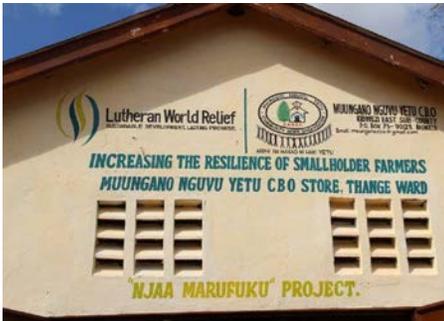


# Farmer organization improves its effectiveness



## BACKGROUND

Smallholder farmers in Makueni County depend on agriculture (crops and livestock) for their livelihoods and are challenged on many fronts to produce staple and cash crops in an arid environment.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR), in partnership with Muungano Nguvu Yetu, is working with smallholder farmers in Kibwezi East, Makueni County to enable them cope with the effects of changing climate patterns and arid environmental conditions. The project focuses on promoting conservation agriculture and strengthening Muungano to help farmers access profitable markets.

## LOCAL PARTNER:

Muungano Nguvu Yetu Community Based Organization

**PROJECT PERIOD:** March 2015 – September 2017

**FUNDING:** \$208,782

## RESULTS TO DATE

LWR's support allowed Muungano to improve its organizational capacities in the following ways:

### Human resources

- Enhanced the skills of 121 leaders and staff to provide high quality services to members, attracting 1,018 new members in one year.

### Systems

- Developed strategic documents such as an organizational constitution, a business plan and an investment plan. This resulted in undertakings such as prioritizing equipment purchase and beginning savings to procure those items and identified opportunities for collective marketing, now being pursued by the marketing committee.

### Services

- Provided access to credit for 367 farmers through village savings and lending groups, allowing them to cover family expenses and invest in their farms.

### Capital investments

- Built two warehouses, combining LWR funds and community contributions, allowing Muungano to collect goods in one place, to store them safely and negotiate bulk sales to buyers.

- Equipped nine head farmers with smartphones and 54 lead farmers with bicycles, enabling them to share timely updates and information among themselves and reach out to fellow farmers with extension services in a timely manner.
- Formalized Muungano operations by establishing a fully equipped office, allowing space to manage business transactions and store organizational documents.

### Linkages

- Entered into contracts with three buyers of pulses, resulting in 62,900kg sold collectively for a value of \$49,738 in the 2015 growing season.
- Leveraged technical support from Twiga Chemicals to demonstrate accurate and safe application of pesticides to lead farmers.
- Contracted technical expertise on conservation agriculture to train 160 farmers who then implemented new approaches on 1,115.5 acres of land.
- Leveraged technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture to train Muungano lead farmers in good agricultural practices, and in turn to train 1,352 farmers.

