

FACT SHEET

Mwanzo Project

World Vision



“We learned about gender empowerment and together we are motivated to make enough money so none of our children ever need to suffer.”

Mwanzo, which in Swahili means *genesis*, connotes a new beginning. It is indeed a new beginning for the seven villages at the foot of Mount Meru where World Vision is implementing its Mwanzo project. This region should be East Africa's breadbasket, with fertile volcanic soil, moderate temperatures and twice-yearly seasons of generous rain. But decades of abuse have degraded the natural environment and villagers have fallen into poverty. Mwanzo aims to reverse the decline by changing mindsets – emphasizing good stewardship, sustainable farming and entrepreneurial initiative. Mwanzo starts by promoting spiritual transformation through Empowered World View workshops. Producer Groups are organized, connected to lenders and provided access to markets through a unique partnership with Vision Fund and the Great African Food Company (GAFCo), both World Vision subsidiaries. Families are encouraged to supplement their incomes through business activities like raising poultry, fish farming and bio-gas production. Mwanzo fosters resilience through natural resource management, Savings Groups, an early warning system for climate-related hazards and innovative irrigation solutions at the community and household levels. Finally, through capability-building and advocacy programmes, Mwanzo upgrades community standards for health, nutrition and education.

Project Goal

To transform the spiritual, economic and community lives of poverty-stricken families by promoting an Empowered World View, training in sustainable farming and entrepreneurship, and upgrading community standards for health, nutrition and education.

Life-of-Project Spending through September 2015

14% of project
funding to date

\$3.5 million

Project Timeline

March 2014

September 2018



Key Results

- **231** farmers traveled to Yatta in Kenya to witness the tangible results of worldview and mindset transformation.
- **432** farmers and community leaders experienced Empowered World View workshops.
- **86** farmers were trained in conservation agriculture, focusing on natural ways to increase crop yields.
- **65** Savings Groups were established, with 1,393 members and over \$179,000 in aggregate savings.
- **150** farmers were trained in modern poultry keeping.
- **80** farmers produced over 40 tons of green beans for European export.
- **15** farmers dug ponds and are operating fish farms.
- **10** farmers contracted with GAFCo for drip irrigation.
- **2** households built bio-gas facilities.
- **3** Producer Groups with 49 members are raising bees for honey production.

Lessons Learned

- Mind-set change through Empowered World View overcomes attitudes of dependency, leading to farmers striving to improve their own wellbeing.

“I used to grow vegetables to feed my family but now I treat farming as a business. I can finally dream of sending my children to college!”



- Private sector partnerships provide for skills transfer to farmers and for connections to high value markets.
- **Seeing is believing** – exposure visits to successful projects have greater impact than classroom training.

Project Partners

- Local Government Authorities
- Christian Impact Mission
- Vision Fund Tanzania
- Samaritan Strategy Africa
- Great African Food Company
- FRIGOKEN Company
- Sokoine University of Agriculture
- The Hives
- Dress & Bell
- Innovative Agricultural Research Initiative
- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania

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