

Tools

FOR SELF RELIANCE

practical help for
practical people



Tools for Self Reliance in Tanzania

How tools and training are changing lives

In 2007 a project known as 'Tools and skills for improved livelihoods' was carried out in conjunction with our partner SIDO in three regions in eastern Tanzania, i.e. Rukwa, Iringa and Mbeya.

Artisan selection

In each region 40 artisans were selected. In Rukwa those chosen were mainly between the ages of 15 to 45, members of a group of at least five people which had been in existence for at least two years and were working in a permanent place of business. Once selected they were interviewed to establish their training needs.

Training

A six-day course was devised to improve their skills in business and technical management. Training covered entrepreneurship, business planning, record keeping, market research, marketing, publicity and advertising, costing and pricing, workshop safety, product innovation and design, product quality management, HIV and AIDS awareness.

This training was very well received and appreciated. Most of the participants realised the enormous benefits in learning how to run a business, and all said they would like more and would be willing to contribute towards the cost.

Tools

A total of 120 kits were collected, refurbished and packed by Tools for Self Reliance volunteers. The tools arrived in Tanzania soon after the completion of training. They were handed over to the artisans at special ceremonies at the SIDO regional offices.

Outcomes

In Rukwa SIDO officers visited each of the participants in November. They found that artisans were able to:

- Pay school fees and buy school uniforms
- Build or finish building their houses
- Design new products
- Expand their workshops
- Increase working capital
- Purchase mobile phones and/or bicycles.

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Your tools making a difference

The tools that you have collected and refurbished are helping to change people's lives. Sarah Ingleby and Ash Abili from Tools for Self Reliance visited Tanzania in February 2008 and here is what they found.



Umoja Wa Marindi Mafundi Bicycles, Mbeya

There are five in this group whose chairman (photo) is Ibrahim Thomas. They repair and assemble bikes and operate from the side of a busy street. They were thrilled with their tools particularly the vice and variety of spanners. Their business has greatly improved as a result of the training with better customer care and better pricing.



Juhudi Group, Iringa

This is a carpentry business of eight people. They have their own workshop where they make stools, tables, chairs, doors and window frames. They were very pleased with their tools, particularly the vice. Their earnings have improved as has the quality of their goods. They are now able to pay for school fees and uniforms.



Ladies Tailoring, Mbeya

Asia Mbuna, Agnes Abel and Edna Msomvela are members of this small group who have a good reputation and are now ambitious to expand. The three of them have been very inspired by the training and are experimenting with new products and new marketing techniques. They have learned how to look after their machines and to use the tools properly. Their income has risen significantly.



Muongano Group, Iringa

Thomas Kihombo the chairman is thrilled with both the tools and training. There are seven in the group including four apprentices. They repair bikes and have a shop selling spare parts in Njombe town. The biggest change is the quality of service. Customers heard about the new tools and came to them. Thomas is now keeping records so he can price the jobs and make savings.



Stuck in the mud!

Not all fun and games for our visiting duo! Still Sarah has the right idea – take a photo of the others ... digging!