

## MUNISHOI, LAIKIPIA - A CASE STORY

A story of impact by Fencia - CHAT's Community Own Resource Person (CORP) partner

It's just an ordinary morning to Fencia who has just finished milking her cattle and heading to her manyatta to prepare tea for her family. As she approaches her manyatta from the cattle shed, she almost collides head on with her brother-in-law which almost makes her more shocked- shocked because for about three years now they had completely differed with her after engagement with CHAT in pursuit of the FP endeavor. She would recall her in-law had gone further to incite her husband to abandon her as she was becoming a misfit in the community- just because she was passionately enlightening her community members about importance of having manageable families, and having decided to be a role model too by spacing her children.

For the first time in the last three years he was smiling at her as he stretched his hand to greet her. They would later enter the manyatta to partake of the breakfast with Fencia and her husband. As she busied herself preparing the tea, the two brothers were having a "men's talk" while she eavesdropped their conversation. "Brother, I was wrong to hate your wife. This 'thing' (referring to the ideology of spacing children) has really transformed you! "Fencia's husband would laugh loudly and respond, "Don't feel guilty, I also had the same attitude at first, but I decided to give it a try. And it worked really!"

Pretending not to have heard what they were talking about, she served the breakfast and joined their seating. The brother was almost kneeling before her just to say sorry that he had gotten it wrong all through, admitting that he was honestly jealous of the better and happy life the two were living unlike his polygamous family and 7 children which had pressed him far too much to provide for. He had also become an enemy of the community for blackmailing Fencia as the community members would rebuke him saying that their community 'doctor' had impacted many of them by enlightening them on the need to have manageable family sizes. \*\*\*

As he left his brother's house, he talked to Fencia to sacrifice her time and visit his two wives at his place and enlighten them too since they were becoming odd-ones out in the community which had embraced her approach to their own benefit. Fencia would then burst into tears and as her husband questioned her what was happening she responded "I'm imagining of how a person once perceived as a societal misfit has ended up being a role model". As she leans

on her husband's chest she would whisper to his ears "I'm glad you stood by me, and now we are impacting others' lives"

It was her joy that her community was appreciating her little efforts to secure their better tomorrow, a remark which everybody would be glad to hear.

*Written by By Justus Kioko (Mar 2020)*