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Monday 26 May, 2014



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Modern farming makes parenting easier for 45 year-old farmer

By Special Correspondent

SHIJA Madimilo, a 45 year-old father of six and small-scale farmer at Mbugwe Village in Nzega District, Tabora Region, is all smiles as he talks about his flourishing farming activities, which make his life as a father happier and hassle free.

Through modern farming, Madimilo confirms to have managed to build a decent house in the village located more than 50 kilometres from the Nzega District's Township.

"In my farming fields, I grow different types of crops ranging from cereals to horticultural ones. I am growing maize, rice, different types of vegetables, onions and tomatoes. I get reasonable amount of money that has taken me to the next step," he says.

In 2006, Madimilo officially started engaging in modern farming where he earned 2.4million/-, the money which inspired him to get into serious farming business.

"I have no doubt this modern farming endeavour is taking me to greater heights, in terms of socio-economic development," he says.

In 2009, Madimilo took part in a modern farming competition at the district level and he emerged the winner where he was awarded with cash and certificate. "This also encouraged me to grow more."

Apart from building an iron-roofed house at his home, he also managed to buy more farms from four he had in the past to eight acres right now.

"The new farming practices have made me a good father, who can take care of my family. Here I mean that I am able to provide my children with all the requirements. My children are assured of getting food all-year round. They are also assured of getting access to health facilities," he reveals.

"On education, I managed to educate one up to Form Four level and the next one is in Private School where I pay a school fees amounting to 1.4million/- . My first born, have already completed Form Four Education and I have also empowered him to get into modern farming and he is performing well. He has managed to buy three bulls for farming as well as water pump."

According to him, through series of training offered by World Vision Tanzania (WVT), in



Madimilo's grass-thatched house



Madimilo's new house

partnership with district authorities, he managed to phase-out traditional breeds of cattle and now is owning four cows of improved breeds, where he is assured of enough milk and cow dung.

Like other farmers do in the village, Madimilo uses cow dung

manure to fertilize his farms. "This reduces cost of production. I have no budget for artificial fertilizers as some people do."

On daily basis, Madimilo gets 20 litres of milk from one cow where he sells half of milk at 500/- per litre. In this case, he pockets 5,000/- per day, the

money he uses for different purposes.

Before getting into modern farming practices, Madimilo used to grow maize in 4 acres of land where he ended-up getting a range of three to five bags per acreage. "But, now things are completely different. After

applying modern farming practices I was forced to use only two acres of land, where I use quality and hybrid maize seeds and applying organic manure from cow dung.

"In the first harvesting I couldn't believe my eyes as I managed to harvest 25 bags of maize per acre. This was a very unique experience since I started farming 30 years ago," he narrates.

"So, for my two acres of maize farm I am sure of harvesting 50 bags of maize. Part of the maize I store for family food consumption and I sell the remaining part for developmental purposes."

Apart from maize, Madimilo also grows, rice using improved breed Saro 5. Last year I managed to get 140 bags of rice and I sold part of the rice through a value chain market. From rice alone I was able to collect 1.5million/- from the surplus which I sold.

A villager is also engaging in horticulture where he grows different types of vegetables, onions and tomatoes. "This is an area where I get enough money."

Madimilo who is also a training facilitator in his village has several plans in his mind. He wants to be among the landlords in Nzega District's Township by setting up a residential house.

"This is for my sustainable income when I will not be able to get into farming. Farmers like me we don't have pension as civil servants have. So, building such house in town will be my pension," he says.

Madimilo explains that since WVT came into the village and empowered with different types of skills, things have changed to better as everyone in the area is busy with his/her own activities to ensure that they get out of poverty and children are free from hunger as well as getting access to education and health services. He hails WVT for changing styles of assisting children as now they never provide hand-out as it was before. "WVT don't give us fish, but rather trains us how to fish and this has greatly changed out livelihoods." Many people have been flocking into Madimilo's home to learn on how best to improve their crop production in their fields.

Being a father, Shija Madimilo calls on young Tanzanians particularly those who think that life can only be found in urban centers to refrain from such mentality and get into modern farming, which pays more than staying idle in towns.



Bringing hope to the children of Tanzania

WHO WE ARE

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

WHY WORLD VISION

World Vision Tanzania (WVT) aspires to bring hope to the children of Tanzania by responding with an empowerment approach that builds communities. We started in 1981, and we are a member of an international partnership of Christians working in more than 99 countries worldwide. Our commitment to humanity is founded in this belief "Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness; Our prayer for every heart the will to make it so."

WVT facilitates development initiatives in five zones in Tanzania. With 62 active Area Development Programmes (ADPs) each with a life span of 15 to 20 years, we impart individuals, families and communities with knowledge, skills and tools to improve their quality of life. The Strategic Priority focus in these Area Development Programmes are Livelihoods; Health, Nutrition and Water Sanitation & Hygiene; Education and Advocacy & Justice for Children.

VISION STATEMENT

"Our vision for every child, life

in all its fullness; Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so."

MISSION STATEMENT

World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the

good news of the Kingdom of God.

CHILD WELL-BEING ASPIRATIONS (CWBA)

The WV Partnership aspires to achieve Child Well-being Outcomes (CWBOs) as a result of its work. The goal of the CWBOs is "Sustained well-being of children and fulfillment of their rights within families and communities."

The four CWBAs are:

- 1. Girls & Boys enjoy good health:** WV looks to ensure that Children are well nourished; Children are protected from infection, diseases & injury; and Children and their caregivers access essential health services.
- 2. Girls & Boys are educated for life:** WV seeks to ensure that Children can read, write and use numeracy skills; Children make good judgments, can protect

themselves, manage emotions and communicate ideas; Adolescents are ready for economic opportunity; and Children can access and complete basic education.

3. Girls & Boys enjoy the love of God and their neighbors: WV is striving to ensure that Children enjoy positive relationships with peers, family, and community members; Children grow in their awareness and experience of God's love in an environment that recognizes their freedom; Children value and care for others and their environment; and Children have hope and vision for the future.

4. Girls & Boys are cared for, protected and participating: WV seeks to ensure that Children are cared for in a loving, safe family and community environment with safe places to play; Parents or caregivers provide well for their children; Children are celebrated and registered at birth; and Children are respected participants in decisions that affect their lives.

These CWBAs are built on the foundational principles that children are citizens and their rights and dignity are upheld (including girls and boys of all religions and ethnicities, any HIV status, and those with disability).

OUR SUPPORT

The office is supported by 12 Support Offices (Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan and Korea) as well as bilateral, multilateral, foundations, corporate and local donors.

WVT Programs and projects are funded through child sponsorship, grants and Gifts in Kind.

TANZANIA EMPOWERMENT ADP MODEL TEAM



Improving the Economics of the Small-holder Farm

- Savings Groups
- Value Chain Analysis
- Access to Market Information
- Market Linkages Organizing Farmers to Work Together to Achieve Market Power
- Value Addition
- Access to Technical Information
- Access to Technology
- Diversification of Income Sources
- Access to Financial Services
- Improved Production for Home Use
- Advocacy on Policies
- Partnerships with Market Players
- Partnerships with Researchers

Managing the Shocks and Emergencies Affecting the Small-holder Farmer and his/her Community

- Context Analysis
- Disaster Risk Management
- Early Warning Systems
- Community Structures for disaster Management
- Linkage to Policy and Services
- Unconditional Transfers/Safety Nets
- Conditional Transfers/Cargo Nets

Key Elements



Improving the Natural Resource Management Which Support the Small-holder Farm

- On-farm Soil Management
- On-farm Water Management
- Conservation Agriculture
- Agroforestry
- Watershed Management
- Community Water Management
- Community Pasture and Fodder Management
- Forest Protection and Rehabilitation
- Supporting/Reinforcing Government Policies and Practice
- Partnerships with Researchers

Biblical Empowered World View

- Restores broken relationships
- Ignites human ingenuity and creativity
- Drives economic, environmental, social and spiritual development
- Strengthens Community systems /structures
- Works with governments to influence policy and improved service delivery



Active citizen participation will make African children happy



The overall growth of a nation and the attainment of development goals are often closely linked to the structure and quality of its child care and protection services. Poor child care and protection almost always results into poor socio-economic growth of a nation. Child care and protection efforts cover a wide range of issues, starting right at conception and lasting throughout the child's life to adulthood. Protection and care of children encompasses health and nutrition, education, socialisation, rights, and environmental protection, just to mention a few.

For example, pre and post-birth care and protection of mothers and infants is also a key to child survival and development, with access to proper health and nutrition services both for mothers and their growing infants often

determining the long term survival, growth, development and overall well-being of infants, children and their mothers.

With stunting and malnutrition being some of the leading causes of infant and child morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, it is imperative that expectant mothers receive proper nutrition and have access to ante-natal care services.

Poor nutrition for both mother and child at infant stage also has long term negative effects on the overall performance of children when they attain schooling age. At this schooling age, access to learning facilities, the quantity and quality of these learning facilities and the overall state of the learning environment have far reaching effects on the learning experience and overall outcomes of schooling for children.

It is impossible for children to receive a proper education in an environment where schools are located far from home are over-

crowded or if these schools lack the necessary learning materials like books and qualified teachers.

However, the question as to who is responsible for providing quality social amenities remains a decades-long burning issue. No one questions the government's commitment to providing proper social services to the people.

However, with what can be compared to a bucket of funding that is required to fill up the lake of needs that exists amongst its populace, governments often find themselves at a crossroads on how to adequately meet the needs of everyone.

As such, long gone are the days when citizens could sit back and wait for the government to reach them with the much needed social services.

With this in mind, it is quite encouraging to hear that under the tutorship of development organisations like World Vision Tanzania, citizens are now being

empowered with education that enables them to discover and identify development gaps within their locales.

By changing citizen's perceptions on development, World Vision has made people aware of their rights and responsibilities, thus enabling them to take the first step in actively contributing to the attainment of development goals within their regions.

In this maiden issue, we highlight how citizens in different communities in Tanzania participate in various development activities and how what they do influence children's lives today and how these activities shape their future.

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Why quality seeds can improve children's welfare



Hamis from Ikindwa Village in Bukene ADP demonstrating old irrigation system but now they are using water pumps.

Special Correspondent

SEED systems for most crops in Tanzania are almost non-existent. As a result, a large share of the seeds being planted are obtained from open air grain market or derived from previous year's harvest. The good news is that the situation is slowly changing.

Through World Vision Tanzania (WVT), a number of farmers are increasingly becoming aware of the benefits accruing from using quality seeds. Absence active players in production of quality seeds of various crops is one of the factors that pushed WVT to come up with the approach of involving smallholder farmers in getting into a community-based seed production.

The aim is to give farmers access to improved seeds of preferred varieties in order to increase yield and make many families free from hunger. In that, children are likely to be rescued as when hunger strikes, they are highly affected.

Before getting into the serious business, local farmers had to undergo series of Training particularly on good crop husbandry practices, postharvest handling and storage of seeds as well as seed marketing.

In Ikindwa village of Bukene division, Nzega district, twelve farmers formed a group, which is specialized in producing quality and improved maize seeds. Before they get into such

venture, they had to undergo training for the past six years, where they were given QDS class. But, now they produce certified seeds. The group was heavily supported by the WVT.

As the requirement of the law governing seeds' production, the group has been forced to form a seed company, known as Ikindwa Seeds Co Ltd. The idea is to make the group expand the market horizon from selling seeds within the Tabora region into selling the entire lake zone regions and Tanzania in general.

Andrew Kota is one of the company directors who says, "I was difficult to start, but we have managed and now we're in the take-off stages. Our target is to supply seeds within the Lake Zone, Tanzania and outside the country. We are determined to reach where we want to go."

He says the business is paying, particularly for small-scale farmers like themselves. "The price of ordinary maize ranges from 250/- to 500/- per kilo. But, for our processed seeds, the price is about 6,000/- per two kilograms."

Another company's director, Daud Kusunziwa says: "We had to put in place irrigation facilities so, that we produce anytime we want. We have created a water pan, that is to be used for irrigation purposes and by this we are assured of seeds production."

The group spent 3million/- to dig the water pant and this include costs of hiring an excavator as well as installing

water pump facility in the area. The facility will make the company be able to irrigate its 54 hectares of land for maize seeds production.

Kusunziwa says the demand for quality seeds is still high, and producers haven't explored even half of the market demand. "Our maize seeds are drought and disease resistant. They are of high yields."

Apart from maize seeds' multiplication technology, there are other farmers in Buhekela village of Igweko ward, Igunga district of Tabora who are engaging in the new seed production venture.

Rashid Shaban is one of the smallholder farmers in the area, who is now growing improved seeds of groundnuts and Bambala nuts seeds.

Before getting into the seed

multiplication technology, Shaban and his colleagues had to undergo into series of training. The move was championed by WVT. "We are currently working closely with experts from Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) to make our seeds being certified," he says.

Shaban planted one acre of improved seeds of peanuts, where is expected to sell to farmers after harvesting and get an approval from the responsible authorities. He is expecting to harvest 15 bags of groundnuts per acre and 9 bags of bambala nuts in his half an acre.

On the market outlets, Shaban says: "Almost all seeds have been booked by other smallholder farmers here in the village. And this came after seeing in my farm. That's why I



am planning to expand the farm size from the current one acreage to ten acres in the next planting season."

He says seed multiplication project is another economic venture for farmers as extension officers have been pushing people to grow improved seeds, but they are nowhere to be seen.

"In this new farming, I am not alone; there are many people particularly in my group who are also engaging in producing seeds. Thanks to WVT for making this new project possible." Like other group members, Shaban is self-sufficient and provides food to his family all year round and his all children are in schools. "And when they fall sick, I quickly take them to medical health facilities as have financial muscles to do so."

George Busungu is a chairperson of 'Marafiki wa Ardhi' group. The group is located in Idudumo village of Migua ward, Nzega district, who are also engaging in seed multiplication technology. But, for them they are engaging in producing upland rice seeds, which is popularly known as New Rice for Africa (NERICA).

The idea of coming up with such technology is to ensure people become free from hunger taking into account that other rice species are only grown in areas with enough water.

Busungu says NERICA give opportunity for people who weren't growing rice to grow rice. "This rice specie is a drought resistant variety, which does not require flooding water as other varieties across Tanzania, thus making it viable entity for the Tanzania's rice production breakthrough, given the climate change patterns," he says.

Busungu's group is still in the early stages, and they haven't yet started producing seeds for commercial purposes. "But, from where we started, were moving in the right direction and I am sure we'll reach where we want to reach." In last harvesting season, the group managed to harvest 260kgs of the rice variety and their projections is to produce as more seeds as they can.

"To my knowledge, NERICA is a redeemer for farmers with limited piece of land and those who are located in areas with limited amount of rains," says Petronela Joseph who is part of the group.

According to her, the group apply organic manures and other farming techniques which are friendly to the environment. "So, this new variety doesn't require a farmer to use artificial fertilizers. A farmer can use cow-dung manures and yet get enough rice."

Group's expectation is to produce seeds and get certification from the relevant authorities like TOSCI and sell it to other individual farmers across Tanzania.

"To us this is an opportunity that will held to address poverty in our families," Petronela says.



Community keen on shortening distance to school for poor children

Special Correspondent

FORMER South African President, the late Nelson Mandela, once was quoted saying: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

This proves to be true in Bulangamilwa Village at Choma Ward, Manonga Division in Nzega District whereby a group of villagers attended a series of training on advocacy organised by the World Vision Tanzania (WVT).

"I had no idea on what we were supposed to do as villagers. But, I've become a different person after attending the training on the rights and responsibilities. I came to understand that it's the right of the child to go to school and as a parent, I'm responsible to make sure that my child go to school," says Patrick Madale, who is a villager of Mwabula sub-village.

"But, the school need to be in a distance that can be easily reached by the children. In our case, it is different, our children walk long distances to and from school," Madale, who is also a parent in the area, says.

The father of five says, the training on the rights and responsibilities acted as an eye-opener to him as it has changed his perceptions on different issues. "One important thing here is that the training has made us to the need for our children to have their own school facility right here in the village. We came to this after realising that most of our children are walking between five to ten kilometers to reach the nearest schools. This distance, is too far and put the children at risk," he narrates.

Madale, who is among the leaders of a small-scale mining in the area, cites some of the challenges on children in the area such as early marriages, unwanted pregnancies as well as massive school drop-outs.

He notes that the situation in the area doesn't encourage the children to go to school every day. "So, I and my colleagues convened a meeting and brought the matter on the table and every villager supported the idea of building our own school in this area."

According to the beneficiaries of the training, the village had to form a school building committee that oversees the process of putting-up the primary school building structure.

Already villagers have

School children in Choma village enjoys water close to their school



Patrick Madale a man of change who convinced the village to establish school in their localities



Small-scale miners in their mining site in Mwabula sub-village.

surveyed an area, which is suitable for the school structure. "We have agreed to put-up a school building at Bubiki, which is located at the centre of the village," Madale reveals.

The idea of establishing the new primary school has been also tabled to the district authorities and "now we are mobilising financial resources to start construction of our own primary school."

Apart from collecting contributions from villagers, the school building committee is also collecting money from the small-scale miners in the area. There are seven mine pits in the alluvial gold-rich area and every pits is supposed to contribute not less than 700,000/-.

The proposed school is

expected to start early next year and more than 30 children have already been registered to the new school.

"We have been identifying children who will begin Standard One next year," a village leader says, calling parents in the gold-rich area to give the school committee support.

Madale says, "Primary school is just one of the projects we have in mind. After reaching at a particular stage, we'll also mobilise resources for dispensary, as we're getting hard time when someone falls sick here, particularly pregnant women and children. Health facilities are located very far from here."

He believes that when the village have a nearby medical facility it will be easier for women

to take children to clinics and even pregnant mothers, who are forced to go as far five to six kilometres on foot looking for health services.

As a result, Madale says, large number of women ends up giving birth at homes using traditional midwives, the situation that puts them and children at risks.

On child labour in mining, Madale says, "For the past ten years, no child (under 18) has been allowed to get into mining. We are very serious on this."

And through regular training by WVT, rights of children are highly respected at the mining sites."

He says that is the reason why the village plans to put up a school to ensure all children get access to education, which is the

important aspect to their wellbeing. "All these people here are grown up and some come from other areas."

He commends the WVT for empowering them with such education that enabled them to discover and identify gaps available in their localities. "To me, I see this as a success story. Our perceptions on development have changed completely. That's why I thank World Vision Tanzania for giving us fishing tools," he acknowledges.

"What we did as World Vision Tanzania is to make people aware of their rights and responsibilities. And the training has worked, as many people such as those at Mwabula sub-village, testify," says Vedastus Ninalwo, who is the Manonga ADP chairman.



Farmers assisting their fellow in planting rice



By Special Correspondent

MALALE Mshamwa is a farmer and father of six at the forefront of efforts geared to mitigate climatic change impacts in the Lake Zone regions in Tanzania. In his home village of Choma, he harvests enough rice annually. Rice is one of the leading staples in the area and the country at large.

Mshamwa considers rice farming as the main source of food and income for his family.

Despite myriad challenges, ranging from unprecedented climate change and unpredictable price of the cereal crop, Mshamwa is proud of being a rice grower in the area, located at Manonga Division in Nzega District, Tabora Region.

Mshamwa, who managed to move from the mud and grass-thatched shacks into modern-brick, mortar and iron roofed house, owns two acres of land in Choma Irrigation Scheme. The scheme depends on water from River Kagonho, which is fed by seasonal streams that comes from different parts of Nzega District and as far as Simbo Village in Igunga District.

The scheme acts as key tool towards addressing poverty for communities living close to the valley. A father of six associate rice farming with a 'gold mine' as it gives her all basic needs, taking into account that the irrigation scheme gives her a room to grow the Tanzania's second staple food twice a year.

"I have been growing rice for a number of years, though production was too small per acre, but, now things are totally different," he says, revealing: "In the past I used to harvest 10-12 bags of rice per acre."

During those years, Mshamwa used poor farming methods as well as poor rice seedlings, the situation that made him to end up getting low yields.

"But, after getting new farming techniques from experts of the World Vision Tanzania

The longest man-made river in Tanzania



A section of Buhekela Irrigation Scheme whose canals are under under rehabilitation.

(WVT), things changed to better as he harvests 25 to 30 bags of rice per acre. So, for my two acres, I am sure of getting an average of 50 bags of rice."

As other farmers in the area, Mshamwa grows improved rice seeds of Saro five and Bishori, which are comparatively very productive and ensures food

security to many farmers, as well as boost income at family level.

In simple terms, a farmer gets an average of 1.5m/- per acre. "To me this is good money that makes able to feed my children. I also pay school fees for my kids and take them to hospital whenever they fall sick."

Mshamwa has managed to buy a water pump, which assist him to pump water from the scheme, particularly when preparing seedlings.

Vedastus Ninalwo is another rice farmer in the area, who commends World Vision Tanzania for empowering farmers with new farming skills as well as improving Chome Irrigation Scheme.

"We earn a living because of WVT, so there is no way we can forget these people for developing this scheme."

Owning three acres of rice farm in the area, Ninalwo says, in the past people in the area were engaging in cotton farming but, now cotton is nowhere to be seen.

"Rice farming ensures us food throughout the year. We also depend on rice for cash to pay school fees and other basic needs at family level," says Ninalwo, who is also the Chairman of Manonga ADP.

He discloses that the 21-year-old irrigation project came as a redeemer to many people taking into account that the area is semi-arid in nature.

He thanks WVT for its tireless

support to the irrigation scheme, as few years ago, the scheme developed technical faults at its intake.

"WVT supported the scheme from the intake to canals that takes water into farms. This endeavours rescued children in the area from hunger and malnutrition, as parents are assured of rice production."

Ninalwo managed to build decent house in the area at the tune of 27million/- as well as rearing dairy cow.

Choma Irrigation Scheme accommodates more than 637 rice growers, with a total of 1,863 hectares. Three villages of Choma, Chibiso and Nhele depends on the irrigation scheme on the side of Igunga district and three villages on the side of Nzega district.

Ninalwo reveals that the scheme is currently overwhelmed as many people get into the area for farming. He says originally, the scheme was made to irrigate only 300 hectares, but now there are more than 1,800 hectares.

On market, Ninalwo says: "Rice growers have no problem on this as they have been linked with buyers in Nzega, Igunga and as far as Mwanza."

"As farmers, we still thank, WVT for the support of construction of storage facilities as well as milling machine in this area. So, farmers do add value of their rice before taking to the market just here in the village."

Apart from Manonga Irrigation Scheme, WVT is also supporting rehabilitation process of the Buhekela Irrigation Scheme, in Igoweke ward of Simbo division, located 90kilometers from the district's headquarters of Igunga, in Tabora region. The seven-year-old scheme is the diversion of Mapilinga River, which irrigates 400 hectares of paddy fields of about 340 smallholder rice growers. However, uncontrolled human activities on the upstream of the river lead into destruction of canals that takes water into rice fields. The situation pushed rice growers to ask for WVT support and the organization allocated 168,628,500/- for upgrading the main canal of the scheme as well as upgrading the secondary canals of about five kilometers from the intake at a tune of 565,344,200/-. About 24,830,800/- has been allocated to upgrade farm service roads.

"All these activities are underway. The idea behind this is to ensure that there is reliable supply of water in the scheme, as well as increase rice production to improve food security and alleviate poverty in this village and its neighboring villages," says Sosthenes Ipagala, Simbo ADP coordinator.

Ipagala confirms that after the completion of scheme rehabilitation process paddy production in the area is expected to go up.

Poor Tabora rural children assured of food security through irrigation