

tearfund

GREETINGS FROM THE DIOCESE OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO, TANZANIA



Janeth on the plot where she has been applying new farming techniques.
Photo: Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro/Tearfund

UPDATE FOR STOKE HOLY CROSS

SPRING 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Brothers and Sisters to whom we all share to serve our living God, greetings in His name.

I take this opportunity to tender my sincere appreciation to all of you for the way you support Jesus' ministry in my Diocese through the *Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP)*.

The five churches that are implementing the CCMP project now are the reference to the rest of churches in the Diocese. The testimonies, changes that are taking place, all glorify God.

With this, I pray for God's blessings to all of you for your kindness, compassion and self-sacrifice.

'GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST. I THANK GOD IN ALL MY REMEMBRANCE OF YOU.'

PHILIPPIANS 1:2-3

Rt Revd Dr Stanley Hotay

Bishop of Mount Kilimanjaro

'WE THANK GOD FOR THE RAIN'

Since October, the communities taking part in the process have been receiving rain. People are making maximum use of the water and taking time to tend their farms.

To understand which crops will work best on their land, many people have consulted with an agricultural specialist. An advisor who can provide advice on the best techniques and crops for farmers to use.

Most of the farmers are planting maize, beans, pigeon peas and sunflowers. While balancing the need to grow enough grass to feed their cows, goats, and sheep.

10 Self Help Groups started too. These groups are places where people can come together for support and encouragement, while also taking action to tackle poverty. During their first meetings, their members will come up with a set of rules to help guide them into this vision. They will decide on a savings goal, and members will choose how much they want to contribute each week.

By March, the new groups expect to be able to use their savings to provide loans to their members. Money which can be used to meet daily needs, or to start initiatives that could help grow household incomes.

In March the next training sessions for *Church and Community Mobilisation Process* facilitators, and those chosen to help resource their communities were planned. These dedicated volunteers are an integral part of the work happening around the Diocese.

The facilitators, who are trained to lead the process in their communities, have so far led people through two stages of training.

First, within their churches, they led studies helping people discover what the Bible says about God's purpose for humankind; God's vision for his people, pictures of the church, the ministry of Jesus, and, of the image of the church as salt and light in the world. They considered the stories of individuals from the Bible, like that of Elisha, the widow and her oil, and how God uses the little the widow has to bring transformation. They discussed the needs of those around them, and what resources they already have that could address some of these needs. They then began planning ways to take action.

Now, participants are learning how to describe their situations. They will combine their knowledge about what has happened before, where they (*as a community*) are now, and what life might look like in the future.

Once they have done this, the teams will move into the third and fourth stages of the process - *Information Gathering* and *Analysis*. These stages will provide communities with the data they need to understand the issues they are facing in more detail. It can highlight problems, or just suggest an area to focus on.

PLEASE PRAY

Pray for the diocese' future plans for the *Church and Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP)*. They want to roll out the process in more churches, so that transformation can be realised all over the diocese. Please pray for this vision. Pray for wise conversations about how this might work and pray that this dream of transformation will be realised.

Please pray for Rev Eliah who coordinates the project for the diocese - **and for field officer Rev Elinuru** and his family, as he makes sure all planned activities are done on time.

Please continue praying for the Self Help Groups who have, and are continuing to form. Pray for their work as they grow. Pray they become a forum for members to build strong relationships, whilst bringing positive changes within their communities.



FROM GRIEF TO GROWTH

Janeth* (pictured above) had been a housewife for more than 20 years when her husband died. Getting enough food for their children was a huge struggle and Janeth sought help from family members and friends. But abject poverty left them unable to offer as much as they might have liked.

Then Janeth got involved with the *Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP)* at her local church. As part of the meetings, the congregation studied the Bible together and discussed resources. Which got Janeth thinking about a resource she hadn't been using. Janeth had a field - an acre of land situated on some slopes. A plot which sometimes produced crops, but sometimes didn't produce anything at all.

When the church invited someone to speak about a type of agriculture that would help conserve the land, while also improving crops, it seemed like it might be just the right thing for Janeth's plot. She began trying out the new techniques they'd mentioned straight away. Janeth began by shaping the land into contours. This stopped soil and water running off the plot. Janeth added manure to the field - making the soil richer. Then Janeth planted grass, which had two benefits - it prevented soil loss, while also acting as feed for her cows. And she planted maize.



Janeth feeds her cows.
Photo: Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro/Tearfund

Because of all Janeth's hard work, her family are now harvesting up to 1.8 tonnes of maize. It is much more than she needs for food. So Janeth is selling the surplus. With the additional money she makes, she can pay for other essentials.

Janeth also bought eight cows. Two are producing milk. And as before, she has more milk than she needs for food, which means she can sell any excess to raise more money.

'I THANK GOD FOR BRINGING THIS PROJECT TO OUR CHURCH. IT IS AS IF THE PROJECT WAS MEANT FOR MY CHILDREN AND ME. I CANNOT IMAGINE THE WAY I USED TO GO AROUND AND ASKING FOR HELP TO MY FAMILY MEMBERS TO GET AT LEAST A SINGLE MEAL PER DAY. THE PROJECT HAS CHANGED MY STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY FROM NOBODY TO SOMEBODY. I AM NOW ABLE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED WITH THE LITTLE I HAVE. PEOPLE ARE COMING TO MY HOUSE AND ARE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE. I PROMISE BEFORE GOD TO HELP MY COMMUNITY WITH THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE I HAVE BEEN ACQUIRING THROUGH CCMP PROJECT.'

JANETH

*name changed

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Following Jesus where the need is greatest

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