



COURTESY OF WORTH GROUPS



15th January 2016

Health Promotion Tanzania (HDT) in partnership with PACT is implementing Pamoja Tuwalee project has a major objective to improve livelihoods and community support for Most Vulnerable Children (MVC). This is done by ensuring their access to health services, education, food and nutrition, psychosocial support and other basic life necessities. This is made possible by building capacity among MVC Committees, MVC Caregivers, Empowerment Workers (EWs) and other stakeholders in the area. HDT implements Pamoja Tuwalee in nine wards out of 15 of Biharamulo District namely Ruziba, Nyarubungo, Nyamahanga, Runazi, Kabindi, Nyakahura, Nyabusozzi, Bisibo and Lusahunga.

To ensure sustainable and reliable support for MVC, this project employs a program known as WORTH. The forms WORTH groups, 25 each of MVC caregivers. The groups aim at strengthening the economical capacity of the members thus raising their per capita income which then improves services provided to MVC in their families. WORTH groups were introduced to ensure sustainability and reliable support for MVC using the available resources in the community and not to provide direct financial support as some of the community members think. Members in the group are always subjected to compulsory weekly cash contribution for group savings. From the savings, members can solicit minor, affordable and soft loans at the lowest interest rate of 2 to 10%.

Tegemeo group, one among the 67 WORTH groups formed under Pamoja Tuwalee project started with 13 members (6 male, 7 female) and now has a total of 18 members. Due to the increase of their contributions, the group members decided to buy a piece of land (1 acre) which is now used to cultivate cash and food crops.

Ms. Maridiana Felician is a member of Tegemeo group. She thanks God for connecting her to the group which has been a source of her remarkable success. She can now afford her three main basic needs; food, clothing and housing. Ms Maridiana has the following to say about WORTH groups; *“I thank God who made it possible for me to join Tegemeo group, because I have finally managed to build my two bedrooms house. I have also managed to pay school fees and other related school materials for my two children. For sure I have benefited a lot from the group. I always pray to the almighty God to bless those who took their time to think and establish WORTH program. Always unity brings strength while disunity leads to failure”*.



Figure 1: Ms Maridiana with her two boys at their new Home

HDT realizes that extreme poverty among MVC caregivers is caused by poor understanding on how to utilize the available resources and leadership to help exploring available opportunities. Therefore, HDT shares the experience to further sensitize other stakeholders to replicate in support for communities. HDT is also willing to collaborate with other stakeholders to further support communities by mentoring them on how they can utilize the available resources for the development of their families and MVCs.