

# FACT SHEET

## THRP Project

World Vision

### Project Goal

*To lift subsistence farming families out of poverty by creating Commercial Villages, managing natural resources, building strategic infrastructure, fostering financial resilience and transforming dependency mindsets.*

### PROFESSION:

**Farmer**  
**Vegetables**  
**& Grain Vendor**  
**Poultry Farmer**  
**Cattle & Goat Herder**  
**Biogas Producer**  
**Water Harvester**  
**Milk Producer**  
**Employer**  
**Home Maker**  
**Entrepreneur**  
**Landlord and Mother**

**THRP**, which stands for Tanzania Household Resilience Project, is a follow on from the Market Led Agriculture Programme (MLAP). These two projects were the first in a series of World Vision initiatives aimed at improving child well-being through economic development and changing mindsets. Despite decades of conventional intervention by NGOs, the population of the Same region east of Mt. Kilimanjaro still relied on rainfed subsistence agriculture. Even when farmers could grow enough to feed their families, they had no incomes to invest in their children's health or education and no savings to endure an emergency. THRP helped families accumulate savings by running their farms as businesses and by pursuing diverse income generating activities. Creative tools were used to empower them with information, such as a radio programme coordinated by World Vision and a mobile phone platform for sharing information on weather and market prices. Farmers learned to manage their natural resources by preserving forests and managing soil quality. To foster resilience they learned to harvest and store rainwater in household water pans, while setting aside social welfare funds through Savings Groups to be tapped in case of emergency. THRP incorporated World Vision's Empowered World View training to bring about mindset change, teaching families to capitalize on their own ability to change their circumstances. Taken together, THRP has boosted thousands of farmers out of poverty and transformed tens of thousands of children's lives through economic and spiritual empowerment and can be expected to endure long after World Vision's involvement has ended.

## KeyResults

- An independent evaluation showed the proportion of households with sufficient food increased from 19% to 63% and the proportion of parents able to provide well for their children increased from 25% to 64%.
- **37** Commercial Villages were formed comprising 406 Commercial Producer Groups, incorporating 10,400 smallholder farmers who care for 31,000 children.
- **373** Savings Groups comprising 7,700 savers have created a solid foundation for sustainability by raising \$1.4 million, more than three years of World Vision funding for THRP.
- **800** orphans and vulnerable children are financially sponsored through social funding from Savings Groups.
- **21** community-based seed suppliers were formed and linked to large-scale input companies, supplying 57 tonnes of paddy rice seeds, 4.7 tonnes of onion seed, 1.7 tonnes of green gram seeds, 3.0 tonnes of maize seeds and 700 kg of horticultural seeds including tomato, cucumber and watermelon.
- **23** model household grain storage facilities and a 6,000 tonne community warehouse were constructed entirely with community funding.
- **29** model biogas plants, 361 energy-saving stoves and 366 water pans were constructed to make more efficient use of scarce natural resources.
- **867** tonnes of legumes were sold collectively for a price increase of 58%.



**PROFESSION:**  
**Onion Farmer**  
**Input Supplier**  
**Govt. Appointed**  
**Input Agent**  
**MPesa Banker**  
**Vodacom Agent**  
**Fish Farmer**  
**Husband**  
**and Father**

- **3** Commercial Villages are manufacturing value-added animal products, including leather goods that earn \$250 from a \$3 cow hide.

## Lessons Learned

- Organizing farmers into Commercial Villages not only helps them achieve economies of scale, but also significantly increased the price of their produce—for example, the price of green gram increased by 58%, onions by 42% and paddy rice by 62%.
- Income diversification and crop diversification are keys to improving financial resilience, since no single shock can wipe out an entire community.
- Information technology such as mobile phones and radio programs is highly effective for generating market linkages.
- Women serve as primary agents for transforming the mindsets of their husbands.
- Once community members begin to prosper they are willing to reinvest in their community and reliance on NGOs is no longer necessary. For example, Commercial Villages invest in strategic infrastructure such as warehouses and irrigation projects while Savings Groups support orphans and vulnerable children through their social funds.

## Life-of-Project Spending

\$1.6 million

100% of project funding to date

## Project Timeline

June 2012

May 2015

- Visible successes create spill over effects whereby community members inside and outside of the project adopt innovations.

## Project Partners

- Farm Concern International
- Farm Radio International
- Dress and Bell Foundation
- Great African Food Company
- Vision Fund Tanzania
- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania

## Contact

Makalius Charles  
 THRP Program Manager  
 +255 788013959  
 Makalius\_Charles@wvi.org

[www.wvi.org/tanzania](http://www.wvi.org/tanzania)

## PROFESSION:

Farmer

Snack Shop Owner

Housing Developer

Landlord

Truck Lessor

Maize Miller

Husband

and Father

