

Case Histories from Arusha & Moshi

Veronica in Usa River



A long dusty road in Usa River stretches as far as the eye can see with scattered dwellings on both sides permeated by acacia trees bringing spasmodic shade. Squatting beside her charcoal brazier in one such oasis is Veronica.

A recent grant recipient, whose business is grilling corn. Veronica reports a steady flow of customers during the day for whom the grilled corn provides a welcome snack. It's not big business, but Veronica is happy with the way it is going. Above all, she is working, is independent and manages to look after her three children (aged 11, 8 and 3) better than before. Too soon to know how it will develop but for now, Veronica is a happier lady!

Hilda in Boma N'gombe



Set one mile back from the Arusha Moshi highway, in a quarter acre of scrub land, is Hilda and her family. In her Chamba (Swahili for a small farm) she is one busy lady! She started with a £80 grant from Mondo to grow and sell mangos three years ago. She still sells mangos and has twenty large trees providing a fulsome harvest.

More recently, she took out a loan to buy a cow. Using a local breed, tough and resilient to disease, she now feeds her three children with good milk. The original cow had two calves, one of which she sold. The two remaining cows, mother and daughter, have again calved and so a steady stream of income is produced. Recently she took out a second loan of £200 to buy pigs and now has three of them, all awaiting piglets!

Hilda looks after her elderly father and three small children. The eldest attends school, a 30 minute walk away. The family are in good health, and Hilda has created a secure livelihood. She employs a full time worker to help with the animals and a part timer to collect mangoes and take them into Boma N'gombe market.

Nia in Pasua



Nia is a rarity in the Moshi region, a lady who runs a brick making business! Using the initial capital grant received in 2010, she bought the frames for the bricks and the materials, and started building the firing structure. This is hard physical work and she now employs an assistant. The structures, rising to over 8 feet in height and measuring 10 feet in length, have a hollow centre where the fire is set. The process takes two days and she ends up with 1500 bricks which she stores awaiting collection lorries.

A year ago she took out a loan to double her capacity and has now repaid in full. Nia has a good business and is sending her four children to schools in Moshi. She has moved to a safer and better built house and acknowledges that her life has changed beyond recognition thanks to the Mondo programme.

Judith in Msaranga



Judith launched her salon a year ago with a Mondo grant. She recently took out a loan to buy an additional hairdryer and has almost paid this back. Whilst basic, her salon is well placed on a street corner in the busy township of Msaranga. She is building a regular clientele and feels confident that the business will grow. Her daughter helps in the salon part time. Judith is very positive about the future and hopes her eldest daughter will take over the business if she ever becomes too sick to continue work.

Zulea in Boma N'gombe



Zulea runs her vegetable business in the Ngaramtoni market on the slopes of Mount Meru. Although having to travel an hour each way from her home, Zulea prefers this market to others as it is by far the busiest in the region. She specialises in Bhindi Bhaji and green vegetables that are healthy and much in demand by diabetes sufferers (a common affliction in Tanzania). Her range varies according to the growing seasons.

Her sister helps when needed and Zulea is happy that her two small children are doing well at school and that her business enables them to be well fed. Plans for the future include setting up a permanent stall in Ngaramtoni for which she will request a loan of around £170.