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Country: Tanzania

Sector: Renewable Energy



#### CHALLENGE

Unemployment is one of the biggest challenges in Tanzania, especially for the youth. Rural youth are facing difficulties to enter (self) employment due to lack of skills, lack of trust among employers and lack of business mentality to create their own employment.

#### CLIENT

Moirouwa Youth Group in Longido is a group of 16 youth who have undergone OYE training in biogas and resolved to use the training to alter their lives.

#### METHOD / SNV INTERVENTION

In partnership with the Tanzania Domestic Biogas Programme, SNV's opportunities for Youth Employment (OYE) conducted technical training for youth in biogas and basic life skills in Longido. Longido is a district in Northern Tanzania, inhabited by the Masai community who are traditionally nomadic pastoralists but have begun to settle down in small villages or 'manyattas' and utilize dry cattle dung for fuel. Fresh out of OYE training, these youth realized that they have just been handed a gold mine.



After the training, they organized themselves into a group they named Moirouwa Domestic Biogas Group. They opened up an office, a bank account and they have officially registered themselves as an “income generating group” at the district government level. Moirouwa has constructed two biogas plants and have orders to construct two more. However, there is no business without challenges. One of their challenges is lack of construction materials such as iron sheets, cement, and steel bar in Longido. In order to construct a digester, a client needs to buy these industrial materials. Thus they have to source them from bigger towns near Longido, which make them face transport problems, which cause delays in starting the construction.

Moirouwa group’s next step is to open up a hardware store in Longido and start selling industrial materials needed for biogas construction but also other needed commodities in their district. “Now we will not only earn money from biogas construction business but also from our hardware store”. For the Moirouwa group, this is just a start. They have much bigger plans for the future. In the year 3 reporting, we will come back with the state of affairs of the Moirouwa group in a year from now.

## IMPACT

The youth managed to access finances through the Local Government Authority and are now operating a hardware store in their village as they had envisioned, thanks to OYE. With the hardware store now fully operational, and biogas construction business Moirouwa youth have increased their income.

## TESTIMONIALS

In his own words, Benard Olesecky Laizer (19 years old) stated: “this training was an opportunity that we never expected. We appreciated getting basic life skills because through these skills we could already picture us doing big things in Longido and having an impact in our lives and our society”.

“The most important thing to us is the customer care we give to our clients”, says Isaya who is the group secretary. “During the OYE basic life skills training we were taught the importance of good customer care in order to keep our business growing, so after basic life skills training, we sat down as a group and stressed among each other how we could give our clients the best possible service. And so far, this has proved to be a very successful tool”.

Lessons about not giving up during basic life skills training were valuable to Moirouwa group as they have already started reflecting on the challenges they face and discussing how they can turn them into opportunities. “We also learned to identify opportunities amidst challenges, and this was a clear case of an opportunity disguised as a challenge. We wanted to open a hardware store and now with the financing from the LGA, we have been able to”.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The Moirouwa youth group is well on the way to developing into a profitable youth-led enterprise in the Longido area. Now that they have pursued the registration of the group into a formal and legal enterprise with the Local Government, the youth group will be eligible for more and bigger financial loans and grants to expand their business.

## LESSONS LEARNED

By applying their Basic Life Skills Training, OYE Youth are learning to become focused and work towards their longer-term goals.