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Tweets by @worldrenew\_tanz

 **World Renew Tanzania**  
@worldrenew\_tanz  
Pray for our new conservation agriculture program in partnership with @Foodgrains and @CanadaDev #praymonday

21 Dec

 **World Renew Tanzania**  
@worldrenew\_tanz  
Pray for the continual transformation of communities like Musoma bit.ly/1OXccKQ #praymonday

14 Dec

 **World Renew Tanzania**  
@worldrenew\_tanz  
T2: #Pray that good leaders are chosen who will make the interests of the country their top priority. bit.ly/1OQva8a #praymonday



## My life has changed through VICOBA! A Story of Transformation



By Paul Kaufman  
Program Consultant  
Tanzania Team

Festo Madira is a member of the Daraja VICOBA group in Bukokwa village in the Geita region. He is 45 years old and has a wife and four children. Madira did not have the opportunity to attend secondary school. So, from an early age, he began engaging in economic activities like agriculture and attempting to start small businesses with his friends. However, his attempts were largely unsuccessful due to limited knowledge and access to finances. Life remained difficult for Madira, so he left home and tried fishing as a livelihood. That also proved difficult, and he eventually decided to return back home because, as he puts it, "becoming successful from fishing is like trying to fight a war without weapons."

In 2012 the AICT-Diocese of Geita, via a DFATD (GAC) funded grant through World Renew, set up training that focused on starting VICOBA (savings and loan) groups in Madira's home village of Bukokwa. Madira was intrigued by the concept of VICOBA's, in which one can save small amounts of money every week and then, after some months, receive a loan from the VICOBA group with reasonable interest rates. Madira decided to join the Daraja VICOBA group, made up of 30 members. After some time, Madira agreed with his wife to take out a loan from the VICOBA group in order to purchase a small piece of land. He succeeded in buying 1.5 acres of land just outside of the village. Madira then took another loan (500,000 Tanzanian shillings) to start farming tomatoes. He planted about 600 seedlings on his land and harvested 337 bags of tomatoes. He was able to sell them for 1,500,000 shillings, which he used to repay his loan and to start building his own house with two rooms on part of his



Madira standing in front of his home

land. This freed him from paying rent and gave his family stability and security.

Being an active member within the group, Madira opted again to take out another loan. This time he borrowed 750,000 shillings to plant tomatoes again. Madira was able to plant 8,000 seedlings on his farm and earned a profit 2,360,000 shillings! He now had extra money and opened a small shop and began selling agriculture supplies. He continued to gain sufficient profits to pay the cost of finishing his house, and he is now sending his children to school.

Madira continues to take on new business ideas, and he is now confident in taking out loans because he has consistent income via his farm and shop. He says his next loan will be to purchase cows that will provide milk and calves for sale!



Madira inside his shop

# Introducing Zakayo Mwakipesile

Meet World Renew Tanzania team member Zakayo Mwakipesile. Zakayo is responsible for our partnership activities with our Tanzanian partner organization ACHAMA (Asasi Ya Chagua Maisha), which means “Organization for Choose Life.” You may have seen his story in our July 2014 newsletter in which he talked about ACHAMA and the Choose Life curriculum. Choose Life helps people, from young students to adults, learn about HIV and how to prevent it. This is done through sharing knowledge and role playing.

Zakayo is from the Mbeya region, in the southern highlands of Tanzania, from the district of Kyela on the shore of Lake Nyasa (Lake Malawi), over 900 kilometers and a long 17-hour drive from Dar es Salaam. He is the oldest of three children. Zakayo’s mother is a primary school teacher. His father was a manager in the state electricity company, but he passed away in 1996 when Zakayo was still in primary school in Kyela. Zakayo completed his advanced studies at Iyumwe Secondary School in Mbeya, a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Kyela. After completing secondary school, he went on to Tanzania’s capital city, Dodoma, to study sociology at the University of Dodoma, graduating in 2011.

After graduation Zakayo headed to Tanzania’s business capital and largest city, Dar es Salaam, to look for work. Many people come to Dar es Salaam hoping to find meaningful and profitable work but fail to find anything. Zakayo, however, was able to find part-time work teaching sociology at a college in the city center. Still he longed to be out doing community work, in line with his interests and his studies.

When World Renew advertised for a program officer position in 2013, Zakayo applied—and he was accepted as an intern to help ACHAMA in their HIV and AIDS response programs. This

gave him the opportunity he was looking for to serve people in the community. In 2014 World Renew hired him as program officer for HIV programming. In this role Zakayo helps ACHAMA volunteers think through their plans and activities and look for other organizations with which they can network and collaborate. These organizations include the local government, which has been very cooperative with ACHAMA, and Junior Achievement Tanzania. ACHAMA’s main focus right now is to help young women who were formerly sex workers to learn business skills and habits while ACHAMA trains them in life skills and technical skills such as tailoring and catering, upon which they can build their business activities.

When asked what gives him satisfaction in his work, Zakayo says: “I enjoy working for World Renew. It has given me a chance to help vulnerable groups in the communities, such as sex workers, youth in school, and out-of-school youth. We provide them with HIV education, vocational training, and a small business skills training program.”

His community work with ACHAMA has given Zakayo the opportunity to help young people who, like him, also came to Dar es Salaam hoping to improve their lives, but who fell into very difficult situations.



## Deputation Plans for Jim and Josephine Zylstra

We will be in North America later this year, visiting supporting churches between September 6 and October 16. To confirm or schedule a visit, please contact Molly Mead ([mmead@worldrenew.net](mailto:mmead@worldrenew.net)) in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office. We look forward to seeing many of our supporters again while we are in the United States and Canada.

## A Word from Paul Kaufman Prayers for Tanzania

Being born and raised in Kenya, I feel “at home” working with World Renew in Mwanza, Tanzania. My international background has served me well in the various positions I have held working in the education, water, relief, and development fields. Since arriving in August with my wife and four boys, we have successfully settled into life in Tanzania and are now settling into the work. For the past six months I have been busy managing existing grants from Global Affairs Canada, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Foods Resource Bank. My family and I were able to host World Renew’s new director, Carol Bremer-Bennett, and we attended the annual East African Team meetings in Moshi. We also traveled to Kenya during the Tanzanian presidential elections. I have also been busy hiring new staff, opening an office in Mwanza, and attending various seminars, trainings, and meetings, including the Conservation Agriculture Conference in Zimbabwe. I’m excited about being with World Renew, and I am keen to support the work with the three existing partners in the Lake Zone.

- Continue to pray for our new conservation agriculture program and our three implementing partners—Sengerema Informal Sector Association, the Africa Inland Church dioceses of Geita, and Mara Ukerewe—as they plan to work with over 5,000 farmers, helping them to restore their soil and produce healthy and sufficient crops to provide good nutrition for their families and make a profitable living from farming.
- We and our partners have hired new staff members so that we can effectively carry out the conservation agriculture work. Pray for them as they get oriented and settle into their new work. We thank God for committed and skilled candidates for these key positions.
- World Renew continues to look for a team leader for the East Africa Ministry Team, which includes World Renew missionaries in Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. Pray that the right candidate will soon apply and be chosen for this important leadership position.