

A Father's Journey to Transformation

Once entrenched in traditional gender roles, Zakaria Tumwine's journey began in the humble village of Kinuuka Sub County, Lyantonde District. A devoted father of seven, Zakaria upheld the belief that men should manage finances while women tended to domestic duties. This meant that while he and his wife worked side by side on their small plot of land, Zakaria held tight to the reins of financial decision-making, inadvertently stifling his wife's potential. Despite recognizing the financial strain on his family, Zakaria's adherence to cultural norms deterred his wife from seeking alternative income sources. This perpetuated a cycle of poverty, denying their children a chance to an education.

Hope arrived in the form of FOWODE's Advancing Women's Engagement: Strengthening Opportunities to Mobilize for Equality (AWESOME) program. Through awareness sessions on women's and girls' rights, Zakaria embarked on a profound journey of transformation.

Learning about the importance of gender equality in decision-making and income generation, Zakaria experienced a remarkable shift in his beliefs and behaviors. He began involving his wife in financial discussions and, with encouragement, supported her entrepreneurial aspirations. Their household blossomed with newfound cooperation, leading to an improved family financial stand and a chance for an education for their three children, who had previously dropped out of school.

The impact of FOWODE's engagements on Zakaria's family radiates a powerful message about



Mr. Zakaria Tumwine shares his transformative experience during a meeting in Kinuuka Subcounty, Lyantonde District.

the transformative potential of involving men in our gender equality work. Through this heartening tale, we witness the profound influence of engaging families in envisioning a brighter future together. By embracing shared power and privilege, Zakaria is among FOWODE's pool of 12,000 model men that have shifted the dominant norms and narratives about gender and masculinity. They are challenging the patriarchal beliefs and practices that drive inequality between

men and women in their communities.