



MARCH 2009

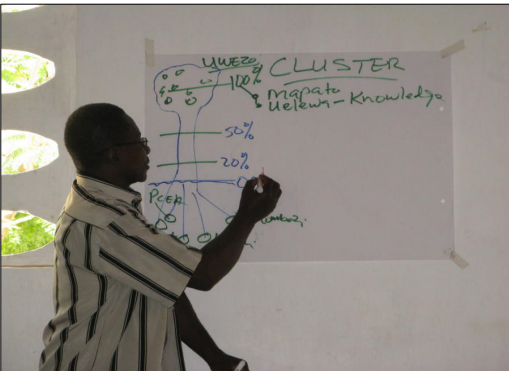
CLUSTER GROUPS INCREASE COMMUNITY CAPACITY

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At the beginning of 2009, CRWRC and our partner, African Inland Church in Tanzania (AICT) Coastal Diocese, made a decision to move on to a higher level of community development. Up until now, we have been working with many income generating groups in the greater Dar Es Salaam area on a one-by-one basis. However, we realized that these groups could easily be divided into three distinctive geographic areas or “clusters,” each consisting of about five community groups.

The groups will work together via a Cluster Committee made up of representatives chosen by the groups. This committee will help us to better plan and make decisions as the clusters develop.



Peter Kibona, our projects officer, gives an illustration at a cluster introduction meeting.

Forming these clusters will make it easier to conduct training, get group information, and link the groups to each other for exchange visits. Using

our Community Capacity Indicator tool, each group within the cluster will evaluate itself and share areas needing more training with the Cluster Committee. This will help us to place highest priority on the needs that are most urgent.

In addition, the cluster concept will help small community based organizations (CBOs) take another step towards an association with member groups or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working at the community level.

In order to introduce the cluster concept, we requested that four representatives from each community group come together for a meeting in their home area. It was very encouraging to see 100% attendance at the introduction meetings! The idea of forming clusters was well received. Members highlighted the advantages of working together as groups.

Through the use of cluster groups, some of the younger groups have discovered that they can learn a lot from the older and more experienced groups. It is so exciting to see how animated



The group that came to the Kigamboni cluster introduction meeting.

the groups get as they start to feed off of each other’s ideas. We look forward to seeing how this new format will help create positive change in the communities!

~ Margaret Njuguna
CRWRC Tanzania - March 2009



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