



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SUCCESS STORY

Camfed Improves Existing Government Community Structures and Empowers Members to Achieve Impact

Camfed utilizes a model of systemic change founded in power-sharing at the grassroots to mobilize an entire social infrastructure around orphans and vulnerable children to support their development.



A School Based Committee member in Iringa participates during a community mobilization workshop

“For the first time I came to understand that as a [school based committee] member, the community expects me to make sure that the schools are a safe place for the children”

When you educate a girl, everything changes

The Campaign for Female Education

www.camfed.org

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

Effective scale and sustainability of development initiatives in rural Africa requires strengthening the capacities of existing structures to gather, share and use information to enable systemic change. Camfed utilizes a model of systemic change founded in power-sharing at the grassroots to mobilize an entire social infrastructure around orphans and vulnerable children to support their development. Coordination among existing structures is vital to ensuring the holistic needs of vulnerable children and rural community members are prioritized and addressed.

Japhet Mtweve, a school based committee member of the Kaning’ombe Primary School in Iringa, Tanzania shares how Camfed has helped him realize his potential to inspire change within his community.

“I was selected by parents in 2008 during a village public meeting to be in the [government-initiated] school committee in our village,” Mr. Mtweve said. “During my first year, I didn’t do much on the committee, and we never received any training. Camfed through the district committee then began training us that we should be at the forefront of overseeing education in our community. The training was on child rights, protection and gender and how we integrate gender into school plans, monitor the implementation of plans, and financial management.”

“After the training, we decided that as a school committee, we need to mobilize communities so that we can address some of the problems that the government has failed to address. We organized a meeting with parents and identified constraints that are within our capabilities as parents in this community. We prioritized constructing a rain water harvest system so that students can have safe drinking water in the school and to start contributing maize flour and beans so that students can get lunch at school.”

“For the first time, I came to understand that as a member, the community expects me to make sure that the schools are a safe place for the children and that the school has all the necessary resources like books, classrooms and other infrastructure.”