



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

**Community Support Initiatives – Tanzania (COSITA)**

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# COSITA ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The **vision** of COSITA is a 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 the community by ensuring their involvement in development projects, gender balance, and Sustainable resource management.

**COSITA's Values** are - 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 organisation to continue implementing community projects as well as covering the organisation's running costs. 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 WEGS 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; "Fight against Gender Based-violence (SGBV)" project in Babati funded by PWC; Also, a continued follow ups was made for the phased-out projects implemented by the organization.

Additionally, the organisation worked in collaboration with LGAs to complement 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:

- Promoting potentials of adolescent girls in Sigino and Kwaangw secondary schools in Babati, including building self-awareness, self-confidence and ways of managing the puberty period.
- Facilitating quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on discussion towards implementation of the National Multisectoral ECD program, including all 5 components of the Naturing Care Frameworks (NCF).
- Ensuring children in schools are enrolled early, retained in school and getting the right studies at the 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.
- Conduct training on market research, value addition analysis and development, and entrepreneurship using Farmer Market School (market-oriented).
- Training students on good hygiene and sanitation in schools, e.g the use of toilets, cleanliness around the 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 rights promoters (WRPs) and Male Champions (MCs) to train wider communities on women's 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.
- 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.
- As per the permission granted by INEC, COSITA conducted voter education in Babati district

#### Major Achievements:

- Women are publicly claiming rights to resource ownership, are involved in decision-making bodies and contesting leadership positions in their localities in Babati and Mbulu districts.
- Training 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 accused of GBV
- Improved Student Proficiency: 83% of students (189 out of 230 enrolled in remedial classes) have demonstrated increased literacy and numeracy skills, reflecting the effectiveness of targeted interventions.
- Reduced Absenteeism: There has been a noticeable decline in occasional absenteeism linked to household responsibilities, such as livestock keeping, allowing more students to maintain regular school attendance.
- 18 teachers have received specialised training to enhance their teaching methodologies and improve the effectiveness of remedial classes.
- Expanded Access to Remedial Education: A total of 230 students have been enrolled in remedial classes, contributing to a broader reach of 3,304 students benefiting from enhanced educational support.
- As part of its commitment to social welfare, the organisation has initiated targeted campaigns to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in Babati Rural and Mbulu districts. These efforts aim to raise awareness, build community resilience, and promote gender equality across 12 villages.
- Public Awareness and Outreach: A total of 1099 community members have been engaged in educational sessions focused on identifying, preventing, and addressing gender-based violence. These efforts have fostered dialogue on cultural and structural barriers while promoting practical solutions for eliminating GBV.
- The community got aware of voter rights and responsibilities and tuned out for registration in the permanent register book for INEC

**Some of the Challenges faced during the year:**

- Inadequate funds to cover personnel costs led to a shortage of key staff
- Inadequate working facilities
- Some of the available working facilities are very old, and some are outdated

**Some of the ways forward:**

- Sensitising more members to pay the subscription fee and also aggressively working on their own income-generating activities to raise their own income for sustainability.
- Continue capacity building of members of the board and management, especially on the resource mobilisation, control and management of the organisation's resources.
- More fundraising from different sources for projects and working facilities.

## **ORGANISATION BACKGROUND**

Community Support Initiatives – Tanzania (COSITA) is a non – non-governmental organisation located in Babati Township. The organisation was registered under the NGO Act, 2002, in December 2010 to improve the livelihood of poor, marginalised and vulnerable communities confronted by a 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 organisation 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 organisation's duties.

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

### **Vision**

A 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 the 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:**

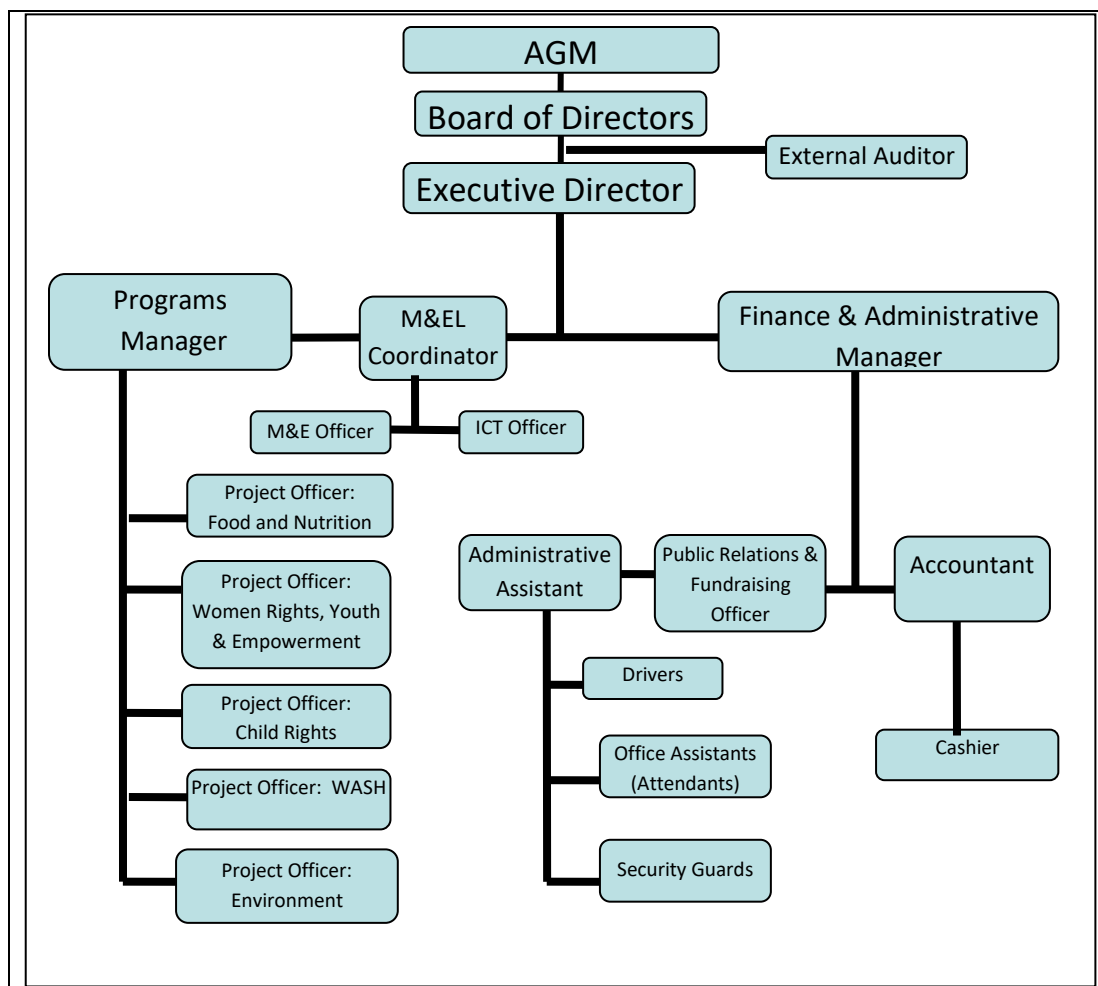
To improve the quality of life for Pastoralists, Smallholder farmers, hunter-gatherers and other low-income communities by contributing to the development opportunities towards poverty alleviation.

### **Specific Objectives:**

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's rights, Youth and Community Empowerment programs
5. To undertake environmental conservation programs
6. To enhance COSITA's capacity to effectively achieve its objectives, including monitoring and evaluation work.

## COSITA ORGANOGRAM





## COSITA DONORS, OTHER PARTNERS, NETWORKS AND COLLABORATORS

COSITA, as an NGO, gains its financial support from members' contributions, grants, and any other support from individuals, institutions or any initiative provided that the receipt of the same is genuine and legal.

Since the commencement of COSITA in 2010 to the year 2024, the organisation managed to fundraise from its own members' and non-members' support.

In the year 2013, the organisation 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 a 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	90mil	2021/2-2026/7
5	Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)	Women's 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	153mil	2022 - 2026
9	Tanzania ECD Network (TECDEN)	Mtoto Kwanza in the Manyara region	60mil	2022/3-2023/4
10	Legal Services Facility (LSF)	Women's 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
12	PWC/EU	1. Social norms change in Pastoral communities in Babati district 2. Addressing Gender Based Violence in Babati district	93mil	2022-2025



***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 benefits by building its 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 from 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 Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)**

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

➤ **Local Government Authorities (LGAs)**

COSITA, throughout the year, worked in collaboration with the government agency 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.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED ALONG WITH SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

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

- Promoting potentials of adolescent girls in Sigino and Kwaangw secondary schools in Babati, including building self-awareness, self-confidence and ways of managing the puberty period.
- Community Campaigns towards child rights and protection against violence at home by their parents or guardians
- Facilitating quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on discussion towards implementation of the National Multisectoral ECD program, including all 5 components of the Nurturing Care Frameworks (NCF)
- Ensuring children in Nkaiti ward primary schools are early enrolled, retained in school and getting the right studies at the 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 districts.
- Facilitate peer support and knowledge sharing between diverse rural women involved in agroecology leadership.
- Conduct farmer's field days and field visits to rural women and men.
- Conduct training on market research, value chain analysis and development, and entrepreneurship using Farmer Market School (market-oriented).
- Facilitate agroecological farmers' groups in Babati and Mbulu to strengthen their Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to improve women's access to productive resources (capital and inputs).

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

- Training 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's rights, Youth and Empowerment programs (gender equality)*

- Capacitating village women rights promoters (WRPs) and Male Champions (MCs) to train wider communities on women's 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.

- Training on women's land rights and resource control issues for rural women, men, and village Council members in Mbulu and Babati districts.
- As per the permission granted by INEC, COSITA conducted voter education in Babati district

### **1.5 COSITA Objective 5. Environmental conservation**

To conduct climate change training 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.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Quarterly Manyara Regional Review meetings on the discussion towards the implementation of the National Multisectoral ECD program were well conducted
- Increased rate of retention and management of 3Rs by 10% among children in primary schools in Nkaiti ward
- Women are publicly claiming rights to resource ownership, are involved in decision-making bodies and contesting leadership positions in their localities in Babati and Mbulu districts.
- Training 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 action against those accused of GBV
- Improved Student Proficiency: 83% of students (189 out of 230 enrolled in remedial classes) have demonstrated increased literacy and numeracy skills, reflecting the effectiveness of targeted interventions.
- Parental Engagement: Approximately 179 parents have been engaged in initiatives to foster a supportive home learning environment and enhance school monitoring, ensuring sustained student progress.
- Reduced Absenteeism: There has been a noticeable decline in occasional absenteeism linked to household responsibilities, such as livestock keeping, allowing more students to maintain regular school attendance.
- 18 teachers have received specialised training to enhance their teaching methodologies and improve the effectiveness of remedial classes.
- An additional 18 teachers have participated in workshops focused on developing educational materials, including books and teaching aids, to support student learning.
- Expanded Access to Remedial Education: A total of 230 students have been enrolled in remedial classes, contributing to a broader reach of 3,304 students benefiting from enhanced educational support.
- As part of its commitment to social welfare, the organisation has initiated targeted campaigns to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in Babati Rural and Mbulu districts. These efforts aim to raise awareness, build community resilience, and promote gender equality across 12 villages.

- Community Empowerment: The campaign has strengthened the role of 40 influential women and 12 male champions as advocates against GBV, equipping them with knowledge and leadership skills to drive change within their communities.
- Public Awareness and Outreach: A total of 1,073 community members have been engaged in educational sessions focused on identifying, preventing, and addressing gender-based violence. These efforts have fostered dialogue on cultural and structural barriers while promoting practical solutions for eliminating GBV.
- COSITA formed 35 agro-ecological farmers groups in all 8 project villages, and 17 groups have officially registered with the Community Development Offices, and 18 have not registered.
- The total number of group members includes 399 women (93 youth, 306 adults) and 221 men (72 youth, 149 adults), making a total of 620 Agro-ecological group members.
- Also, COSITA established 14 community seed banks and 31 demonstration farms covering a total of 13.75 acres, and the harvested crops are as follows: 9,565 kg of maize, 2,380 kg of beans, 2,899 kg of pigeon peas, 1,060 kg of sunflower, and 1,940 kg of sorghum
- The community got aware of voter rights and responsibilities and tuned out for registration in the permanent register book for INEC

#### MAIN CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE YEAR:

- Inadequate funds to cover personnel costs led to a shortage of key staff
- Inadequate working facilities
- Some of the available working facilities are very old, and some are outdated in fashion

#### WAYS FORWARD:

- Sensitising more members to pay subscription fees and also aggressively working on their own income-generating activities to raise their own income for sustainability.
- Continue capacity building of members of the board and management, especially on the resource mobilisation, control and management of the organisation's resources.
- More fundraising from different sources for projects and working facilities.

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR

See the separate audited report for 2024.

Approved in this day .....30/04/2025.....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. VALUE CHAIN TRAINING BROUGHT FANTASTIC CHANGES.**

#### ***The Case of Stela Mollel***



Stela Mollel, aged 36, resides in Kiongozi village, Maisaka Ward, Babati Town Council. Mrs Stela is a wife and mother of three children, and they live together while engaging in various farming activities to meet their family's needs. Before receiving value chain training, they used to grow crops like maize, beans, and bananas and sell them without adding any value. They would sell directly from the farm, which didn't bring much profit, leading to worsening economic conditions for the family.

After getting the opportunity to attend training on the value chain in agriculture, they began to change. Stela shared what she learned about adding value to crops with her husband, who agreed it was a good idea to change their selling practices. They started processing their crops to increase their value before selling. Stela also opened a small stall to sell vegetables, fruits, roasted peanuts, and packaged goods, increasing the family's income. Overall, their economic situation has improved significantly, allowing them to meet their family's needs and even build a modern family house.



Stela is very grateful to the COSITA organisation for the education she received and has pledged to be an ambassador for bringing change to the community by encouraging others to add value to their crops to earn more profit and support their families.

## **2. From Struggling with 3Rs Skills to Becoming a Confident Student Ready for the National Examination- A Story of Wema Talami.**

Wema Talami, an 11-year-old girl, is a pupil at Tarangire Primary School, currently in Class IV. She began her academic journey in 2019 when she was enrolled in Class I. As she progressed to Class III, she faced difficulties in mastering the essential numeracy and literacy skills, often referred to as the "3Rs" (reading, writing, and arithmetic skills). These foundational skills are critical for academic success, and without them, Wema struggled to keep up with her peers. Due to this, she had to repeat Class III, as mastering the 3Rs was a requirement to continue to higher grades.

In 2024, recognising her challenges, Wema was placed in a remedial class designed to help students strengthen their basic literacy and numeracy skills. This additional support provided her with focused attention, and through a combination of hard work and the tailored teaching methods of her instructors, Wema gradually gained confidence in her ability to read, write, and solve arithmetic problems. Her determination, along with the commitment of her teachers, played a pivotal role in helping her overcome the barriers she had previously faced.

By the end of the year, Wema successfully mastered the 3Rs, laying a solid foundation for her continued academic journey. This achievement not only boosted her self-esteem but also prepared her to sit for the 2024 national examination with confidence. Her story is a testament to the importance of personalised learning support, as well as the transformative impact that dedicated teachers and targeted interventions can have on a student's educational experience.



Wema is very thankful to the program, her teachers, and the program for their efforts in helping her master the writing, reading, and arithmetic skills (3Rs skills), which have made her confident about sitting for the national examination this year.

### 3. ANTI-GBV CAMPAIGNS BROUGHT POSITIVE OUTCOMES AT KAKOI VILLAGE

A case of Nariku Meyasi

FGM is a significant public health and human rights concern since worldwide it was estimated that more than 200 million girls and women are living with the effects of FGM, and about 44 million are aged less than 15 years, and this number is projected to increase by 2030 due to population growth (UNFPA, 2004). Tanzania is one of the countries where FGM is widely practised. According to the demographic and health survey conducted in 2022, Arusha and Manyara are the leading regions in practising female genital mutilation, with a prevalence as high as 43%. FGM practice interferes with the natural functions of girls and women's bodies due to immediate health risks such as severe pain, excessive bleeding, infection and a variety of long-term impacts such as menstruation problems, chronic genital infection, chronic reproductive tract infection, urinary tract infection and continued pain throughout of life course.



*Here is a photo of Nariku Meyasi, one of the project beneficiaries who has surrendered FGM practice from Kakoi Village at Nkaiti ward.*

Therefore, due to the impact of FGM, it's now become a national and regional concern. COSITA, in support of the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC), intervened to fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as one of the Gender Base Violence (GBV) through intervention that was initiated among Pastoral societies to combat GBV at Nkaiti ward from Babati district, specifically to Minjingu, Vilima Vitatu,



Olasiti and Kakoï villages. Intervention capacitated 42 women's rights promoters and 10 male champions, thereafter about 1073 benefited from the project through the women promoters and male champions' campaign conducted to individuals and groups.

Intervention brought positive outcomes since, after a great awareness and campaign, now community is slowly changing and taking concern. To prove this among of NKAITI GBV training beneficiaries, there is one of the famous FGM Practitioners (Ngariba) called by the name NARIKU MEYASI surrendered and dumped circumcision tools and joined the effort of ending female Genital mutilation. Now, she is an ambassador of ending FGM, and she is thankful to COSITA and PWC for the training and awareness.

#### 4. ***“WHAT STARTED AS A PERSONAL HABIT HAD TURNED INTO A PROFITABLE BUSINESS”***

*The case of Godson Sivitie.*



In Kwaraa village, Babati District, **Godson Sivitie** has been engaging in farming for many years, growing maize, beans, pigeon peas, sunflowers, and cocoa beans. *Mr Sivitie is among the COSITA Agroecological farmer groups located in Kwaraa village – Babati district.* For a long time, he used cocoa beans only to make tea flavour for himself because regular tea leaves affected his health. He never thought of it as anything special—just part of his daily routine.

Everything changed when he attended a training session on value addition to farm products, organised by PELUM and COSITA. The training made him see new possibilities. What if his

cocoa beans could become more than just a homemade drink? Excited by the idea, **Godson** took action. Also, he applied for a business license from BRELA. Once he got it, he started grinding the cocoa beans into powder, packaging it well, and selling it in the market.

To his surprise, people loved it. His cocoa powder became popular, and soon, demand was higher than what he could produce. Even in his own village, customers kept asking for more. Also, Godson depended on cocoa bean farming to earn a living. Before training, he normally sold 1kg of cocoa beans for only Tsh 6,000-8000/=. After learning new skills and improving his packaging, he started selling 250g of cocoa powder for Tsh 3,000–4,000/=. This change helped him earn more, making about Tsh 12,000/= per kilogram. With the extra income, he has been able to improve family care services, cover finishing costs for the family house, pay school fees for his children, cover medical expenses, and meet other daily family needs.

Looking back, Godson is grateful to PELUM and COSITA for the training that changed his life. He now encourages others in his community to take advantage of learning opportunities, work hard, and turn small ideas into big successes.