



EPTF Staff pose for a photo at the SWISS Lenana Hotel, Nairobi on 22nd June 2018

Transforming Communities

“**Empowered
kingdom minded
entrepreneurs
transforming
communities**”

Transforming communities has been always part of EPTF's vision and overall goal; “Empowered kingdom minded entrepreneurs transforming communities” the vision for EPTF. It's a big joy when you see alumni able to pass their

knowledge and skills to other community members for development.

EPTF Alumni, Charles & Michael who run Iscom Trade link enterprises and Christine Osore facilitated the Artisan skill training workshop for

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Climate Resilience And Adaptability Livelihood Project (CRAL)

Back in 21st February, 2018 “Climate Resilience and Adaptability Livelihood (CRAL)” Project was launched in Mwala-Machakos. The CRAL project objective is to “build the resilience and adaptive capacity of the rural poor to climate change.” When the

farmers' recruitment and trainings started, it seemed like there was no hope for success. After farmers changed their mindsets from being dependent to independent, their has been remarkable achievements. 70% of the farmers

in Mwala that attend the CRAL project training have implemented what they are learning in their farms. Farmers have constructed water pans to collect rain water, grown vegetables in a more water

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Editorial



It's that season of the year again when we share the progress, updates and happenings from our activities with the entrepreneurs across the regions. Moreover, these successes are because of you our valuable partners, entrepreneurs, and friends of EPTF. Without your invaluable support, the highlights reflected in this newsletter would not be possible.

This edition not only highlights our achievements, but the achievements of our entrepreneurs as well. In this edition we celebrate our entrepreneurs. In 2017 the Mazeras Methodist Youth Group joined the EPTF program at the launch of the MEDS project, they had 300 birds. The members got entrepreneurship and table banking training and a 6-month mentorship that is still ongoing. In March 2018 they received a seed capital grant of Ksh. 100,000. The group's revenue has since scaled to Ksh. 205,600. Elsewhere in Mango location, Machakos we celebrate Jackson Kyambi an agripreneur farming maize, beans and vegetables. After being trained in the Climate resilience and adaptability livelihood project (CRAL) program his business has expanded. Jackson was recently contracted to supply trees and vegetable seedlings.

Such successes are only possible because of your commitment our partners and supporters. These however, could not be possible without the commitment of the entrepreneurs we work with, who are committed to learn and adopt the lessons they are taught.

This newsletter celebrates you!

Cassandra Marsh
Editor

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conserving technologies that they have learnt in Community Resource farm (CRF). In addition, they have planted more than 6,000 trees including Moringa and Mangoes. This will contribute towards building biodiversity and ecosystems for the community. Moreover, this will also create employment opportunities.

On 3rd July, 2018 farmers formed a producer association of 86 members named "MAKA" representing Mango and Kamwala sublocations, in Mwala location, Machakos County. CRAL trainings are conducted in the two regions thus the name. The association will open a farm inputs store. This will ensure

67

**Youth in Nandi
county who
participated in the
artisan skill training**

that farmers access farm inputs on time and at affordable prices. The farmer-led association will advocate for improved agricultural support services and policy impact for mangoes, moringa, selected vegetables and poultry keeping value chains. Furthermore, the group members will have access to government funds and loans inaccessible to individuals.

From the CEO's Desk



It was good and it is still good

In the story of creation Genesis chapter one, five times “God saw that it was good” and in closing, verse 31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”

Our vision is apparent ‘Empowered Kingdom minded entrepreneur transforming communities’ and it is this clarity of vision that has seen us redefine ‘Empowerment’ and ‘Entrepreneurship’.

Through the support of our partners we have been privileged to get into places that we have not been before just to see that Empowerment and Entrepreneurship is not a secure for a few.

Improved socioeconomic livelihoods of resource-poor farm households of Kinango sub-county Kwale County, Sustainable Agricultural Practices Project: Capacitating the Marginal Farmers in Moiben, Uasin Gishu County and Building the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural poor to climate change in Nakuru (Kuresoi North) and Mwala are three such interventions. Through these interventions EPTF has become a key player in addressing four major problems that we are facing not only as a Nation but Africa as a whole; Food security, Poverty, Unemployment and Climate change. Through these interventions more than 600 households will realize improved food security,

employment opportunities (among the youth) and increased incomes.

This takes me back to the story of creation; “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” The land and all other given resources are ‘good’, there is sufficient supply for everyone’s need according to God’s design. But why is there so much lack with; poverty, joblessness and hunger characterizing our societies?

It is my prayer that through these interventions EPTF will not only transform the 600 households but communicate this message loud and clear for all to hear;

Genesis 1:28, 2:15, 19-20

Since we are created in God’s image, we are to be fruitful, or creative. This is often called the “creation mandate” or “cultural mandate.”

Through our work God brings forth food and drink, products and services, knowledge and beauty, organizations and communities, growth and health, and praise and glory to himself.

No matter what barriers we face—from within or without—by the power of God we can do more good than we could ever imagine.

Adam and Eve were given two specific kinds of work in Genesis 2:15-20, gardening (a kind of physical work) and giving names to the animals (a kind of cultural/scientific/intellectual work). Both are creative enterprises that give specific activities to people created in the image of the Creator.

Work is forever rooted in God’s design for human life. It is an avenue to contribute to the common good and as a means of providing for ourselves, our families, and those we can bless with our generosity.

Because “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”



Participants at the EPTF dinner at SWISS Lenana Hotel, Nairobi on 22nd June 2018

Trained to impact others

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the Nandi County Government. The artisan skill training was attended by 67 youths from different wards in the County.

Charles and Michael trained the youth on briquette production. This modern way of producing environmentally friendly fuel for households and industries, usage. As pioneers of briquette production in the county, they didn't keep it to themselves but shared with others, an aspect that they learned from EPTF. "We didn't train them to be paid,

"As iron sharpens Iron, So does one person sharpen another"

but we trained them so that they can be able to improve their living standard and also impact others" said Charles and Michael as they talked about their experience on training other youth.

They didn't view them as competitors after training, rather they saw the youths as partners whom they can work together to transform the community.

Christine Osore an alumni of EPTF and founder of Youth for Change, a company that aims to train youth to make a living through the skill they have, taught on how to make liquid soap. She took the other youth through the process of soap making, marketing and branding.

"As iron sharpens Iron, So does one person sharpen another"

SUCCESS STORY OF JACKSON KYAMBI

Jackson Kyambi, a 50 year old man in Wetta sub- location, Mango Location lives with his wife and four children. He got an education only up to high school due to financial constraints as his father was a drunk and the mother a house wife. Fortunately however for Jackson,

he was given 3 acre piece of land by his father where he begun farming. He started planting maize and beans during rainy seasons where he used to harvest very little due to inadequate rainfall as he exclusively depended on rain water.

After recruitment by EPTF, Jackson showed his commitment in attending all the training sessions and after the first day of learning about climate change management, he changed his mind-set from depending on rain



everything that he learnt which included; Preparation of tree and vegetable nursery beds with over 400 seedlings, Seedbeds for the (tomatoes, spinach and kales), sweet potatoes, “Fanya juu” as a soil conservation measure, compost manure and Water pan with a capacity of 500,000 litres of water.

Jackson is now farming not only maize and beans but also vegetables and as a result he is being contracted to supply trees and vegetable seedlings to his surrounding areas. He is now well able to pay fees for her two daughters who are in secondary school without much strain as before. Indeed one of his major highlights has been that the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices has helped transform him as a farmer from being subsistence farmer to a commercial farmer.



water to harvesting it and conserving it to be used when there is no rainfall to irrigate his crops. This man consistently attended the training sessions and he requested one of the EPTF staff to visit and see his farm as well as guide him

The Valiant Youth Group



Members of Mazeras Methodist Church Youth Group dressing the chicken ready for sale

Mazeras Methodist Youth Group runs a Poultry Farming Business at the heart of Mazeras Town in Kwale County. The business is six months old and is run by the Youth members of the church.

The partnership with EPTF started last year (2017) during the launch of the MEDS project which enrolled them as direct beneficiaries. The members got Entrepreneurship and Table Banking skills and 6 months of mentorship which is ongoing. In March 2018 they received seed capital of kshs.100, 000/=from EPTF to improve their business.

The group has used the grant to expand the poultry structure to house 600 birds from the initial 300; they have made sales of Kshs. 205,600/= since they began. Additionally they started



Albert Chirima a Member of Mazeras Methodist Church Youth Group harvests vegetable on their farm.

Kshs. 205, 600/=

**Amount of money
Mazeras Methodist
Youth Group has
made since joining
EPTF in 2017**

an agribusiness project in May 2018 where they grow and sell vegetables, in their 1/16 acre piece of land and through this they make Kshs 600/= per week from the sale of vegetables.

The Mazeras Methodist Youth Group vision is to see young people being transformed holistically through involvement in income generating activities and enhancing their God given abilities.

Juliana's New Hope -A Budding Farmer Group's Table-Banking Success



LEFT: Juliana's former house with broken walls and leaking roof (Table-Banking group pictured with Juliana and her son second from the right); RIGHT: Juliana's New home (Table Banking group pictured in front)

When her husband died in 2014, Juliana Kimaru was left to fend for their five children, all school-going boys, while living in a 5x5 meters thatched hut. Her only inheritance was a small one acre piece of land. However, she had no capital, skill and know-how of cultivating crops, a skill she would have used to fend her family. She tried to plant maize without fertilizer and great losses, this forced her to opt to doing odd jobs in her neighborhood to sustain her and her family. She also leased half of her land, for Kshs.5000 annually which she uses to partly educate

her boys.

With the introduction and official launch of the SAP project in February 2018, in four regions namely Manyatta, Tachasis, Simotwa and Sessia, Juliana's hope was renewed. The project's mandate is to start a table banking groups with a primary aim of supporting the vulnerable members of the community start farming activities and build decent housing for each other:

As at Jun 30th 2018, two groups had each saved KES 40,000 for members to begin borrowing at an interest rate of 1% per year.

One of the groups decided to help Juliana build a larger house made of iron sheets which would provide her with the much-needed shelter from the rain and enough room for her and her boys. Juliana's SAP group also helped her get inputs through the SAP CBO input store. Through their input store, SAP CBO is expected to help more vulnerable individuals in the long run by offering them quality farm inputs to be repaid over a period. A brighter future for this widow has been made possible with thanks to Sustainable Agricultural Practices (SAPs) project.



Sessia table banking self-help group

