES

Since the project began in 2011, not only have the community benefited from being better organised but they are rapidly earning more money through their hard work and productivity. Village Savings & Loans groups are a hugely successful means for women particularly to develop their own businesses and income generating activities. Some even become successful entrepreneurs. This is beginning to change men's perceptions of women and women's status in the community.

JACKSON's photos



0032-34

Members from Kalanzoni Self-help group at their tree nursery where they meet every Wednesday. The tank was donated by ADS E. They use the nursery to prepare the seeds and sell them. In the last planting seasons (October to December 2014) they sold seeds worth 15,000 shillings and have some balance of mango and gruveria seedlings for the next seasons. They are now planning on how to pipe water from the tank to their farms. The tank is a reservoir to store water from the sand dams.



Teresia Musau poses at her farm Muthwani village. She grows maize, french beans, kale, tomatoes and mangos. She is a member of the VSL group supported by ADS E. She borrows money from the VSL to support her farming by buying inputs like fertilisers,

seeds and employs casual labourers who assist her in preparing the farm and harvesting. She gets water from the dam since she has bought pipes to bring the water from the dam to her farm - 0056

'She borrows money from the VSL to support her farming by buying inputs like fertilisers and seeds, and she employs casual labourers who assist her in preparing the farm and harvesting.'



Some youths having a lunch break. They are employed as casual labourers on a community member's farm. They are paid an average of 300 shillings per day. The farms have created employment around Muthwani village and the youths are able to use the money to buy food or build

homes. The opportunities have come about owing to the availability of water from the sand dams. - 0057

'The farms have created employment around Muthwani village and the youths are able to use the money to buy food or build homes. The opportunities have come about owing to the availability of water from the sand dams.'



Members of Muumbuni VSL group during their weekly meeting. They take it in turns

to meet in a member's house. The 28 members contribute money for three weeks at 200-300 shillings per person. This entitles them to shares. In the fourth week they can borrow money. So far, as at March 2015, the group has 385,000 shillings which the members can borrow from and repay in agreed instalments. Members get loans based on the amount of shares they have. A member can take twice the amount of shares (savings) they have. - 0155/0156

'...as at March 2015, the group has 385,000 shillings (£2,800) which the members can borrow from and repay in agreed instalments.'



VSL members gather around the cash box where we keep the money. The cash box has three sets of key where three different members keep them until the day of meeting. All contributions are kept in the cash box which is kept at the treasurer's house. The money is contributed for three weeks and shared

on the fourth week. On this day, the cash box had 385,000 shillings. (£2,800) – 0195/196



Steven Muli at his farm in Muthwani village. He is spraying his French beans with fungicides to get rid of aphids etc. He

borrowed money from the VSL to buy the spray equipment and employs casual workers as well. He can afford to send his two children through secondary school with proceeds from his farm. The farm gets water from the sand dams. - 0058, 59

'He can afford to send his two children through secondary school with proceeds from his farm.'



Steven Muli buys a solar panel from a local vendor. He got a loan from the **VSL group** and will be able to pay it back once he sells his French beans. The solar panel will help him to light his home and he can save the money he would normally spend on buying paraffin for lighting, dry cells for his radio and

charging his mobile phone. Steven is able to afford the panel since he borrowed 10,000 shillings from the VSL which he will pay-back in two months after the beans harvest. Without the VSL group, he could not afford the panel or a loan from a local bank. - 0154



0171-3

Patricia Kilonzo received a goat from ADS E. She is a widow who had no means of supporting her five children. As a member of Muumbuni group, she received a goat which gave birth to twins. She retained one and gave one back to the group. She currently has four goats which she uses as collateral to get loans from the VSL to enable her to engage in French bean farming from which she gets money to support her children through school.



This is my family. I am a photo evaluator and member of a VSL group. I was able to borrow a loan from the VSL to buy 20,000 shillings shares in the Mbooni Ranching Scheme from which I expect to get 39,000 shillings as dividends. My family is happy since we have more income sources and I am able to take care of their needs. -

0194



This is my wife, Mrs. Eunice Dambuki, at her tailoring shop at Kanoto market. My family benefited from entrepreneurship and VSL training by ADS E. In 2012, using water from the sand dam, we grew tomatoes, french beans and kale which they sold in the local market. In the first

harvest we earned 35,000 shillings which we used to buy food for the family, buy the sewing machine and pay farm labourers. In the second harvest which was after four months, we got 20,000 shillings with which we bought clothing materials for the shop and Eunice started her sewing business in August 2012. Through the VSL group we can access more loans to buy materials especially when she receives bulk school uniform orders from the local schools. There are more children going to school because access to water has made life easy since there are more food and income options. -

0049

'The solar panel will help him to light his home and he can save the money he would normally spend on buying paraffin for lighting, dry cells for his radio and charging his mobile phone. Steven is able to afford the panel since he borrowed 10,000 shillings from the VSL which he will pay-back in two months after the beans harvest.'

'She currently has four goats which she uses as collateral to get loans from the VSL to enable her to engage in French bean farming from which she gets money to support her children through school.'

'There are more children going to school because access to water has made life easy since there are more food and income options.'

JUSTUS's photos

'Mostly women come. Men think this is something for women only and they are always busy with something so they don't come.'



This is a VSL group which I am monitoring because I monitor all the VSL groups. The group is called Amka B VSL (this is the second group). They are undertaking an exercise. They come together and contribute money. After

contributing for 4 weeks they can take a loan depending on their savings so that they can go and use it for one month and then they refund it with an interest of 10%. Any member of the community can be a member. Mostly women come. Men think this is something for women only and they are always busy with something so they don't come. You find maybe 2 or 3 men. This VSL group has 28 members, 7 officials and the process goes for a period of a year. When they meet they normally contribute 3 different types of contributions. One is a social fund, the other one is savings and the last is transport for my monitoring. - 0023



These are officials of Amka B VSL group

0025



These are members of the VSL. They come together once a week and then they go home to carry on with their activities.

0026



This is Kamwinzi VSL group. Here they are doing the loans. They bring all the calculations from the whole month and after checking they can give loans to members to invest. They normally say if you have a loan you can't get another

one until you pay this one back. You can get a loan according to your savings. You can loan twice your savings.

0027



This member is taking a loan. She has got a shop. She buys tomatoes and

sells other things to the community. She is taking a loan to purchase

goods to sell in her small kiosk. Her name is Florence Kasanga. In the book written under the column called Purpose, she wrote she will invest in her small kiosk. - 0028/29



These are the members waiting for each member to be called to ask for a loan. This is the leading group because they have managed to raise 250,000 KES. That is their own savings and doesn't

include interest! After the whole exercise, they will be sharing out 450,000 and there are only 28 women in the group! - 0030

'This is the leading group because they have managed to raise 250,000 KES. That is their own savings and doesn't include interest! After the whole exercise, they will be sharing out 450,000 and there are only 28 women in the group!'



These are the officials of the group Amka A VSL. It's the beginning of the meeting when the cash box is opened and they take out the books. The small plates are used for putting the money on as they count it. And all the other members are

watching what is going on. The treasurer is counting out the money. - 0035



This woman is taking a loan from the group. She has taken a loan of 10,000KES. She wants to go and use it for paying school fees for her children. - 0036-38



0046/47

This is the Wanzauni VSL. They are counting the money and verifying it so the members can start contributing for the next round.



This is Wanzauni VSL meeting in one of the members' shops who has benefited from the money. When she takes a loan she invests in the shop. She had a shop before but the stock was so little and now she has managed to put more stock in. Now she can manage to employ someone to come and work with her. The

women can come and buy different clothes they like from her shop. Now they are promoting her! Normally she had little stock and few customers and now she has a lot of customers. As a result, she allows members to come and meet in her shop. After they finish the meeting, the women can buy things. She is very clever! - 0048

'She had a shop before but the stock was so little and now she has managed to put more stock in. Now she can manage to employ someone to come and work with her. The women can come and buy different clothes they like from her shop. Now they are promoting her!'



These are mangos. People from Nairobi come to purchase mangos from women like my mum. 0049-51, 54



This is my mum. Her name is Margaret Nduge Nzioki. This is after harvesting her tomatoes on the farm. Now she can sell them to other women who go and sell them in the market and also to the neighbours. She is selecting tomatoes for one customer.

- 0053

'..she can sell them to other women who go and sell them in the market and also to the neighbours.'



This is a customer who has come to buy tomatoes from my mum. The woman is going to sell them in the market. My mum sells them for 1000 shillings for a 20kg bucket because this is the time when the tomatoes have a high price because there aren't many tomatoes. The lady will sell 5

tomatoes at around 20 shillings, so 1 costs around 4 shillings. She makes a profit of about 500 shillings from the bucket. My mum can sell all of them in a period of one week. But she has invested in many things too, not just tomatoes. Also kale, onions, cabbage etc. - 0052

'This is a customer who has come to buy tomatoes from my mum. The woman is going to sell them in the market.'



This is my mum having been given money after selling mangos to the people from Nairobi.

0055



This is my friend who took a loan from a VSL group to purchase a motorbike for carrying passengers to make money and then pay back the loan. After that he will own his own motorbike which will give him money for a livelihood. His name is Boniface Ngumbi. He is now trying to extend his mother's house so

that his mum can accommodate himself and his brother and wife. He first of all made the bricks with water from an earth dam, then sold half of them for about 50,000 shillings, then came and brought the money in the VSL as his savings and then borrowed a loan of 75,000 for the bike. - 0056



This is my house. After getting the money I am paid by the VSL groups for monitoring, I invested into savings

and then I took a loan to start building my house. These are the foundations. I am planning to finish this by August 2015 so I can have my own home. I am very happy. - 0057, 0087-90



This lady, Sarah, has managed to save and borrow money and build a poultry house and now she has some Kinyeji chickens. People like these more because they are grown naturally, but the others you have to give them food. This one has sweet meat and is

most recommended as people like it most. - 0095-96



This is Naomi Mwanza has managed to take a loan from Kinyuani VSL and has purchased a cow. When it gets big it will produce milk. The VSL projects mainly benefit women and youths. Women are the ones who are most challenged because they have to take care of the family and know

what their kids need to eat, but men are working somewhere away and come back late, but women are the ones on the ground working. - 0112

'This lady, Sarah, has managed to save and borrow money and build a poultry house and now she has some Kinyeji chickens. People like these more because they are grown naturally, but the others you have to give them food. This one has sweet meat and is most recommended as people like it most.'

'The VSL projects mainly benefit women and youths. Women are the ones who are most challenged because they have to take care of the family and know what their kids need to eat, but men are working somewhere away and come back late, but women are the ones on the ground working.'

MARY's photos



This is Rachel Muema (next to her poultry house). Because of the training in poultry keeping she built a house for the poultry and bought the poultry and started to manage them. She said she is now able to send her child to secondary school because now she's in form 4. She has been selling the poultry and the eggs

to get money. She said the project is so good because it has been helping people and god should bless them to continue helping them. She only had 1-2 hens before. Now she has about 50. - 0092



One of Rachel's chickens.

0093

This is me (right) trying to do my own records (accounts). Before ADS came I didn't do any records for my farm, but now they help me know if I am making a profit or loss. Keeping records is good because it has shown me where I have come from. Because of what I did I was able to buy pipes. The biggest problem in our area now is pipes, drip kits, pumps and tanks. If we had more of these we would be able to do even more. - 0094

'Keeping records is good because it has shown me where I have come from.'



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER RISKS

The people of Kalawani have been struggling for a long time to cope with a changing climate which includes erratic seasons and rainfall and results in a damaged environment. More water and better access to finance and knowledge enables farmers to adapt their livelihoods through crop diversification for example, so if one crop fails they have other things to fall back on. By listening to weather forecasts provided by Kenya's Met Office, they can also make better decisions around what to plant.

JACKSON's photos



Kale, one of the many different vegetables farmers are now able to grow.

0038



Members of a self-help group prepare soil pots to grow seedlings.

0050

'Bernard is able to afford paying school fees from the project. He is also a member of the VSL and a mango farmer. In addition he hosts educational tours for local schools on aqua-culture where students can come to his farm to see how fish farming is done.'



Bernard Musau at his fish farm which ADS E together with government assisted him in building. The government dug the pond and gave fingerlings while ADS E provided the polythene lining to trap the water. ADS E provided him with training as well. The farm gets water from the sand dam. He bought his own pipes to direct the water from the dam. Bernard sells fish and uses the money to take care of his family and pay school fees. He has two children who have finished secondary school and he is now preparing to send them to college.

The other four children are still in high school. Bernard is able to afford paying school fees from the project. He is also a member of the VSL and a mango farmer. In addition he hosts educational tours for local schools on aqua-culture where students can come to his farm to see how fish farming is done. - 0053, 54, 104, 105



Community members from Yandue location are able to get various specialised training and technical support e.g. on harvesting solar energy, fertilizers, water, fisheries and government, savings and credit organisations. ADS E organises the community into thematic groups and this makes it easier to invite other stakeholders to provide them with training. Members use the knowledge to improve their farm practices, support each other with advice and access more opportunities. (More pics available on request - 0062/64/65/70/71/76/79/80/82/83/85/87/89/93/96/97/99 and 110-136)

‘Members use the knowledge to improve their farm practices, support each other with advice and access more opportunities.’



A soil gauge (to measure soil conditions for planting) (This was demonstrated to farmers by agriculture experts during the training day)

0109



Alice Musau (left) a member of Muumbuni Water Project and VSL was supported by ADS E to construct a fish pond. She has in addition bought two dairy cows and harvested 9,000 mangos which she sold at 6 shillings per mango (54,000 shillings). Alice borrowed 40,000 shillings from her VSL which she was able to pay back to the group. Three years ago, it was impossible for women to do such kind of farming, this is because there were no groups and they could not get access to training. The PVCA process identified the empowerment of women and this led to increased income opportunities. Alice is able to diversify her farming and uses opportunities within the group to earn income and get technical support. - 0159/160/161

‘Three years ago, it was impossible for women to do such kind of farming. This is because there were no groups and they could not get access to training.’

CREATING SUSTAINABLE IMPACTS

One of the problems that poor people on the receiving end of aid projects often talk about regards 'lasting impact'. Often when a project is carried out, the tangible project inputs or benefits do not last after the NGO has left, either because the project has been imposed on them and the community maybe does not feel it owns the project sufficiently, or local authorities are not encouraged to replicate the approach once the NGO leaves.

Empowering communities to make decisions about their own development and find ways to ask others for resources, or to hold their government to account for services that it should be providing are important ways to ensure the benefits that Christian Aid brings about last for a long time after the project ends. Helping others in the community to learn about the knowledge or benefits from the project also leads to greater sustainability.

Furthermore, projects that have all the intentions of helping people can sometimes do more harm than good, for example if a borehole is dug in a certain where the water is salty, it provides no benefits for humans, animals or the environment. Ensuring projects 'Do No Harm' also means the benefits of development projects are more likely to be sustainable.

JACKSON's photos



Samuel Nzioka (in striped sweater) and Saul Kamami who are officials of the Kalanzoni self-help group are assessing a new site for a new sand dam which they plan to ask the government through the devolved grants system to help them construct. A new sand dam means more

'A new sand dam means more people can benefit from access to water and reduce their vulnerability to drought.'

people can benefit from access to water and reduce their vulnerability to drought. The water comes from a natural spring in the rocks on Mbooni Hills - 0037



Sammy Matia has been employed by Steven Cahlo as a farm labourer to take care of his farm. He earns an average of 400 shillings per day. The water from the dam ensures farming can continue and he has a steady income base to support his wife and six children. - 0148

'The water from the dam ensures farming can continue and he has a steady income base to support his wife and six children.'



Local schools are given tours on farming and aquaculture

0106



Students from Malaa Secondary School getting practical education on fish, french beans, banana, maize farming and farming as business options. Since the community members are involved in these farming practices, ADS E is also influencing the emphasis of these

practices within local schools so that the students and youth can take advantage of these opportunities. - 0102

'ADS E is also influencing the emphasis of these practices within local schools so that the students and youth can take advantage of these opportunities.'

JUSTUS's photos



This is an agent from MKOPA Solar (Safaricom) explaining to the (VSL group) members what the benefits of solar are. Safaricom usually want to work with groups to know if there are

challenges that are affecting them so that they can know how to help them. With this project, for every 5 people who purchase a solar unit through the group, there is a bonus of 2500 shillings that is sent to the group. Before the VSL, there was no such thing like this. Through the VSL, MKOPA Solar can reach a lot of people. Around 7 women from the group have taken it and they have enjoyed the bonus and they are now waiting for 3 others to take it to get the second bonus. The group can use this as a business. They can look for other people outside to purchase it and then the group also benefits from the bonus. (They are kind of sub-agents). - 0034

'With this project, for every 5 people who purchase a solar unit through the group, there is a bonus of 2500 shillings that is sent to the group. Before the VSL, there was no such thing like this.'



This is Uvaani VSL. They have just given loans to 5 members to purchase MKOPA Solar units.

0040



'One VSL member invested in cows after selling milk to community members. Now he comes and saves money in the VSL.'

0041, 42

Here are the members who have benefited (from the loans and solar power). The chairwoman, the treasurer and the secretary with the family of the treasurer.



This is Mary Kivindu, a member of a VSL group. She purchased a MKOPA Solar unit. The other lady is her neighbour who came to see about the MKOPA Solar. Mary convinced her neighbour Stella to buy one for her parents. - 0043-45

'Before my mum wasn't doing this business. After ADS empowered her she has now started farming as a business. We have built a small dam.'



One VSL member invested in cows after selling milk to community members. Now he comes and saves money in the VSL. When he needs to purchase food for the cows and for treatment he can take a loan in the VSL and pay for it. - 0060



Here is my mum picking kales which she sells to the business ladies to sell to consumers. Before my mum wasn't doing this business. After ADS empowered her she has now started farming as a business. We have built a small dam.

0078

'They used to have to go very far to purchase vegetables. Now they can purchase them nearer because there is a person producing them in the community.'



This is the women coming to buy kales. They used to have to go very far to purchase vegetables, eg in Machakos town. Now they can purchase it nearer because there is a person producing it in the community.

0079, 80



My mum is planning to start a new project for constructing a poultry house and a rabbit house. She managed to hire a lorry to bring the sand for construction.

0110

MARY's photos



0055, 56, 58

1. Leah Musyoka has helped many other farmers in her community from her success, like me!
2. This is the water pump and pipes that Leah bought which she shares (for free) with others like me.
3. One of Leah's sons doing weeding on her farm (far right).



0022, 23, 24

This is another sand dam that was built and is benefiting many people in this area of Kalawani. But there is no water at the moment. It had water in the rainy season.



This is Esther Makau's farm. She has been using the sand dam to irrigate her farm. When I asked her what the benefits were, she said it helped her very much because she had bought a water pump and a tank for irrigation. She's employing people. From the Kwa Mbuku sand dam

there's about 50 or more farmers using the water and they are also employing others (around 2- 3 per farm), but Esther employs about 6! 0079-80

'When I asked her what the benefits were, she said it helped her very much because she had bought a water pump and a tank for irrigation. She's employing people.'



This is one of the community members who bought vegetables from Esther's farm. She is selling them at a stall far from Esther. Her name is Dorothy Munyao. My daughter is standing on the right. Dorothy is now getting money through Esther's farm as she buys the vegetables from Esther and Leah and goes to sell them elsewhere to people who live far from the farms. - 0082/83

AMPLIFYING VOICES, ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY

Central to Christian Aid's integrated resilience building approach is the importance of giving women and men the power and voice to seek support from their government and other stakeholders, as well as to communicate what is appropriate for them. This includes having opportunities and mechanisms to tell ADS Eastern and Christian Aid what is working and what is not, and what changes are happening as a result of project interventions.

In addition to receiving advocacy training, community members were also invited to take part in the PPA Outcome Assessment exercises in 2015.

JACKSON'S photos



Members of Kalawani CBO participating in the PPA Outcome assessment process. We used the seeds on a plain paper to map the stages of progress that the ADS E project have taken us through. Starting with one mound of beans, we use the sizes to identify our progress from poor, middle to rich. - 0175-191

JUSTUS's photos



A VSL youth group was awarded with 2 motorbikes by the County Government after coming together and forming a youth group for empowering young people. The government gave the bikes to them to earn some money to save and then they invest the money into the VSL group so eventually some of them can get their own money to buy their own motorbikes. - 0092-94

'A VSL youth group was awarded with 2 motorbikes by the County Government after coming together and forming a youth group for empowering young people. The government gave the bikes to them to earn some money to save and then they invest the money into the VSL group so eventually some of them can get their own money to buy their own motorbikes.'



My group members were invited to come and help my friend raise money for going to university.

0106

MARY's photos



Here we are being interviewed about the project. This is Joseph and Evans interviewing people on how the project has been for the community. We are saying there are benefits on our side because of the training. We say it has been helping people. -

0084



This is the community of the CBO being interviewed on the benefits which we have received in Kalawani community.

0085-86



This is Justus, one of the members of the community trying to show from where we started to how far we have gone.

0087



This chart shows how people have grown from nothing to something, where we have come from and where we are now. Actually most people are now in the middle. We want to move from Middle to Rich. Before most people were in the lower side, they were poor. (A few people are on the rich side now

but we want to move from middle to rich). In the circles, for example the rich, they get money from renting houses, they get salary from their farms. - 0089

'This chart shows how people have grown from nothing to something, where we have come from and where we are now.'

'Actually most people are now in the middle. We want to move from middle to rich.'

'...she has managed to take some money from the VSL and put electricity in her home and she has managed to put a floor in her house...'

'...she has also bought some (preservative) sacks to put maize in and she has a TV for watching the news. And she has managed to buy an MKOPA Solar unit so when the electricity has gone she is not in darkness.'

BETTER HEALTH & WELLBEING

JUSTUS'S photos



This is a group called Kalumu B VSL. This is the home of the treasurer, Josephine Musau. She has benefited a lot because she has managed to take some money from the VSL and put electricity in her home and she

has managed to put a floor in her house. Now she is so happy because she has asked the members to come and meet in her home to learn from what she has been doing with the money. She has also bought some (preservative) sacks to put maize in and she has a TV for watching the news. And she has managed to buy an MKOPA Solar unit so when the electricity has gone she is not in darkness. -

0033

MARY's photos



Children can now go and fetch water by themselves from nearby. Because they have water they can wash more regularly so their hygiene is improved.

0025



Because of the unity of people, this is a car that caught on fire and the people went and saved the man. I can say this unity was brought by ADS. We joined together because of ADS. - **0074**



These women are making food for a party. A boy on the community was having a wedding so the women are trying to make the wedding party to be colourful so that they can take their lunch after the wedding. I can say people are satisfied now because of

what has been done. If they had nothing in their pockets they wouldn't make this. If they had nothing in their farm, they wouldn't make this. - **0090**



My family. I took my family because I love them. You see they are very happy. They are satisfied by what has been done and what I have been doing on my farm. Because of what we have been able to do, I can educate my first born and she is now at secondary school. She's 14. Form 2. She wants to

be a doctor. - 0091

'Children can now go and fetch water by themselves from nearby. Because they have water they can wash more regularly so their hygiene is improved.'

'My family. I took my family because I love them. You see they are very happy. They are satisfied by what has been done and what I have been doing on my farm. Because of what we have been able to do, I can educate my first born and she is now at secondary school.'

CHALLENGES

JUSTUS's photos

0059



This is another group called Kakima VSL. Members come together weekly to go on with their activities of contributing. They have challenges because we encourage members to save 200 shillings a week but some can't because they have other priorities. But we encourage them to save money to

help them so after one year they can use the money.

'He got involved because he understood the VSL could benefit him, not like the other men.'



This is the treasurer of Kakima VSL. He got involved because he understood the VSL could benefit him, not like the other men. The other men think, 'I can't go and sit with the women down there', so this is one challenge on the ground from the men. But now this man is benefiting because he can manage

his cows better. - 0061-63

