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The grace of God (Caris) brings Shalom into the lives of the people who welcome it. Shalom is when all things are redeemed to their fullness as pictured in Isaiah 65:17 – 25. This is what we seek for our participants. We build relationship with our participants and partner with them in addressing chronic needs affecting them through development processes. Week after week, we grow towards Shalom and transformation we are seeking for our participants.

One area of growth which we have deliberately focused on for the past nine months has been the area of qualitative growth. We have sought to strengthen the institutions within the Tuajalie Tujisaidie groups [TTG] through trainings that lead to sustainable role transfer. We have trained book writers, loan committees, and most recent and crucial the zonal representatives. The zonal representatives are very important in that they are the disciples we are commissioning to carry on the work we started in their villages (zones). They are also key in bringing about organic growth of the Caris movement.

We are already seeing early fruits of the business development training and mentorship process. Stories are emerging of participants who never thought they would one day own businesses now owning businesses. Some participants have even turned hobbies into profitable businesses. This has really motivated the business development trainers as it proves to them that transformation in taking place. These business development trainers are; Josephine Karisa, Alice Kadzo, David Charo, Agnes Mwende, Harriet Mweni, and Elizabeth Chea.

The push for activities that strengthen the capacity of the TTG leadership has been in preparation for numerical growth. Once new TTGs are formed, the presence of a Caris Facilitator in the old TTGs will be very minimal. A strong TTG leadership will therefore ensure that there is continuity of the TTGs even in the absence of Caris facilitators. Starting in September, gears are shifting from the old to the new. The new TTG formation process is scheduled to start from the 2nd of October 2018. A sensitization activity was carried out to all the leaders of the six sub-locations we wish to expand to. From the turnout of the community leaders and how they welcomed us, we can confidently say that we have found people of peace and it’s now our turn to go ahead and proclaim the message of the Kingdom of God to them and their people.

Duncan Ziro Wanje
Program Coordinator
CARIS KENYA NEWSLETTER

CRUCIAL MEETINGS WITH LOCAL LEADERS

On September 24, 2018 Caris Kenya management team embarked on visits to six sub locations. Their aim; to meet local leaders in Mere, Kakuyuni, Msabaha, Mongotini, Mkenge and Mijomboni sub locations, ahead of expansion to those areas. The meetings took place at a very important juncture as Caris geared up its efforts to effectively and successfully rollout services to six new sub locations. Caris Team comprised of Director Jim Reppart, Program Manager Peter Thoya, Program Coordinator Rose Fondo, Accountant Judy Okello and selected Caris staff who are team leaders of new areas.

Addressing local leaders at the Assistant Chief’s office in Kakuyuni on September 25, 2018 Mr. Reppart emphasized on the need for all to play an active role in poverty eradication. He likened poverty to a pit where man falls into all the time and needs assistance to be pulled out of. “There are problems in our lives and we keep falling. Someone may help us but again we fall into the same problem,” said Mr. Reppart.

The Director then went on to the question of what can be done. “Caris is here to help you solve this problem. We will build a fence for you not to fall into the pit,” he said.
“We teach about money, savings, business, how to read, do simple. This is how we attack poverty.” He said the organization also promotes better health through free medical surgery camps. Mr. Reppart explained that Caris encourages unity, because together we can help one another.

Present at the Kakuyuni meeting, Caris Agriculture facilitator Edward Nyiro said the organization works with the whole family unit. “There are programs which target your children but our entry point is the woman,” he said.

At the final local leaders meeting in Mkenge sub location on September 28, 2018, Caris Program Manager said poverty is the root of all problems. “When we eradicate poverty we will be able to take care of school fees, have better health and even invest in business,” he said.

Meeting attendance was excellent with local leaders from six zones agreeing to support the organization in implementation of its programs. In the coming months, Caris hopes to see inspiring results in formation of Tuajalie Tujisaidie groups [TTG] in the new area.

BELOW: A 33 member team was selected to undertake expansion to new zones. It consists of 12 Caris staff, 12 Tuajalie Tujisaidie group [TTG] participants and 9 new employees. A team meeting was held on September 25, 2018 at Ganda polytechnic. Photos by Emmanuella Kinda

Caris staff responsible for expansion.
Left: [From left] Joshua Nyale, Sara Ziro, Angeline Mapenzi, Alice Kadzo and Duncan Ziro [not in the photo], who was away at the time.
TTG members who are part of the team responsible for expansion to new zones.

ABOVE: From left; Topistar Mbugua, Stella Mwaringa, Amina Omar, Anna Kitsao, Prisca Kazungu, Veronica Nyevu and Christine Kazungu.

Nine new Caris Community facilitators.
BELOW: [from right] Christine Chigo, Daisy Mapenzi, Silas Nguma, Elvina Ngumbao and Onesmus Gunga with Caris Program Coordinator Rose Fondo
A three day seminar of zonal representatives was convened by Caris Kenya. Zonal representatives are women who are participants in Tuajalie Tujisaidie groups [TTG], selected by fellow members to be leaders of their zones. The seminar brought together 76 zonal representatives and 7 Caris Kenya staff. Training took place at Red Cross offices in Malindi from 11 to 13 September, 2018.

Selection and training of zonal representatives comes at a time when the organization is set to expand its program to six new sub locations. To be selected, a TTG member had to be literate, trustworthy, have regular attendance, timely savings and loan repayment. The primary goal of the seminar was to ensure sustainability of TTGs in Madunguni, Paziani, Ganda, Malimo sub locations and town area.

Reasons for the seminar were shared by Caris Kenya Program Manager Peter Thoya. First is management of TTG capital. This involves growth and security of TTG capital which can be achieved by timely loan repayment and savings.

The second is the need for better coordination. Mr. Thoya said it is important to maintain good relationships amongst TTG members. It is imperative that members work as a team not only in savings but also to support one another in their daily lives.

Third concerns transformation of the lives of TTG members. Zonal representatives were tasked with advising TTG members in goal setting with the primary target of improving their lives.
“You’re our eyes and ears in the zones. Watch over attendance, savings and loan repayment to ensure your funds are safe,” said Mr. Thoya. He advised zonal representatives to work closely with book writers. This is to prevent loan and savings deficits. “If things are going wrong, take appropriate action,” he said.

Speaking at the occasion, Caris Kenya Director Jim Reppart said the seminar has a notable theme. “You have come here to learn new things to help you become a zonal representative,” said Mr. Reppart. He said each zone has its problems and that it’s the duty of zonal representatives to solve them. “Don’t forget what you have learnt here. Take it back and lead your zone because you are the zonal representative,” he said. The Director advised representatives to respect and trust one another.

He called for unity amongst TTG participants.

Caris Kenya Deputy Director Jane Gitahi said zonal representatives are chosen by God to inspire other women in the village. “It’s my prayer that your lives will be transformed so that you can lead fellow TTG members,” said Ms. Gitahi.

At the end of the seminar, zonal representatives were tasked with implementation of lessons learnt.
ABOVE: Pioneer group of single mothers who joined Caris in 2008 and 2009 pose with Caris staff after a meeting at the organization’s office on September 5, 2018. [From left, front line] Cinderella Mramba, Penina Mabira, Caris community facilitator Alice Kadzo, Bahati Ali, Mary Charo, Kavumbi Charo, Karembo Kahindi, Dama Kaingu and Peris Kaingu. [Second line from right] Caris Data Entry operator Angeline Mapenzi, Spiritual formation facilitator Mwanaima Mzee, Mgii Deche, Spiritual formation facilitator Margaret Kihara, Mary Charo, Kadzo Lewa and Feni Mkiwa.

In Viragoni village, Madunguni sub location, Grace Jumwa is famed for her talent in plaiting hair. Her daily chores were often interrupted by women who visited her home for this service. “It’s something that was not taught to me but I can do very well.”

Being a participant in Tuajalie Tujisaidie savings group [TTG], she has benefitted from business development training since June 2018. Each zone has a Caris staff who is responsible for business training. Caris Community facilitator Josephine Karisa is in charge of business training in Madunguni.

“To have a profitable trade, business training is essential,” - Grace Jumwa

Plaiting is an inborn talent she has nurtured over the years through practice. “My happiest moments is when I am plaiting hair. Though I can be very tired at the end of the day,” she says.

Business training is a move by the organization to assist participants considering starting a business, owners of struggling ones and those with successful businesses they want to grow. This is in line with its mission to make participants become economically self-reliant and independent to provide basic needs for their families.

The single parent of three children says business

**GRACE TURNS HOBBY INTO BUSINESS**

*Grace Jumwa [right] plaits a client at her salon in Madunguni.*

Photo by Josephine Karisa

**BY EMMANUELLA KINDA**
training made her focus on turning her hobby into business. “We were given a criteria to use in choosing the best business to establish,” she says. First is to choose a business one is passionate about. Second is the availability of capital needed to fund start up costs. Third concerns competition from similar business ventures. Fourth involves skills needed to operate the business. These are the scales Grace used to measure her business idea. She went on to discuss her idea with Caris staff. In September 2018, Grace took a loan of Kshs. 7000 from her TTG and established a Salon. Her business is strategically located away from competitors. At the salon, different types of braids, hair treatments and shampoos are on display. “I get a profit from both plafting and selling of hair products,” she says.

Caris Community facilitator, Josephine Karisa is happy with Grace’s progress in business. “She has been attentive during training,” Ms. Karisa says. She describes Grace as a focused, hardworking lady who attends TTG meetings regularly. Although the business training program in Madunguni will end soon, advise will be available on a need basis. “I am available to assist participants who are interested in entrepreneurship,” Josephine says. Ms. Karisa hopes other participants will emulate Ms. Jumwa.

The salon has been in operation for five weeks. Ms. Jumwa is keeping records to track sales. “To have a profitable trade, business training is essential,” she says. The forty year old is now a full time saloonist. Since opening the salon, it has become easier for customers to seek her out. Daily chores and salon time fit well in a routine she has established. Grace is successfully paying her loan and covering some bills. Her goal is to watch the business grow.

Additional reporting by Josephine Karisa.

BELOW: Grace Jumwa [right] sorts out braids in preparation to plait cornrows. On display are different hair products for sell. Photo by Josephine Karisa