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Tanzania
Fresh from the Field

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Entrepreneurship Training Has Changed the Lives of Many

written by Zakayo Mwakipesile, World Renew Field Officer; edited by Jim Zylstra

Dar es Salaam is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa as well in the world, with an estimated population of 5,116,000 (World Factbook, 2017). The high rate of rural to urban migration results in unemployment, which leads many young girls and young women to engage in risky sex work to meet their financial needs.

World Renew works in partnership with the community-based organization ACHAMA in three communities on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. ACHAMA is the acronym for Asasi Ya Chagua Maisha, which means "Organization for Choose Life." ACHAMA seeks to move girls and young women from sex work to exclusive engagement in legitimate and safe income-generating activities. They do this by teaching technical, business, and entrepreneurship skills, along with life skills such as self-awareness, self-esteem, and ethics. The girls and young women learn how to generate business ideas and business plans, and where to find advice for their businesses. The lives of many young girls have improved through use of these new skills.

I visited one of the girls' groups called Nguvumpya ('New Power"). After receiving entrepreneurship skills training, the group's 15 members registered Nguvumpya with the local government, wrote a proposal to the municipality, and received funding equivalent to US$1,163 to start a chicken-raising project. They now have 150 chickens and have saved $372. In the future they plan to start other business projects, including motorcycle taxis and a restaurant.

They advise other girls who are still in sex work to leave because of the risk of HIV transmission and because it is not sustainable compared to the enterprises they are operating now.

Prayer request

We pray that these girls will sustain this behavior change and will commit their lives to God.

Pray for Tanzania

- Pray that the transition will go well as we phase out of our country office in Dar es Salaam between March and the end of June, and as the Mwanza branch office now becomes the new Tanzania country office. Some employees based in Dar es Salaam will be leaving, and we pray that they will soon find other employment. Others have moved or are moving to Mwanza, and we pray that they will have a good transition. Pray that we will be able to find the right person to fill the key position of accountant in the new country office.
- East Africa has been experiencing a drought, and some of the areas served by our Tanzanian partner organizations have been especially hard hit. The rainy season has now begun, with a lot of planting going on. Pray that the rains will continue to fall in due time and in sufficient quantity so that farmers will see good harvests this season. Give thanks that many farmers have seen better results in spite of drought conditions through use of the Conservation Agriculture techniques we are teaching—minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover, and crop rotation/intercropping.

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Technical Business Development Skills Changed My Life

written by Zakayo Mwakipesile, World Renew Field Officer; edited by Jim Zylstra

World Renew Tanzania's partner organization ACHAMA has been working to help girls and young women caught up in sex work. The young women, ages 15-25, are living in three communities on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. ACHAMA and World Renew work together to help them move from sex work to engaging exclusively in legitimate income-generating activities.

I recently visited one of the beneficiaries of this program (name and face not shown to protect identity). This girl lives with her elderly parents, who are very poor. She completed secondary education but unfortunately was not able to continue with further studies because her parents did not have money for her school fees. She told me, "After I completed my secondary studies, I went back home but I had no income-generating activities to meet my small needs; this context influenced me to engage in sex work to meet my small needs such as clothes and food. Then one day our local government leader visited my home and shared with me about the ACHAMA sex workers program. I joined the project, and I received technical business development skills on industrial items such as making fabrics, bar soap, chalk, baskets, wallets, and more. Now I use my new skills to make baskets. I make four baskets a day and market them. This enables me to get money and meet my needs. I am very happy with my newly gained skills because they enable me to meet my needs. They have also enabled me to leave sex work with its high risk of HIV transmission."

She advises other girls who are still depending on sex work to leave it as a matter of survival, because it carries a high risk of HIV transmission and is unsustainable work.

Prayer Request

Please pray for this girl to sustain her behavior change, and ask God to continue blessing her new business.