

SPOT 7: KEEPING GOING – THE KAMUKAMU WOMENS GROUP

STATION CUE: And coming up next [Presenter’s Name] with a special series for farmers all about Farmers’ Groups and Marketing. Today we pay a visit to the Kamukamu Womens group in Rakai District. How does a group that started out by caring for orphans and farming keep going? Find out now ..

FX and Music

(Hold Under Presenter)

Presenter: When we went in search of members of the Kamukamu Women’s group in Rakai District we were shown to Kamukolo Primary School – it’s where several of the group members including their chairperson work ..

Insert 1 *Classroom in Kamukolo village*

Dur: 0’ 14”

Good morning, how are you? (Children answer).

Presenter: In one of the busy classrooms we found Edith Bukirwa, who offered to show us around the school gardens and to tell us the extraordinary story of the Kamukamu Women’s Group ... it’s a group which started out to cater for orphaned children in the area

Insert 2 *Edith Bukirwa, chairperson, Kamukamu womens’ group, Kamukolo, Rakai District*

Dur: 1’ 11”

My name is Edith Bukirwa. I'm 42 years old. I'm the chairperson of Kamukamu womens' group. We are catering orphans. Now we have about 85 orphans which we are looking after.

Now we are in the garden and this is Plot A. It belongs to orphans. The youngest members in our group, they are about 5.

(We meet Tony, an orphan aged 5 – translation of what Tony says to us in local language by Daude Twase). He has been digging. They have been planting beans. Thank you very much.

Presenter: Young Tony is one of about 85 orphans in the group's care. At the age of five, Tony is one of the youngest members of the Kamukamu group and like his fellow members he plants crops to help feed the group and to sell. The group's marketing manager is also an orphan, who came back to help the group after he finished his studies. Edith told us how the group started ..

Insert 3: *Edith Bukirwa*

Dur: 0' 30''

In 1993 the group started. By that time there were so many orphans roaming about, without care, so we decided to form a group in order to look after those orphans and to uplift our family standards.

Presenter: Kamukamu is the perfect name for a group but what does it mean? Martin Kikaawa – an adviser to the group - explained ...

Insert 4: *Martin Kikaawa, adviser to Kamukamu womens' group*

Dur: 0' 10''

Kamukamu means one by one makes a bundle. You go making one and one, and then after all you can get what you want.

Presenter: The group came together in response to a crisis – AIDS was ravaging their area. Now they are ready to fight the disease by educating people about its causes. Edith takes up the story ...

Insert 5: *Edith Bukirwa*

Dur: 0' 48''

We decided to act drama in order those peoples to know what is HIV, what is the cause, how to prevent.

EDITH'S AIDS SONG

Presenter: The energy of Edith's song matches the energy of the group – they farm, they teach, they look after orphans and they do a lot more besides. The secret of their success is small manageable projects. Fred Bikande, the Training Co-ordinator for Uganda's Community Enterprises Development Organization, says that this is what he advises other groups to do too ...

Insert 6: *Fred Bikande, Training coordinator, Community Enterprises Development Organisation (CEDO)*

Dur: 0' 12''

In order to sustain the momentum, personally I and my organisation would advise that they start at smaller levels, with manageable projects.

Presenter: But what are these manageable projects that are helping Kamukamu to help so many orphans as well as the adult members? Edith ..

Insert 7: *Edith Bukirwa*

Dur: 1' 31''

By now we have six projects (sounds of digging). We have bakery, we do bread making, cakes, plus soap, and we have the young-growing coffee called elite, we have a nursery, then we have the animal husbandry, we have pigs and cattles, then plus crafts, we make baskets, mats, table mats, and also engaged in drama. That is six projects we

are running now. By this time they are enough, because we separate ourselves, that six of us can be in bakery, seven of us for the soap making, ten of us in the garden, so that's enough by now.

Presenter: So that's the story of Kamukamu – they started out with a common objective, they have achieved sustainability by making sure that their projects are manageable and above all they're spreading the message about fighting AIDS and another plague – poverty. Here's Edith again

Insert 8: *Edith Bukirwa and song about poverty*

We are going to sing a song telling you how we have tried to fight poverty as a group. At first we show you the disadvantages of poverty. And then we show you the solution, how we have tried to overcome poverty and telling other peoples to follow our plans. And the song is:

Poverty Song

STATION CUE OUT: And that was a visit to 'Kamukamu Women's Group'

Part of our special series for farmers. If you have any views on what you've heard or if you'd like to start up your own farmers' group why not drop us a line at ..[STATION ADDRESS]. We're always happy to hear from you. Next time we'll visit the Bateganda farmers' group fo find out about handling money as a group.