



Right Sharing

of WORLD RESOURCES

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Nurturing the Seed

On my recent trip to Africa to make a film for Right Sharing I came to understand this: the grants we give to women are seeds that they nurture, grow, and share. The women of the Kassai and Sengbe villages in the Northern Province of Sierra Leone showed me how God's love flows through acts of generosity.

This group of women applied for a Right Sharing grant in 2018, when the chief of their village was a woman. They used the funds to seed a rice field. They told me right at the beginning when they planted the rice they had an incredible harvest. From their overflow they took 7 bushels of rice seeds and gifted them to a neighboring group of women, so they could plant that rice and start their farming. That group did it, and they in turn gifted it to another group. At the end of the cycle of gifting, over 60 women were positively impacted.

When we arrived at the villages, the women were all wearing matching outfits to show their pride and unity. They took us on a short hike to their rice fields to show us how they harvest.

The gifts we're given by God, either materially or spiritually, are not for holding onto. We're all sharing our gifts and doing our part – our gifts only become valuable when we pass them along. Samson Ababu and Pauline Musinga, Field Representatives in Kenya, say in their trainings: "This is Seed money – you are planting it, harvesting it, sharing it and helping it grow."



Children and women in the Kassasi and Sengbe villages in Sierra Leone. Photo credit: Jacqueline Stillwell

The seeds of love are grown by our women partners and from their overflow passed on in their communities and families. When you give from your overflow, the outcomes are more far-reaching than you can know. My visit with our partners in Sierra Leone and Kenya helped me understand our partners' deep commitment to continuing generosity. The seeds are for planting, and the overflow is for sharing.

With abundant gratitude,

Jackie

Women in the Friends of Kassasi and Sengbe group walking to the rice fields. Photo credit: Jon Watts



PARTNERING WITH WOMEN IN COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

GOD CALLS US TO THE RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES, FROM THE BURDENS OF MATERIALISM AND POVERTY INTO THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S LOVE, TO WORK FOR EQUITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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Judith Omolo - Expanding with Generosity



Judith Omolo has a grocery kiosk and restaurant on the outskirts of Kisumu, Kenya. Her husband is a night watchman in the city; because his hours were so late, she decided to start her own business. With 1,500 shillings (\$15.00 USD) from her husband, she opened a 10' x 10' kiosk made of woven mats, where she sold French fries and soda.

Today her business has grown from a small roadside stall to a multifaced operation that sells groceries and prepared foods and employs several other women. This is because she met RSWR Field Representative Samson Ababu and joined the Wang Bondo Self-Help Group. "Since I received the grant from Right Sharing, the difference

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Judith in front of her business with two cats.

Partner Update

Mrs. Karoline, age 38, has two girls and one boy. She dropped out of school after 5th grade. Her husband worked in a black gram processing unit as a daily wage earner. Black gram is a pulse common to Southeast Asia. He made Rs. 100 (\$1.33 USD) per day. Mrs. Karoline worked as a farm laborer whenever work was available, but both incomes together were not sufficient to raise a family.

The Women Education Development Social Service Trust (WEDSST) is an RSWR partner NGO. The members work in 62



South Indian villages, forming women self-help groups. They guide women to utilize banking and to start internal savings and lending schemes. They also offer skill training for the women in tailoring and health programs, as well as legal aid in receiving government benefits for which they are eligible.

Mrs. Karoline became a member of a self-help group supported by WEDSST. She is well-known for her black gram, maize, and ragi porridge. This porridge is considered a health food, and the younger generation is very fond of eating it. It has a good market. She and her husband asked for a loan of Rs.10,000 (\$133.82 USD) to start a roadside food stall selling this porridge. Now they work together in the business, earning Rs. 500 (\$6.64 USD) per day. Together they have more than tripled their family's income.



The Wang Bondo Self Help Group. Photo credit Jon Watts

Judith Olomo

is I have been able to stock my business. Before, I didn't have the money to stock the shelves. I am now able to sustain my family and children" She adds that at home she has started to keep poultry and bought two cows with her profits from the kiosk.

Her business and life have brought challenges. Judith has a chronic illness and, at one point, suffered from an acute kidney issue. Because she had some savings from her business, she was able to go to a nearby clinic and get well. Although she has an insurance card, cash is required at every visit. Indeed, her healthcare is a significant and necessary expense. Nevertheless, she is able to invest in herself, her business, and her family. Judith credits God and her business for returning her to health.

At one point, the land that the shop was on flooded. It's located in a wetland area, and the floor and several walls were damaged. Judith's husband helped her rebuild; with her savings and his work, they were able to install a concrete floor, a new roof, and sturdy walls.

During the pandemic, her kiosk and restaurant were shuttered. "Samson came and told me that there was food aid from Right Sharing. That taught me the love that people have for us, that we were not forgotten in that hard time." She used the food aid that she received until things started getting better. It kept her children and grandchildren fed until business could resume.

Judith is raising her grandson and paying for his school fees; fortunately, the business is located near where he goes to school. Because of her illness, she needs physical help with the restaurant cooking, and several local women are her employees. Judith says her money is "circulating in and around the business." Every choice she makes benefits her health, her family's future, and the lives of other women in her community.





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When you make the decision to include Right Sharing in your estate plans you are connecting your life and your life story to Right Sharing and the women and communities whose lives are transformed through your support. Find out more at: www.rswr.org/planned-giving/

*A member Tegloma Women's Group in Sama Village, Sierra Leone.
Photo credit: Jon Watts*



Right Sharing of World Resources

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