



OSA KENYA- ISHIARA PROJECT



CASE STUDY REPORT | 2018



CONTENTS



04

Case Study of William Muchiri From Kamaukanya Village-Ndurumori Location

07

Case Study of Mercy Kanini From Kanduu Silc Group.

10

Poultry Case Study Lucyline Mbura

12

Poultry Case Study of David Njeru



13

Silc Case Study of Feata Ndegi.

16

Poultry Case Study Of Josphat Njeru

18

Poultry Case Study of Mirriam Ndegi

19

Silc Case Study of Ndamuke Mutirieguru.

20

Poultry Case Study of Lucia Mbura

21

Back To Basics; The Agro-Ecological Journey of Stanley Njeru Kathiga

CASE STUDY OF WILLIAM MUCHIRI FROM KAMAUKANYA VILLAGE-NDURUMORI LOCATION

William Muchiri Gichoni aged 58 years a husband to Virginia Igoki (55 years) and father of five children namely; Michael Mugendi (32 Yrs), Caroline Wanja (30 Yrs), Beatrice Muthoni (30 Yrs), Irene Murugi (24 Yrs) and Jadiel Kimathi (15 Yrs). William hails from Kamukanya village in Ndurumori location, Evurori wards, Embu County in Eastern Province. He lives in a 3 hectare piece of land which he bought 2 years ago through accumulated savings and sales from part of his livestock. He is an agro pastoralist where he keeps herd of cattle and goats as well practices agro ecological farming in his backyard.



He confesses when he bought his land was bare without any tree cover and the yield were always low but this changed when he joined Wikuthe group. The group has sentimental attachment to his family transformation today as he explains during our interview. The group which was initially targeted in UKAM project through SILC intervention has taken advantage of layering of intervention and requested training on permaculture and agro ecology.

According to William he has reaped a lot of from SILC for instance the first share out all members received each a she goat which is almost kidding a month to come and later the group decided to buy kienyenji chickens for all members which the group leadership monitors on regular basis to ensure members take care of them. When William realized these chickens were less labour intensive and breeding very fast as well as giving the family reliable source of income he decided to borrow a loan of Ksh.10,000 to expand poultry project. From the loan he bought chicks worth Ksh.6,000 and the rest spent to meet family needs. The project succeeded very well and after 6months he sold the mature chickens at total cost of Ksh.14,050.

After selling the chickens he realized cocks had higher monetary value (price) than hens and

therefore decided through the sales he obtained to start again buying young chicks worth between Ksh.300-350 for breeding and he targets by end of February to purchase 30 chicks. These 30 chicks he intends to breed them for 3 to 6 months after which he will sell (dispose) and continue the same process over and over. "He confesses he never knew chickens can make good money within a short time".

However, William whose land is on sloppy topography used to get low yield due to poor soil conservation measures put in place. Luckily through the support of group members he has managed to dig terraces and conserve soil erosion. The group has ensured every member's farm has recommended soil conservation measures. Today William testifies since he dug the terraces the yield have increased he can now get enough for the family and sell surplus to meet other household needs.

To implement the learning's he practicing agro ecology in his farm where he has designed his farms through permaculture principles. He already have a good kitchen garden, main farm and is on progress of developing food forest with some visible layers with root crops e.g cassavas, sweet potatoes, cover crops like pumpkins, shrubs e.g cowpeas and climber passion fruits thriving well. At the same time after getting benefits of agro ecological practices he decided to convert part of his main farm by digging a total of 110 zaipits where he has planted diversified crops like millets, sorghum, maize, cowpeas, .

In the kitchen garden he has dug also 7 sunken beds where there is variety of vegetables including, kales, cowpeas, maize among other indigenous vegetables.

William who depends on rain feed crops in his main farm had also a fair share challenges

which range from water shortage to lack of enough manpower to dig sunken beds and zaipits that are labour intensive. However, to overcome problems of water shortage the wife assist by fetching water with the donkeys in the nearby river ENA to water vegetables in the kitchen garden that are thriving well. Nevertheless he plans in a near future before the next rain season to dig a water pan within the compound to harvest rain water from the roadside to utilize in watering the crops.

It was worth noting William uses ash as pest repellent and this has worked very well and by and large as he narrates health benefits accrued by not using chemical in his farm. He has also ensured he use pure local indigenous seeds that are drought resistant and pest repellent and even when rain is unreliable still get enough yields to feed his family and sometimes sell.

To promote this culture of seed saving he usually preserve his indigenous seeds through traditional methods of using kitchen smokes after which he stores them in local granary after season.

During the time of our frilled visit he already had variety of indigenous seeds that includes; maizes- three species i.e Makueni, Gatumani and Gichuka, Sorghum (Kaguru), local water melon commonly referred to as "Matanga".

To implement agro forestry training in his farm he has continuously being planting trees along the compound and he is optimistic in future they will act as wind breaker and along run creates a microclimate within. Lastly but not least William heart will be at peace when see other neighbors have embraced agro ecology so as to experience similar benefits he has experienced and thanked the donor who has supported the trainings that have transformed his family life's livelihoods.



William and her wife Virginia holds pumpkins and maize from their agro ecological farm .



William attends to attends and hold part hischickenthatheintendstobreeds.



William in his main farm and food forest enjoying the fruits of his labour.

CASE STUDY OF MERCY KANINI FROM KANDUU SILC GROUP.



Mercy Kanini aged 51 Yrs reside with her family in a small village of Mungetho in Thambu sub location, Ndurumori Location, Mbeere Sub-County in Embu County of Eastern province. She is happily married to Jackson Nyaga Njiru and together they have six children's namely Emily Ndegi aged 31Yrs, Dorothy Kagendo-27Yrs, Newton Mbogo-24Yrs, Nicholus Murimi-19Yrs, Linet Muthoni-15Yrs and Jesica Nkatha-8Yrs. Mercy Kanini is a mixed farmer who relies heavily on rain fed agriculture.

Mercy joined Kanduu women group in the year 2015 when the main group activities were merry go round and table banking where members used to contribute money on monthly basis and put it into a kit that would be given to one members rotationally based on the turn developed at the beginning of each cycle. To support their table banking kit they had extra contribution that would be collected together and be used to lend to interested and needy in form of soft loan while attracting a certain percentage interest. As a norm of the group after every merry go round cycle they would bring all the interest collected from the table banking kit plus their principle contribution, divide the money equally and use the money in acquiring household assets.

This trend continued until 2016 when their group was targeted by the OSA –UKAM Project as a poultry groups and later as a result of project intervention layering imitative the group was also trained on SILC model by one of trainer of trainees. To her she considers the initiation of SILC intervention as the most successful thing in her life in Kanduu group. Mercy recounts before introduction of SILC model in their group how they used to lose a lot of money to group since they were not safe, weak group by- laws, poor record management by leaders and poor saving culture among members thus less savings that would not accumulate to a large amount to enable borrow enough money for investments or personal use.

However, after introduction of SILC model in their group this has been an eye opener to most of the members since they were able to seal the loopholes in group funds management and now the process are more formal and their money is secure in a saving box. The members therefore after completing SILC training modules agreed to start saving amount they could afford on weekly basis and after some months the savings

had accumulated enough for members to start borrowing loans and repay with agreed 10% interest. It was by then Mercy decided to borrow the first loan that enabled her open a business ventured in a nearby market of cooking chips. According to her this was rare venture in the area thus no competition where she used to operate in a temporal "kiosk". The small business would later start growing slowly by selling assorted farm produce and shop items like potatoes, onions, tomatoes, kales, sodas, cooking oil, sugar, maize flour among others.

With business growing at fast pace, Mercy managed to repay her first loan on time and borrowed the second time Ksh.5,000 from the group with an aim of expanding the business. This was to assist her in construction of permanent structure "kiosk" and she managed to purchase some building materials but was not enough. Therefore she approached her husband for additional support who offered to buy iron sheets. The construction could not be complete since some building materials like timbers, cements and labour cost of "fundis were un available or even not enough.

Luckily when she was wondering what to do next, Kanduu SILC group held first share out and she was glad to receive Ksh.15,000 amounts that to larger extent enabled completion of the kiosk. The rest of the finishing work of kiosk was done later with accrued profits before shifting to the premises.

To date Mercy is a proud owner of one roomed shop that stands majestically in Mungetho market fully equipped with all assorted shop and farm produce items for sale to customers.

She proudly says now doesn't have to worry if the husband will not give her

money for group contributions, payschool fees for their children as well as not meet other basic needs in households as she can comfortably juggle the roles of husband.

The group in addition has enabled her through loan borrowing to light her home with solar powered light system worth Ksh.16,000 that she acquired on loan from D-Light Company by first remit down payment (deposit) and pay subsequent monthly charges of Ksh.40 per day for period of 1 year. At the time of our interview she had already cleared the loan with D-Light Company and had recently bought a new colored TV with solar panel worth Ksh.64,000 having already paid down payments of Ksh.3,500 and with balance of Ksh.20,000 while she continues to remit Ksh.100 per day on monthly basis for a period of 1 year.

However, Mercy in a small piece of land also practices mixed farming by growing green grams, cowpeas, millet, sorghum among other cereals and keeps livestock (SHOAT) as well as poultry. She went ahead and tells us the benefits she has reaped in terms of availability of eggs for households consumption and not forgetting income generated from sale of increased stock from 3 hens and 2 cocks she received from OSA project.

Over time the hybrid chickens would for the first times multiply faster to 9 chickens out of which 6 were hens and 3 cocks thereafter maturity they were sold at ksh.1,000,800 and 700 respectively. The money obtained from sale of cocks she bought a goat and had already gave birth to 1 kid.

Mercy vision in 5 to 10 years to come plans is to expand her shop business to a wholesale and ultimately buy her own plot within the market.



Mercy poses for a photo inside her newly constructed shop.



Mercy and other group members receiving a goat during SILC share out.



Mercy at her homestead feeding the chicken.



Mercy in her homestead and display a colour TV she has bought through SILC initiative.



POULTRY

CASE STUDY LUCYLINE MBURA

Lucyline Mbura is a lady aged 37 years. She is a resident of katheru village, Ngoce sub location, Iriaitune location EVURORE ward EMBU county. She is married and a mother of four.

Like majority of farmers in iriaitune location, lucyline do maginal mixed farming. Before the project begun, she kept few local chicken which did not exceed a population of 10. Inclusion of egg protein into the diet was rare and that chicken were left to graze on their own with no food or with very little that in some circumstances fell from the plates as the family enjoyed their meals. In addition, whenever an outbreak attacked, all the chicken that there were in the family died. This left her with no chicken and she had to yet again begin from buying chicken from the market. Traditionally in the community, there is very little interest attached to the poultry farming and as such, it is viewed as less value livestock that which is oftenly associated with children and was only slaughtered whenever a family is visited by a low profile guest. In the past, chicken were given freely to the family nephews and nieces whenever they paid a visit to their grandparents, uncles and aunts. Contrary to these believe and practices, poultry farming if well organise become a large enterprise and it has high returns.

Informed by the need to empower women and common interest groups, OSA Ishiara in their ukam project implementation identified that the most convenient enterprise for MMF from which they can

get convenient income is poultry raring. It is simple in that it requires less capital to start, manage and maintain.



Lucyline's chicken

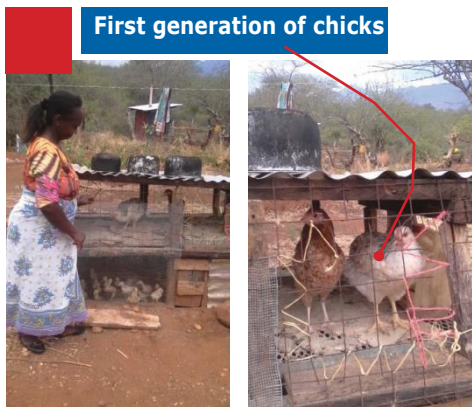
Lucyline is a member of Munyaka poultry group which is one of the group supported by OSA ishiara project with poultry intervention. She remembers receiving 4 hens and 1 cork from OSA Ishiara one year ago. Unfortunately, some of her hens died but the cork and 2 hens survived the attack. This disease did not kill her morale, she continued to feeding her chicken. Since my chicken started laying, I have never bought an egg for my family, we have always had enough for us” lucyline recalls.

She adds that in her group, she has learnt how to hatch as many chicks with one hatching hen, with this knowledge she has managed to hatch 4 generation of chicks. In her first attempt she successfully

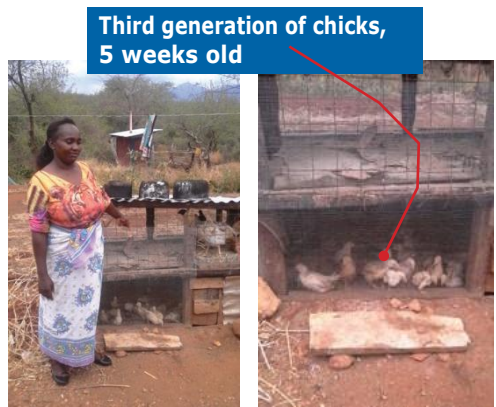
hatched 10 chicks, second 15chicks, third 48, fourth 23. Lucyline recalls that in third attempt to hatch all the 48 eggs hatched, a success she relates to proper storage of eggs and well prepared laying units. Of these chicks 65 are surviving of which 2 are already grown to maturity and she hopes that very soon they will start laying. Once the chicks hatches, I separate them from the hatching hens then I give the hens more eggs for hatching” Lucyline adds. Interestingly, she has used Aloe vera to treat her chicken whenever they are ailing and also for diseases control.

In her poultry enterprise, there has been few challenges. These includes, diseases attacks and long distances to access the chicken feeds. At the start she had a challenge feeding the chicken but he husband now support her in feeding the chicken and due to the large numbers, he has made a chicken house for the growing population of chicken. This chicken house will be completed in few days.

She advises that poultry enterprise is the most convenient, and simple but with high returns and fast reproductive rate than goats and other livestock.



First generation of chicks



Third generation of chicks, 5 weeks old



Two weeks old chicks fourth generation



Lucyline with a tray of eggs

POULTRY

CASE STUDY OF DAVID NJERU

David Njeru is a physically challenged man, a resident of mutirieguru village, Iriaitune sub location, Iriaitune location EVURORE ward EMBU county. He is a family man in his late 40s. David believed that his disability is not inability and has joined saving groups, from his savings, he runs a shop at Kabubua market.

One of the groups he joined is Ngoriai self help group. This group brings together men and women from iriaitune sublocation living with disabilities. Ngoriai as common interest groups was targeted by OSA Ishiara in their ukam project. OSA identified that the most convenient enterprise for this group would be poultry raring. It is simple in that it requires less capital to start, manage and maintain. Poultry raring would generate income for the household especially from the sale of poultry products and improve on nutritional status of the family.

Traditionally poultry farming was viewed as less value enterprise that was oftenly associated with children and was only slaughtered whenever a family is visited by a low profile guest. In the past, chicken were given freely to the family nephews and nieces whenever they paid a visit to their grandparents, uncles and aunts. Contrary to these beliefs and practices, David defeats the odds and tries to enlarge the enterprise and he beliefs that poultry farming will turn his life around.

He recalls that after a rigorous capacity building done by OSA on poultry farming,

he received 5 improved kienyenji poultry, 4 hens and 1 cork more than one year ago from the Organisation. After feeding his poultry for few months, the hens started laying. At first the family ate the eggs but the laying was continuous and he decided to be selling some. After sale of more than 200 eggs @ kes 30 each, he decided to buy a she goat and another hatching hen. He has opened an account with DAIMA SACCO where he deposits money acquire from the sale of poultry produce.

In their group meeting he learnt from the member that one could use unimproved kienyenji poultry to hatch the improved kienyenji eggs. He gave it a trial and hatched 20 chicks and 12 chicks later . some died but others survived, from the sale of chicks only he has been able to make kes 2200.

In his poultry enterprise, there has been few challenges. These includes, diseases attacks and long distances to access the chicken feeds. At the start she had a challenge feeding the chicken but he later learnt that he could let his flock free-graze and this has helped him reduce the cost of feeding them.

David recalls that sometimes he had no money and his children were sent home for an exam fee of kes 180, his wife sold six eggs and the exam fee was paid. He adds that if one is committed to feeding, poultry is a highly productive asset.



Part of David's flock



David's daughter holding on collected eggs from the flock



David's wife attending to their goats



SILC

CASE STUDY OF FEATA NDEGI.

38 years old Feata Ndegi a resident of Mangote village, Kyenire sub location, Ndurumori location in Mbeere North Sub County of Embu County is married to Ephantus Njeru (40 Years) and mother to four children's namely Fridah Wanjiru-17yrs in form 4 student, Hildah Wawira-14 yrs, Lucy Karimi-13 yrs and last born Alex Muchangi-8yrs.

Feata and his husband Ephantus are subsistence farmer growing mainly maize, green grams, fruit trees, and vegetables and keeps livestock mainly SHOAT and cows on their small half acre piece of land. Ephantus supports her wife to implements some of agro ecological farming practices she has learnt from the OSA-Ishiara parish project and from their farm its evident enough they have adopted through established kitchen garden, agro forestry where they have planted tree in their farm and established a home tree nursery, dug and planted maize in zaipits, soil water conservation through digging of terraces and water harvesting structures by digging one large water pan.

Feata from money acquired from her SILC group as loans runs a small business of a kiosk where she sells to the community her farm produces and other food household's requirements. Her attempt to start the small business dates back in 2016 when she joined a merry go round and table banking group (Maendeleo Umoja SHG) and through her merry go round kit she begun some hawking business (mainly sweets and other snacks in meeting places, shopping centers and in market centers). However, the joy of the group came in when OSA-Ishiara parish through the community resilience and climate change adaptation project came in and trained them on SILC early 2017. The group members started their saving in April 2017 and within three consecutive months they were able to accumulate enough money for borrowing among themselves.

Feata vividly remembers that her first loan from the SILC was of ksh 4,000 that was charged an interest of 10% and used it to expand her hawking business to a small local kiosk where she expanded by adding a few items like flour, sugar, salt, tea leaves among others. She comfortably repaid the ksh 4,000 and qualified for a second

loan of ksh.5,000 that saw her expand the business to higher level in terms of adding the quantities of the sale items. By that time the business was already making good returns to make her repay the group loan and meet other needs like paying school fee for her daughter who is in secondary in installments basis. Feata as days passed by felt more motivated to acquire more loan and in the third loan cycle she borrowed ksh.11,000 which she used in various ways, she bought a sheep worth Ksh.3,000, she used r Ksh.3,000 in hiring casual labor for cultivating her family Agricultural land and from her business she topped up the ksh 5000 remaining with ksh 8000 and bought a heifer. Feata repaid the ksh 11,000 plus the interest and from that time she has been acquiring more and more loan amount and paying promptly. She feels happy that from her small business sha gets enough profit to repay her loan and what she has now embarked on is acquiring a loan at the beginning of the term pays full school fees for her daughter and from the business returns she repays the money back. she Happily state that " as long as the SILC group is there my daughter will never be sent home for school fees and my business will always be in operation"

Feata too narrates other SILC benefits equal rights among all members in borrowing loans, simple and favorable borrowing conditions to borrow, Friendly and affordable interest on loans, Share out opportunities at the end of the cycle that ensures that interest accrued is proportionally shared among members, welfare kit within the SILC model that takes care of emergencies among members, accountability and transparency as presented by the model. According to Feata despite the benefits the group has faced minimal challenges which include loan defaulting and delay in loan repayments by some members. As a result

the group has come up with strategies to curb further challenges which are extending loan repay period to 3 months just to ensure that members can repay their loans in installments and secondly ensuring that loan given to members is in line with their paying capacity mainly got from their past records. Currently the group cumulatively has ksh 200,000 as savings and each member has got a pass book in which they fill their transaction everytime they meet. To ensure that every member of Mangote maendeleo group benefits from the model is that the group has collectively agreed that when they do their share out each member must invest in a productive Asset.

Feata links the SILC intervention to the rest of the components within the UKAM project by saying that through other trainings and especially on Agro ecology I am happy as I no longer go to the market

to buy vegetables for my family because I already have a kitchen garden from which I get enough for the family and sell the surplus within my Kiosk. Feata has a dream of boosting her business from two to three years from now and start business venture of cereals store and selling motorbike fuel within the village as she has seen that as business opportunity. The interview could not have ended without Feata lacking one word for the donor of this project. That she prays to God for him every day to continue other people in semi arid areas to be empowered through trainings on how to utilize locally available for betterment of their families livelihoods. Also to those already trained and acquired skills to share and support the rest of community members to embrace SILC and agro ecological farming practices for dry land in their farms to address problem of food security and increase household income levels. .



Feata holding on her livestock acquired through the SILC initiative



Some of initiatives that Feata has adapted from the Agro ecology trainings



POULTRY

CASE STUDY OF JOSPHAT NJERU

Description of the intervention:

Interviews (1/2 Beneficiaries)

A success story of **Josphat Njeru** a 32 year old poultry beneficiary in the UKAM Project and his wife Grace Karimi (30 years old) are residents of Kianjoya village in the Ndurumori location, Mbeere North sub-county in Embu county. They are blessed with five children namely David, Justin, Millicent, wanjue and Wawira.

Josphat and the wife share their journey in improved kienyeji farming with lots of ambitions and hopes in life as initially they only reared few local breed with minimal returns. He narrates how the OSA-Ishiara parish project office through the community resilience and climate change adaptation project his group by the name Wakulima joint was targeted for the poultry intervention. The news came to them as group members and two conditions were put across prior to the distribution of the poultry i.e. each members to contribute kes 500 half the price of the cock and construct a simple but standard chicken coop that would accommodate the five chicken intended for distribution. Josphat received the news Happily and within two weeks he had met the conditions and ready to receive the Poultry. He remembers that the poultry were delivered on a Thursday morning and he received his 4 hens and 1 big cock of the improved kienyeji breed. He carefully carried his poultry back home and the chickens were received by the family with lots of happiness.

It was a new beginning to them faced with challenges but later felt the sweat fruits. One month after received the poultry two hens died of Newcastle diseases but Josphat did not lose hope in his plans. He objectively sought for advice from fellow group members who advised him to invest in biological control that involved use of concoction made of aloe Vera, neem leaves and hot pepper. After doing this his 3 remaining poultry regained their health and started reproduction. Short while after healing tone hen begun to lay and he was able to brood 15 eggs using a local hen that was also laying at the same time. Out of the 15 brooded eggs 14 chicks hatched, out of the 14 chicks he sold two to another group members who had lost all his poultry, 6 died and 6 (5 hens and 1 cock) survived to day they are mature and the hens laying and currently have their second generation chicks. The hens have been laying continuously while the local hens have continuously brooded the eggs. On average Josphat collects 30 eggs on weekly basis and thus Josphat feeds his family on eggs 3 days per week, sell at least 15 eggs per week @ kes 20 and on monthly basis he gets at least 20 chicks that he layers and sometimes sell to neighbors' who are interested in rearing the improved kienyeji poultry.

Josphat says that every success goes with challenges and so in the poultry farming initiative he faced several challenges which include "I initially incurred a lot of cost in buying the commercial feeds for the poultry until the day I learnt that even

the improved chicken can feed on millet and sorghum. For two months now my chicken have purely been fed on millet and maize and they have adopted”, sometimes my chicks die out of unknown diseases and especially before they reach one month. I recently attended a training by Mwangi (a livestock extension officer) and I was provided with a vaccination plan that I have started to adhere to”

Josphat further testifies that despite the few challenges faced he cannot compare the benefits associated with the improved poultry breed to the local breed.”For the 13 months I have been into the improved poultry I have reaped a lot of benefits which include : continuous laying thus eggs are guaranteed on daily basis as long as they feed well, nutrition wise children have been able to improve due to consumption, income generation through the sale of the eggs and chicks”.Josphat confirms that out the income generated he comfortably pays for the children school fees, he has bought 10 iron sheets that he hopes to add in anticipation to construct a family

house out of the poultry project.

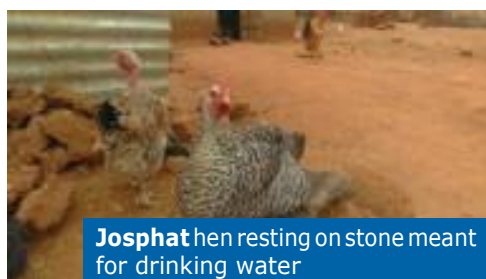
Interestingly, Josphat states that the entire family including the children have been taking part in managing the poultry in ensuring that the chicken house is clean, they are provided with feeds and water as agreed and ensuring that they are locked in their coop at night.

Josphat hopes that in 3 years from now he will have expanded his poultry project and even venture into advanced dairy goat rearing project for milk production and additional income.

Josphat and the family are very thankful to OSA –Ishiara Parish for the work they have been doing in their community, it has restored the sense of belonging to many people who are poor. He links the poultry project to other interventions that have been done by the parish such as the Agro ecological practices training and adoption that has really been taken up by the community.



Josphat feeding his poultry



Josphat hen resting on stone meant for drinking water



Josphat feeding his poultry



Josphat poultry on Free range

POULTRY

CASE STUDY OF MIRRIAM NDEGI

Article written by: Morris Njeru

Date: 5.4.2018

Description of the intervention:

Mirriam Ndegi part of the poultry group in the UKAM Project. She resides in Ndurumori Location. Many residents of her area have no irrigation water and therefore like many other beneficiaries, she is reliant on other types of farming other than irrigation to meet her daily needs. In her opinion, the poultry intervention was very appropriate for her because she would have been better served in a livestock and not crop based intervention.

Notably, this intervention was accorded to her by the project after realization that the group would struggle severely with a crop based intervention because of the lack of irrigation water. In addition, they were already taking part in poultry prior to receiving any intervention.

OSA-ISHIARA intervened for this particular beneficiary and her group because they had practiced poultry farming for a long time without any sustainable outputs. It was realized that given their understanding of the trade, if followed up consistently, they could grow to become large scale trades of the chicken produce. However, as it currently stands, the project's intention is to ensure that household needs are met and within the next year grow the venture into a large scale enterprise.

Interviews (1/2 Beneficiaries)

Mirriam Ndegi is a 30 year old single Mother. She has two children ; a boy and girl aged 5 and 9 respectively. She resides in Karambari Village, Ndurumori Location in Evurore ward. She is a beneficiary of the UKAM project under the poultry intervention and the secretary of her group.. As a single young lady she earned her living through mixed farming where she grew crops like cowpeas, green grams, maize and sorghum. She also reared a few goats.

She has benefited from the project through the poultry intervention where she was given 5 chicken one cock and four hens initially she had no chickens in her farm but through the poultry intervention which she considers as the best of all, she has more chicken and willing to increase the number of improved kienyeji. According to Milliam, she has witnessed great impacts from the intervention. One of the greatest impact she has witnessed is egg consumptions. There before it was difficult for Mirriam and her family to buy eggs for consumption but now they are readily available and which are rich in protein hence improving the diet and due that she said that her children are better in terms of health as compared to when they could not afford eggs. The intervention has improved her economic status, she was able to sell 15 crates of eggs to her neighbor's, which has help her to buy other items such as salt, onions and sugar. Chicken manure has also played a

crucial role in building the soil where she wishes to start kitchen garden. Training on diseases surveillance has also build her capacity on chicken rearing.

According to her ,there have been no challenges as far as the poultry intervention is concerned because she followed the instructions given to her on taking care of the chicken when they were issued.. She buys vaccines from the money taht shemakes when she sells the eggs.

She appreciated the project because the intervention has addressed their needs and interest fully, she also anticipated that by the end of this year she will have 50 improved kienyeji chicken and plans

to buy local kienyeji for the purpose of brooding only, out of the effort she puts towards the intervention she was able to build chicken coup out of the income from chicken. She has sold around 15 crates of eggs and she has used that money to buy cement, nail, binding wire, chicken wire and iron sheet that built the chicken coup. She did the brooding of some eggs and she managed to get 10 chicks but only 4 of them survived

Milliam said that the project has improved the social and economic aspects which are very crucial and will lead to her to achive most of the goals she has set out for her household `s growth.

SILC

CASE STUDY OF NDAMUKE MUTIRIEGURU.

Description of the intervention: SILC

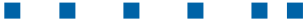
Ndamuke Mutirieguru women group has been in operation for long. It draws members from Mutirieguru village, Iraitune sub location, Iraitune location , Evurore ward, mbeere north subcounty embu county.

In their periods of operation, they have conceived and taken part in implementation of many community intiated project within Mutirieguru village. These includes starting Mutirieguru primary school, Mutirieguru community dam among others. Their drive in establishing these projects was to ensure that their village had basic facilities like a school and water in their village and so never thought of any other group initiative that would directly impac on their household income.

In the OSA UKAM project targeting groups to be work with, Ndamuke Mutirieguru women group was given SILC intervention. The group was trained on Saving and Lending using SILC model. The group has made several progress amid few challenges. Members report that SILC model helps keep their money safe and access loans easily.

As an outstanding SILC group, Ndamuke Mutirieguru has made reasonable progress. They have a regulation that once a member request for a loan, they must use a part of it in acquiring a productive asset either a goat or chicken. All of its members have acquired at least a goat or several chickens. One member report that she bought 3 chicken, after a year, she had 15 chicks which she later sold 5 of them each at 500 making a total of 2500. She used the money to pay for school fees.

Recently the group did a stock taking and they realized that so far the group has 10 of its members have at least a goat.



Some of the group members who have acquired goats

POULTRY CASE STUDY OF LUCIA MBURA

Lucia Mbura is a lady aged 37 years and a resident of kianthenge village kamarandi location, Evurore ward, Mbeere-North Sub-county, Embu County. She is married to njagi and blessed with three children

Lucia has been practicing mixed farming where she grows crops like green grams, millet and cowpeas on her small piece of land, they also kept some livestock that is goats, cattle and a few number of chicken but she was more interested in poultry farming because she considered selling chicken rather than selling a goats or farm produce although poultry had myriad of challenges. Lucia spent most her time taking care of livestock while her husband does some construction work as a casual laborer. Before the project begun, she had a few local kienyeji chicken which was mainly for markets, according to her it was great loss for her family to consume eggs or meat from the chicken and therefore it was difficult for her children to enjoy

protein from the chicken.

Lucia mbura is member of kianthenge unity, which is one of the group supported by OSA –ishiara parish under the ukam project with poultry intervention. She remembers receiving 4 hens and 1 cock which she considered as a blessings because she was really in need of improved kienyeji breeds. After receiving her chicken she decided to take full responsibilities to ensure that all the chicken and the cock given survived but unfortunately only one chicken died. She was worried after the death that chicken because she feared for the remaining.

Lucia said that the training on poultry management as well as disease surveillance has really help her because she knows how and when to vaccinate her poultry, also she is able to detect when her poultry are not well by looking at signs and symptoms of various diseases. She applied the knowledge given by the livestock

extension officer known as mwangi and her local knowledge to manage her poultry. Due to all that she was able to feed her poultry well and they started laying quite early actually before those of other group members. When her poultry started laying she was very happy together with the family members because they enjoyed eggs. She decided not to sell eggs until her family is fully satisfied and reached a time when nobody had appetite for eggs that when she started selling the neighbors, as she was selling to the neighbors she decided to increase her poultry through brooding where she used her chicken to the breeding because she could not have an incubator.

Lucia started collecting average of 30 eggs per week and monthly average of 120 eggs that is four crates. In her first attempt in brooding she managed to successfully hatch 4 chicks and all of them have grown up to maturity and out of the 4, 3 are laying while 1 decided to brood. In her second attempts she successfully hatched 21 chicks, they are faring well. She has sold quite a number of eggs to the group members as well other community members who are beneficiary of Ukam project.

Lucia said the poultry intervention has really boosted her economic status, she

been able to construct children house with two rooms. She used the money got from selling of eggs to employ some guys to model bricks for her one brick @ 2 bob and she was in need of 1500 bricks so she paid them 3000 shillings. She bought 10 iron sheet one iron sheet costing 550 so the cost of iron sheet was 5500 shillings. She took the advantage of her husband because she had some technical knowledge in construction work to build the house. Lucia is still constructing another chicken coop due to increased numbers of chicken.

Poultry has made it easy to pay school fees she said that she usually pay over 1200 shillings per term. In addition her poultry has enhanced group contribution where is able to take loan and pay with much struggle also buying of vaccines and other poultry requirements is not a big deal to her unlike there before the project. She rely on eggs selling to meet the family needs. The most interest issue with lucia is that she has not experienced any challenges after the training offered by OSA- ishiara parish. She said her poultry entreprices manages itself. Lucia and a family are very thankful to OSA -ishiara parish for their work they have been doing in their community and kamarandi location at large. She appreciated the process of beneficiary selection.

BACK TO BASICS; THE AGRO-ECOLOGICAL JOURNEY OF STANLEY NJERU KATHIGA

Fourty Eight Year Old Stanley Njeru Kathiga has been a farmer all his life. However, it is only recently that he states he discovered how to make his passion effortless. He hails from a small village in Kiburu, Mbeere North Subcounty, Embu County. A father to 5 kids, he has been dependent on his farming to see his children through their schooling and other needs. With his youngest being ten and his oldest being twenty one, he has a large household to feed and only one source of income - small scale farming.

This is a venture which he practices with his wife Dollas Kaura. With the Onset of the Community Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation project in 2016, Stanley slowly began to realize why his original farming practices had been failing him. He alludes that farming had become an entirely expensive affair because he had to purchase a lot of chemicals and external inputs to support his practice. Notably, Stanley's household is represented by his wife Dollas Kaura in the project through the local women group Rainbow. Dollas receives training from the project and then passes it on to her husband who is the primary manager of their farm. In this process, Stanley and Dollas have become aware of the concepts that govern Agroecology and through practice, in turn, internalized them

At this point in time Stanley has 3 seed beds and plans to increase them to 10 by the offset of 2018. It is through these beds that he is able to feed his household on a daily basis. This is because the beds mostly have vegetable composition such as Kale and Spinach. This, he notes is an improvement in their dietary diversity where previously consumption of vegetables in his household was very rare as they had to be purchased from other households (or market) and with their then very little earnings, this was not a priority. He also has a main farm where there is maize, millet and sorghum in larger scale capacity. The maize has now been planted in zai pits and this, he notes, has really increased his harvest. He also has local melons (locally known as "matanga") that he

uses as the main cover crops. Additionally he has prepared two composts that are about are almost fully ready for use.

Due to the scarcity of water in the area, Stanley is in the process of preparing his water pan that will provide irrigation water when there are long periods of dry spell in the areas. With the help of his wife and children, he hopes to increase the number of water pans to a level that will leave them substantially secure to issues of water scarcity. Additionally, Stanley has begun to plant local indigenous tree species in his farm that he hopes will improve the micro climate in the otherwise harsh environment. This is a practice he intends to pass on to neighboring households so that the results can be widely felt.

Stanley states that other than the nutritional and economic value that agro ecology has brought to his household, he credits it with an improved relationship with his wife. They now have a "functional system" because she feels more involved in decision making at household level. This is because all the knowledge that is passed to her in the group's trainings is then incorporated into the farm's improvement.

While agro ecology is slowly spreading in his village through the Climate Change and Community Resilience Project's work, Stanley states that he can proudly ascertain that Agro ecology works. This he states is the most convenient method of farming as its ingredients are freely provided by nature. He hopes to pass the practice on to his children, so that in the future, their farming is equally as fulfilling.



Stanley illustrating the cover crop distribution in his farm



Stanley and Dollas strolling through their farm

