

SCOPE SUCCESS STORY

KENYA



Christine Akamate standing in front of her newly constructed thatch house.

USAID/World Relief: Photo by Lydia Lobolia,
World Relief Project Officer

NAME AND ROLE

Christine Akamate, weaver, mother and woman living with disabilities

LOCATION

Kangatukusio, Turkana North,
Kenya

SUMMARY

Through learnings from SCOPE's *Making Our Communities Better* training, local faith leaders identified an opportunity to support those in need in their community.

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A NEW HOUSE FOR CHRISTINE: FAITH LEADERS WORKING TO TRANSFORM THEIR COMMUNITIES

Faith communities can play a key role in development projects when they see that they can make a difference and their role matters. Through the Making Our Communities Better training – a three-day training that utilizes reflection, dialogue, and discovery – SCOPE is working to help faith leaders understand the important role they have, envision change and mobilize their communities. Church leaders in Turkana were recently part of one of those trainings.

During this training, church leaders worked together to apply the knowledge and skills acquired from the Making Our Communities Better training to mobilize their community to construct 18 thatch houses using available local materials for individuals in need. One of those who received support was Christine Akamate, a woman living with disabilities.

COMING TOGETHER TO BUILD A NEW HOUSE FOR CHRISTINE

Christine Akamate is a 58-year-old widow and is a resident of Kangatukusio - Lake Zone ward in Turkana North. She attends a local Catholic church and is the mother of five children (three boys and two girls) who are all married. Though her children do not live at home, Christine lives with four of her grandchildren – including two are orphans – as well as two children who were orphaned when their mother passed away. She is the prime bread-winner and works weaving mats to support her household. Weaving mats is time-intensive and can be an unreliable source of

income. One mat usually sells for 50 Kenyan Shillings (less than 50 cents in the US).

Christine described the house she was living in before her community helped fix it: "I was living in an inhabitable thatched house, rain and wind could enter and rain on me. I stayed in this bad house for many years.

FAITH LEADERS UNDERSTANDING THEIR CRITICAL ROLE IN COMMUNITY CHANGE

But it wasn't just the recipients of the thatch houses who noticed the change. Anne Akamate (of no relation to Christine Akamate), a faith leader who was part of the Making Our Communities Better training, shared that the "training helped us realize that we can build our

"The training helped us realize that we can build our communities with our own hands when we come together."

- Anne Akamate, faith leader

communities with our own hands when we come together."

Faith leaders are important agents of change in their communities because community members trust them. And when faith leaders are unified and focused in their work, communities are reaping the fruits.

This story is written by Lydia Lobolia, World Relief Project Officer.