

How new initiative transforms rural women's earnings

The women's group is an initiative of an East African organisation known as Emerge Poverty Free which supports entrepreneurial teams that seek help to uplift living standards of its members

By The Citizen Correspondent

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MR JEREMY HORNER,
EPF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mwanza. Economic lives of over 250 women of Kabusuli Village, Sengerema District in Mwanza have significantly improved during the past few months, thanks to a new empowerment initiative that is being undertaken in the area.

The women form the 'Kazi na Malengo' Group, an initiative of an East African organisation that is known as Emerge Poverty Free (EPF). The EPF chief executive officer, Mr Jeremy Horner, visited the women's projects in Mwanza at the weekend and was impressed by the achievements that have so far been registered. "These women have worked so hard and we are glad to note that they have already harvested fish from the ponds and sold some while the rest was used for food," he said.

EPF used the Mwanza-based Sustainable Investments and Development Initiatives (Sidi) to help the women start a project for fishing and environmental conservation in the area. So far the women have five fish

BACKGROUND: ABOUT EMERGE POVERTY FREE

EPF is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1995. EPF seeks to empower people to fight poverty themselves by giving them the tools, knowledge and support they need. EPF believes that people can lift themselves out of poverty given the right skills and resources which will enable them to build resilient, dignified lives that are independent of aid.

ponds and planted over 6,000 trees in the area already.

EPF received support from Tanzania Cigarette Company to run the project. Mr Horner was hopeful that TCC will continue supporting them so they can reach many other women in the villages.

The Sidi chief executive officer, Martin Malongo, said the women formed the group in February this year with only 15 members. Since then, the number has increased 250 active members who are involved in various economic and environmental conservation activities.

Members of Kazi na Malengo group supported by EPF harvest fish from one of the pond it established in recent months in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region. PHOTO | THE CITIZEN CORRESPONDENT

