



*"Fighting Poverty Building Economy/
Piga Vita Umaskini Jenga Uchumi"*

Community Support Initiatives – Tanzania (COSITA)

P.O Box 558, Babati, Manyara – Tanzania.

Tel/Mob: +255 27 2530747/784 649 025

Email: info@cosita.or.tz

Website: www.cosita.or.tz

Social media: Youtube, twitter, facebook, [instagram@2010cosita](https://www.instagram.com/2010cosita)

COSITA ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023

Prepared by: COSITA Management team.

Contact Person and Position: Patrice Gwasma – Executive Director

Address: P.O.Box 558, Babati-Manyara;

patrick.gwasma@gmail.com;

+255 613 6497025.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Support Initiatives-Tanzania (COSITA) is a local non-governmental organization located in Babati Township – Manyara region, Tanzania.

The **vision** of COSITA is community that is getting better living standards by accessing high quality social services sustainably while the **Mission is** to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for community by ensuring their involvement in development projects, gender balance, and Sustainable resource management. **COSITA's Values** being - Teamwork, Equality, Ethics, Dignity and Integrity.

The **General Objective** is to improve the quality of life for pastoralists, peasants and hunter-gatherers' communities by contributing to the development opportunities towards poverty alleviation in Tanzania.

During the period under review, COSITA continued to access grants and donations which enabled the organization to continue implementing community projects as well as covering organization running cost. The projects supported were “Promotion of Girls Education through sensitization of dormitory building in the selected ward level secondary schools in Babati Town Council under the support of WECS via DKA Austria funds; “Rural Women Cultivating Change (RWCC)” project in Babati and Mbulu districts funded by PELUM Tanzania; “Child Rights to Education (CRE)” project in Babati funded by Grassroots nest for Innovation and Change (GRiC); National Multisectoral ECD Program (PJT-MMMAM) via “Mtoto Kwanza project” in Manyara region funded by Tanzania ECD Network; “Women access and use of Agricultural products” in Babati district funded by the Legal Services Facility (LSF); “Community Behavior Change Initiatives on the demands for and consumption of wild meat in the Kwakuchinja Wildlife Corridor” in Babati funded by USAID/TRAFFIC; and “Women Rights and Social Norms Change” project in Babati funded by PWC; Also, a continued follow ups was made for the phased-out projects implemented by the organization.

Additionally, the organization worked in collaboration with LGAs to compliment the resources and also Partners and networks particularly THRDC, PELUM, TECEDN, and TENMET for capacity building and networking.

Major activities implemented during the year were:

- Sensitization of Grassroots level leaders in Wards for the contribution towards Sec school girls dormitory building in Babati district.
- Promoting potentials of adolescent girls in Sigino and Kwaangw secondary schools in Babati including building self-awareness, self-confidence and ways of managing puberty period.
- Facilitating quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on discussion towards implementation of National Multisectoral ECD program including all 5 components of Naturing Care Frameworks (NCF)

- Ensuring children in schools are early enrolled, retained in school and getting right studies at right time
- Conduct participatory mapping of economic and leadership opportunities in local food systems and agroecology for y/a women in Mbulu and Babati districts.
- capacity building to over 360 Women in groups of VSLAs and VICOBA in Babati district on agribusiness, agro-products value addition and market linkages
- Conduct training on market research, value chain analysis and development, and entrepreneurship using Farmer Market School (market-oriented).
- Empowering over 420 rural women to access and use land to improve agricultural production in Babati district
- Imparting decision-making skills, agribusiness, agro-products value addition, market linkages and financial inclusion to 420 women on turning their land-based investment into productive work in Babati district
- Facilitate platform (workshop, meetings) with rural CBOs/VSLAs and private sectors (agro-dealers, bankers, business people) on women's access to and control over productive resources at ward level.
- Training to students on good hygiene and sanitation in schools e.g the use of toilets, cleanliness around school environment, etc in Babati ward level sec schools.
- Training on managing changes during puberty and risky practices (changes during adolescence, avoiding teenage pregnancies, STDs, HIV/AIDS) for students in Sigino, and Kwaang'w Secondary schools
- Capacitating village women right promoters (WRPs) and Male Champions (MCs) to training wider communities on women rights to resources, involvement in decision making levels and leadership positions in their localities in Babati and Mbulu districts
- Capacity strengthening of interfaith and VAWC committees on prevention, referral and human rights to fight SGBV in all areas in babati and Mbulu districts.
- Development and dissemination to the communities in Mbulu and Babati districts of over 6000 IEC materials with mindset-change messages on women rights to resources, involvement in decision making levels and leadership positions.
- conduct climate change trainings to village and ward leaders as well as forest management committees and put in place the adaptation and resilience strategies in Mbulu and Babati districts.
- To promote community social and behavior change initiatives (livelihood options) at Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor towards the desirable consumptions of wild meat which is safe, sustainable, and legally sourced.

Major Achievements:

- Two dormitories well-built and used in Sigino Sec school
- Quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on discussion towards implementation of National Multisectoral ECD program well conducted

- Increased rate of retention and managing of 3Rs by 10% by children in primary schools in Nkaiti ward
- Over 360 Women in groups of VSLAs and VICOBA in Babati district have been linked to local markets and profitable out of their agro-products
- Women are publicly claiming rights to resources ownership, involved themselves in decision making bodies and contesting leadership positions in their localities in Babati and Mbulu districts.
- Training to students on good hygiene and sanitation in schools e.g the use of toilets, cleanliness around school environment, etc in Babati ward level sec schools.
- Increased SGBV cases reported to the authorities for taking actions against those alleged on GBV
- Reduced rate of trade and consumption of illegal wild meat at Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor.

Some of the Challenges faced during the year:

- Inadequate fund to cover personnel cost led to shortage of key staffs
- Inadequate working facilities
- Some of the available working facilities have run very old and some outdated

Some of the ways forward:

- Sensitizing more members pay subscription fee and also aggressive work on own income generating activities so as to raise own income for sustainability.
- Continue capacity building of members of the board and management especially on the resource mobilization, control and management of the organization resources.
- More fundraising from different sources for projects and working facilities.

ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

Community Support Initiatives – Tanzania (COSITA) is a non – governmental organization located in Babati Township. The organization was registered under NGO Act, 2002 in December 2010 with the objective to improve the livelihood of poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities confronted by lack/shortage of clean and safe water, land degradation/natural resource destruction, child right abuse, gender inequality/inequity, and food insecurity.

COSITA is a membership-based organization where the Annual General Meeting is a supreme organ in the decision-making level, followed by the Board of Directors and finally the management team which undertakes the daily implementation of the organization duties.

The head office of the organization is located in Babati Township - the head quarter of Manyara region and sub-offices in the nearby districts and regions.

Vision

Community that is getting better living standards by accessing high quality social services sustainably

Mission

To contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for community through ensuring their involvement in; development projects, gender balance, social accountability and Sustainable resource management

Values: - Teamwork, Equity, Ethics, Dignity and Integrity

General Objective:

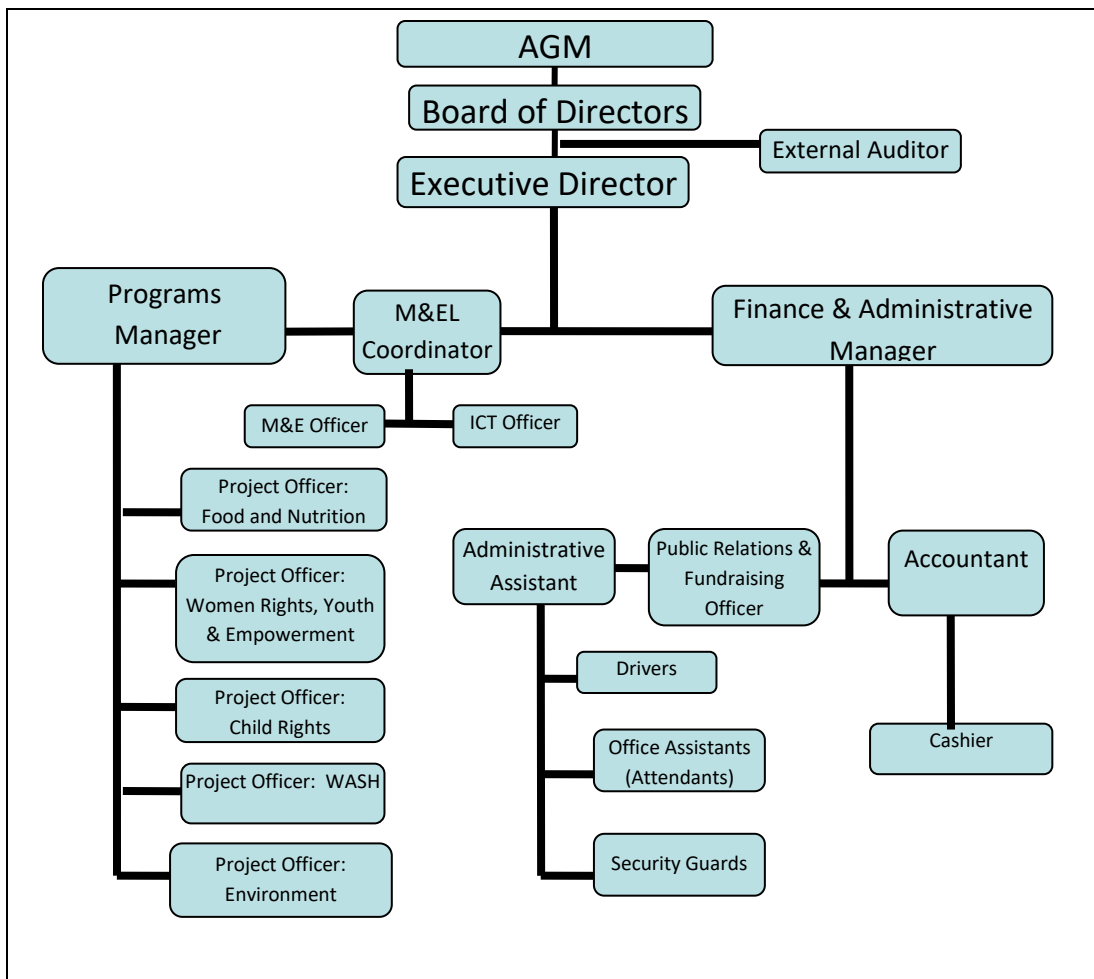
To improve the quality of life for Pastoralists, Smallholder farmers, hunter-gatherers and other low-income communities by contributing to the development opportunities towards poverty alleviation.

Specific Objectives:

In order to achieve her general objective, COSITA has set priority areas as follows:

1. To promote child rights and protection (education, health & nutrition ...)
2. To promote food and Nutrition security initiatives towards poverty alleviation.
3. To promote community health, hygiene and sanitation services.
4. To promote women rights, Youth and Community Empowerment programs
5. To undertake environmental conservation programs
6. To enhance COSITA's capacity to effectively achieve her objectives including monitoring and evaluation work.

COSITA ORGANOGRAM



COSITA DONORS, OTHER PARTNERS, NETWORKS AND COLLABORATORS

COSITA as an NGO gains her financial support from members contribution, grants, and any other support from individual, institution or any initiative provided that the receipt of the same is genuine and legal.

Since the commencement of COSITA in 2010 to the year 2023, the organisation managed to fundraise from her own members' and non-members' support.

In the year 2013 the organization gained the initial project funding from CARE International in Tanzania. From the year 2013 to date, at different times, COSITA was supported by different donors on project basis as follows:

S/N	DONOR	PROJECT	AMOUNT (TZS)	PERIOD
1	CARE Tanzania/ Irish Aid	Pastoralists' Land rights in Babati	139mil	2013-2016
2	Africare Tanzania/USAID	Mwanzo Bora Nutrition in Mbulu and Babati districts	966mil	2013-2018
3	COMIC Relief	Sesame Value Chain in Babati	657mil	2015-2018
4	Women's Economy and Gender Support (WEGS)	Promotion of Girls' Education in Wards Sec Schools - Babati	45mil	2018/9-2020/1
		Promoting potentials for adolescent girls - Babati	45mil	2021/2-2023/4
5	Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)	Women Land Rights in Babati	83mil	2019 - 2021
6	UNDP/UNOPS	Participatory conservation of Duru Haitemba Forest in Babati	48.9mil	2020 - 2021
7	SeedChange/PELUM Tanzania	Rural Women Cultivating change (RWCC) in Babati and Mbulu districts	60mil	2021/2–2026/7
8	Grassroots nest for Innovation and Change (GRiC)	Child Rights to Education (CRE) in Babati district	77mil	2022 - 2024
9	Tanzania ECD Network (TECDEN)	Mtoto Kwanza in Mnayara region	60mil	2022/3-2023/4
10	Legal Services Facility (LSF)	Women rights to access and use of agricultural products in Babati	79.3mil	2022/23
11	USAID/TRAFFIC International East Africa Office	Community Behaviour Change Initiative on the demands for and consumption of illegal wild meat in the Kwakuchinja Wildlife Corridor (KWC) in Babati	105mil	2022/23

COSITA also collaborated with Networks and governments follows:

➤ **Tanzania Early Childhood Development Network (TECDEN)**

This is the network of which COSITA is a member and benefited by building her capacity on matters related to child rights and protection issues, child policy etc.

➤ **Tanzania Forum for Climate Change (FORUM CC)**

COSITA being a member of FORUM CC, has benefited in the capacity strengthening in the areas of climate change resilience, adaptation and mitigation strategies.

➤ **Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)**

These are national advocacy platforms for the development of the agricultural sector in Tanzania (advocates for food and Nutrition security in the country). COSITA benefits from the capacity strengthening in the areas of Food and Nutrition security as well as information sharing on improving livelihoods for smallholder producers (income and standard of living).

➤ **Tanzania Education Network (TENMET)**

COSITA benefits in the areas of better ways to advocate for developing formal education friendly policies in the country including community awareness raising on the five components of the child nurturing framework (education, nutrition, learning environments, care giving and safety)

➤ **Tanzania Human Right Defenders Coalition (THRDC)**

This is the coalition which defends the rights of defenders in the country and trains defenders on the better way to defend their own and other people's rights without causing violent. COSITA as a member do benefits on those services provided by the Coalition especially the capacity building on the issues related to human right and security of defenders of human rights.

➤ **Local Government Authorities (LGAs)**

COSITA throughout the year worked in collaboration with the district councils' officials mainly to outsource expertise in the areas where the organisation lacks the required knowledge and experience. Also, working with the councils was mandatory since working with their expert indicates the presence of government in the specific area of intervention and recognition of organisation work as part and parcel of LGAs' development strategy.

SIGNIFICANT OFFICIAL VISITORS DURING THE YEAR

Officials from GRiC, PWC, USAID/RTI/TRAFFIC officers, LSF, and many others visited our office for various reasons including due diligence, project monitoring and evaluation, organization capacity assessment (OCA) and other future engagement strategies between COSITA and their institutions/networks.

MAIN ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED ALONG WITH SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1.1 COSITA Objective 1. To promote child rights and protection.

- Sensitization of Grassroots level leaders in Wards for the contribution towards Sec school girls dormitory building in Babati district.
- Promoting potentials of adolescent girls in Sigino and Kwaangw secondary schools in Babati including building self-awareness, self-confidence and ways of managing puberty period.
- Community Campaigns towards child right and protection against violence at home by their parents or guardians
- Facilitating quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on discussion towards implementation of National Multisectoral ECD program including all 5 components of Nurturing Care Frameworks (NCF)
- Ensuring children in Nkaiti ward primary schools are early enrolled, retained in school and getting right studies at right time (sub activities being: Quality of learning assessments for G2 to G4 learners, Provision of reference/supplementary books, Painting and drawings of 3Rs classes, awareness raising meetings to parents about child rights to education, capacity strengthening training to school committees)

1.2 COSITA Objective 2. Food and Nutrition Security Initiatives towards poverty alleviation.

- Conduct participatory mapping of economic and leadership opportunities in local food systems and agroecology for y/a women in Mbulu and Babati district.
- Facilitate peer support and knowledge sharing between diverse rural women involved in agroecology leadership.
- capacity building to over 360 Women in groups of VSLAs and VICOBA in Babati district on agribusiness, agro-products value addition and market linkages
- Conduct farmer's field days and field visit to rural women and men.
- Conduct training on market research, value chain analysis and development, and entrepreneurship using Farmer Market School (market-oriented).
- Empowering over 420 rural women to access and use land to improve agricultural production in Babati district
- Imparting decision-making skills, agribusiness, agro-products value addition, market linkages and financial inclusion to 420 women on turning their land-based investment into productive work in Babati district
- Facilitate women groups strengthen their Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to improve women access to productive resources (capital, and inputs).
- Facilitate platform (workshop, meetings) with rural CBOs/VSLAs and private sectors (agro-dealers, bankers, business people) on women's access to and control over productive resources at ward level.

1.3 COSITA Objective 3. To promote good hygiene and sanitation practices.

- Training to students on good hygiene and sanitation in schools e.g the use of toilets, cleanliness around school environment, etc in Babati ward level sec schools.
- Training on managing changes during puberty and risky practices (changes during adolescence, avoiding teenage pregnancies, STDs, HIV/AIDS) for students in Sigino, and Kwaang'w Secondary schools
- Supportive supervision and monitoring of previously implemented projects

1.4 COSITA Objective 4. To promote women rights, Youth and Empowerment programs (gender equality)

- Capacitating village women right promoters (WRPs) and Male Champions (MCs) to training wider communities on women rights to resources, involvement in decision making levels and leadership positions in their localities in Babati and Mbulu districts
- Capacity strengthening of interfaith and VAWC committees on prevention, referral and human rights to fight SGBV in all areas in babati and Mbulu districts.
- Trainings on women's land rights and resource control issues to rural women, men, and village Council members in Mbulu and Babati districts.
- Development and dissemination to the communities in Mbulu and Babati districts of over 6000 IEC materials with mindset-change messages on women rights to resources, involvement in decision making levels and leadership positions.

1.5 COSITA Objective 5. Environmental conservation

- conduct climate change trainings to village and ward leaders as well as forest management committees and put in place the adaptation and resilience strategies in Mbulu and Babati districts.
- To promote community social and behavior change initiatives (livelihood options) at Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor towards the desirable consumptions of wild meat which is safe, sustainable, and legally sourced;
- sub-activities being:
 - ✚ capacity-building workshop to ToTs to promote responsible consumption wildmeat in communities and at the household levels;
 - ✚ sensitization workshops to existing women's groups in VICOPA to speak up against the consumption of illegally harvested wild meat;
 - ✚ General village meetings to raise awareness on the use of legal consumption of harvested game meat;
 - ✚ conduct alternative livelihood options to improve household's resilience;
 - ✚ conduct food cookery bonanza at the community levels to showcase other food alternatives instead of wild meat); and
 - ✚ Engage two (2) messengers/influential persons to divert demand from the undesirable behavior towards the desired behavior

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Two dormitories well-built and used in Sigino Sec school
- Quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on discussion towards implementation of National Multisectoral ECD program well conducted
- Increased rate of retention and managing of 3Rs by 10% by children in primary schools in Nkaiti ward
- Over 360 Women in groups of VSLAs and VICOBA in Babati district have been linked to local markets and profitable out of their agro-products
- Women are publicly claiming rights to resources ownership, involved themselves in decision making bodies and contesting leadership positions in their localities in Babati and Mbulu districts.
- Training to students on good hygiene and sanitation in schools e.g the use of toilets, cleanliness around school environment, etc in Babati ward level sec schools.
- Increased SGBV cases reported to the authorities for taking actions against those alleged on GBV
- Reduced rate of trade and consumption of illegal wild meat at Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor.

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE YEAR:

- Inadequate fund to cover personnel cost led to shortage of key staffs
- Inadequate working facilities
- Some of the available working facilities have run very old and some outdated fashion

WAYS FORWARD:

- Sensitizing more members pay subscription fee and also aggressive work on own income generating activities so as to raise own income for sustainability.
- Continue capacity building of members of the board and management especially on the resource mobilization, control and management of the organization resources.
- More fundraising from different sources for projects and working facilities.

SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (TSHS)
A. Beginning balance	105,516,512.00
B. Income during the year	173,933,484.00
C. Total (A+B)	280,844,597.00
D. Expenditure	267,145,932.00
E. Balance remaining (C-D)	12,304,064.00

The details of the financial report are seen in the excel sheet overleaf.

Approved in this day 30/04/2024.....and signed on behalf by;



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Kristina Fisoo
Board Chairperson



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Patrice Gwasma
Board Secretary

ANNEX: KEY SUCCESS STORIES:

1. Building dormitories has reduced absenteeism for girls' student, a case of sigino sec school students.

Sigino Secondary school is one of the community levels (ward) Secondary schools in Babati district. Its's located in Sigino ward, composed of four villages. Since its' the community ward school, the intake of the students in the schools come from the primary schools from the four villages. It's a day school where the students have to attend schooling from their homesteads. Due to the nature of the environment the school was built, some of the villages are very far from school in such a way that some students have to walk 16KM to and from school daily. The long distance has been a problem for the students which causes absenteeism and drop outs especially for the girls' students.

Due to that reason, in the year 2019 COSITA via support from DKA Austria started advocacy to district council on allocation of some funding for building dormitories to rescue the situation. Also, COSITA conducted community sensitization meetings to contribute financially and in kind in building the dormitories. COSITA also contributed over 3mil to support the effort of the community. After sensation meetings, the community contributed for the building, and when the building reached at the level of linter, the central government supported the school by providing the amount of TZS 160Mil to finish up the dormitories.

Up to the time of this story, one dormitory was completed (see the picture below) in which the girls' students (the exams classes – II & IV) are staying and the other for boys' student is under the finishing stage.

The headmaster of the school Mr. Agustino Burra was very thankful to COSITA for the idea and support to the school. The headmaster added that, the dormitory resulted into reduced absenteeism, reduced drop out and also parents whose children were studying outside the ward are transferring them to the school due to conducive and safe learning environment.

On the other hand, the beneficiaries of the dormitory who are the girls' student are also very thankful for the support that made them to get safe learning environment.



2. Child Rights to education project has reduced pupils' dropout, a case of Nkaiti ward Primary schools.

COSITA is working with project schools in the Nkaiti ward to improve literacy skills for pupils with 3Rs challenges. The school communities and teachers are working tirelessly to ensure pupils attend schools, remain at school and get the right studies. Along with improving literacy in schools, organizations intend to reduce school dropouts to ensure pupils get the right studies while remaining at school.

The organization formed Parents-Teachers association (PTA) and trained on their roles and responsibilities towards ensuring reducing drops outs and pupils getting right studies at right time. The exercise has enabled retaining pupils who dropped from school to proceed with studies regardless of their ages and classes. As of to date in Eluway primary school managed to return 4 girls' pupils who previously dropped from school return to proceed with their studies. The names of the pupils are Anna Adam (15), Siboti Lemomo (14), Naomi Mitawas(13) and Agness Mitawas (14) (their pictures are hidden).

3. Value addition practices led to family incomes assurance, a case of Mary Phides from Haraa village.

Mery Phides is a smallholder farmer and entrepreneur aged 55 years old living in Haraa village. She is one among the 10 women right promoters of Haraa village selected during the village sensitization meeting.

Mary Phides with other Haraa people were farming maize and pigeon pea and fruits trees like banana, mangoes, avocado, and passion. Those products were used for their daily food and some of products remaining to be sold for the family needs. She also buys maize from fellow villagers during which the prices are fairly low especially on harvesting times, keep it to her small store to wait good price and sell when the price is a bit higher than buying price.

On February 2023 COSITA through funding support from Legal Services Facility (LSF) conducted training about entrepreneurship, agribusiness, agro-products-value addition and market linkages for three days whereby the participants were 60 women right promoters and 30 Male Champions from all six project villages. Mary Phides was one among the 60 women right promoters attended the particular trainings.

After the training, she decided to add value to the maize, instead of selling maize, she decided turn into maize flour for the purpose of increasing the value and selling maize flour profitably. Mary Phides is now confident of having funds anytime as against to waiting during which prices are higher than buying price and sustainably support her family and other dependents.

Ms. Mary Phides is very thankful to COSITA and donors for the knowledge she acquired from the training sessions and she is now disseminating the knowledge she got from capacity building sessions to other village women.

4. Varieties of small businesses and full of market information became assurance for family income sustenance, a case of **Josephina Joseph from Halla village.**

Josephina Joseph is a woman aged 41 years old living in Halla village. She is a small hold farmer, livestock keeper and entrepreneur.

She started getting involved in farming and livestock keeping since she got married; she was growing bananas, beans and pigeon pea. She was keeping dairy cattle whereby at that time she produced milk mainly for the home consumption and remaining was sold to neighbors to earn little income to support other household needs.

Josephina attended the workshop conducted by COSITA via financial support from Legal Services Facility (LSF) about agribusiness, agro-products value additions and market linkages for three days in February 2023

After the workshop, she expanded her business by applying agribusiness, agro-products value addition and market information knowledge. She changes farming system by applying fertilizers during growing beans season-furthermore, she finds more market to sell more bananas, where she found restaurant to sell banana and got more profit. She bought another cow in order to get sustainable income.

She also started making yoghurt because she started obtaining a lot of milk and bought refrigerator to preserve milk for the long time.

She is now getting more income used for the family daily use and continuing with the construction of her business house. She is applying a business principle which states “don’t put your eggs into one basket”, having varieties of business assures her family income sustenance.

Ms. Josephina Joseph is very thankful to COSITA/donors for the knowledge she acquired from the training sessions and she is now disseminating the knowledge she got from capacity building sessions to other village women.

5. Entrepreneurship training becomes the source of increase in income to women, a case of Ms. Adelaida Joachim from Sigino village

Adelaida Joachim is a woman aged 54 years old with three kids residing in Sigino village. Adelaida is the one among the women right promoters of Sigino village since January 2023.

She is an entrepreneur woman selling seeds, herbicides, and pesticides from her shop. Previously she was only opening her business during planting seasons while for other season she was not opening because no one to buy farm implements out of planting season and hence has to close her shop from one planting season to another.

On February 2023 COSITA with financial support from the Legal Services Facility (LSF) conducted the training on entrepreneurship, agribusiness, agro-products value addition and market linkages to women right promoters and male champions from the six project villages including Sigino village whereby Adelaida Joachim was one among the participants attended the particular training session. One of the lessons she learnt from the training was to have more than one source of income.

Therefore, she told her husband about the training she got, and they agreed to open another building material business (hardware) and also manufacture soap locally for local sell and use, in such businesses has been able to have a sustainable income throughout the year.

Ms. Adelaida Joachim is very thankful to COSITA/donors for the knowledge she acquired from the training sessions and she is now disseminating the knowledge she got from capacity building sessions to other village women.

6. A women right promoter turns into peace restoration organ to their fellow villagers, a case of Rehema John from Sigino village.

Rehema John is a mother of three kids and a small hold farmer residing in Sigino village. Rehema is neighbor of Adelaida Joachim, a WRP from Sigino village selected during sensitization meeting conducted by COSITA in January 2023.

Rehema's husband did not allow his wife to participate in decision making matters. Sometimes she was beaten when she needs to know anything related to family income and he was very cruel that his children were afraid of him.

In March 2023 they were visited by Adelaida (WRP) and advised on the advantages of women involvement in decision making process within the family and advantage of family participation in upholding kids.

Rehemas husband started changing gradually from that day and become very kind and surprisingly, he stated to be close to his family including his wife and his children. He now loves his kids and kids enjoying him more than in the past where he was furious.

Rehema has been at peace and happy after seeing her husband has changed and thanking COSITA and their sponsors LSF for the training.

Ms. Rehema John is very thankful to COSITA/donors for the knowledge she acquired from the training sessions and she is now disseminating the knowledge she got from capacity building sessions to other village women.