



MONTHLY UPDATE - DEC 2017

I. ACHIEVEMENTS

I.1 Women in Business follow-up coaching

The coaching was held on the 13th of December after the quarterly training on 11th October. It was held at Regina Mulondo's home (One of the senior members of the Women in business program.) 16 participants attended and WCFJC Business Coach, Harriet Nsubuga facilitated.

- **Objectives**
 - o Emphasize the need for more investments to expand the women's income base.
 - o Enable members plan for their savings / investments and build a sense of accountability among group members.



Participants touring Regina's banana plantation



Agatha sharing lessons learnt

- **Tour of Regina Mulondo's projects (biogas, poultry, dairy cows and banana plantations, among others)**

Some lessons learnt from the tour include;

- o Knowledge on how zero grazing is done
- o Making and use of biogas
- o Making kitchen gardens
- o Good feeding of poultry and dairy cows
- o Improved farming methods (bananas and maize)
- o Benefits of having multiple projects on a small piece of land to supplement each other in terms of fertilizers and feeding
- o Accrued benefits of multiple projects to a woman

- **Achievements and progress discussed in groups**

Core Development Women's Group

- o This group makes and sells liquid soap and baskets. Each member saves **UGX 2,000** a week, collected at each sitting.

Biyinzika Women's Initiative

- o This is a new group formed on 13th December 2017. They selected their leaders who will soon meet to discuss the way forward.

Kwagala Women's Group

- o The group agreed to start making Kumbucha Herbal Drink. **WCFJC Founder, Dorothy Tuma** guided all groups on the process of standards certification and informed them of a government grant supporting certification at the **Uganda National Bureau of Standards** between December 2017 and June 2018.

Tulikilala Women's Group

- o The group's plan changed from purchasing a maize sheller at **UGX 3,000,000 (US\$ 833)** to a 50 seat tent at **UGX 1,500,000 (US\$ 417)**, to be hired out. So far the group had raised **UGX 1,200,000 (US\$ 333)** and hopes to raise **UGX 300,000 (US\$ 84)** by January 2018. Once they buy the tent they will save for plastic chairs



Core Development Women's Group



Kwagala Women's Group



Tulikilala Women's Group

1.2 Phase VIII in-kind Loan Disbursement

Because the participants requested another round of loans before the Christmas season, **WCFJC** disbursed phase VIII of the in-kind loan program (starting 25th November 2017). A total of 9 participants were approved for **WiB** in-kind loans. This made it possible for them to make good use of the seasonal Christmas business peak.

1.3 Phase VII Loan Repayments

Loan Phase VII (started on 19th April 2017) is winding up. 13 of the 14 participants completed their loan repayments. Out of UGX 6,045,795 (US\$ 1,679) owed, UGX 5,795,795 (US\$1,610) or 95% has been collected.



Mary is happy to receive her in-kind loan of a sewing machine



Rebecca displaying the stock of materials received as in-kind loan

2. CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Challenge: WiB participants found it difficult to reach Regina's home (coaching venue) which is located in a rural community.

Solution: As far as possible, hold WiB activities in a central location.

Challenge: Being Christmas (peak season) it was difficult for the women to leave their businesses and personal affairs to attend the coaching session.

Solution: Avoid scheduling WiB activities in December.

3. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY 2018

- Create detailed profiling of WiB participants
- Recover WCFJC Phase VIII in-kind loans
- Conduct WiB monitoring visits
- Prepare 2018 annual work plan