



2008 AWARD Fellow
Angela Mutashobya

Position:	Project coordinator
Institution:	World Vision Tanzania
Country:	Tanzania
BSc:	Statistics, University of Dar es Salaam Tanzania 1997
Mentored by:	Dr. Doris Muhwezi Kakuru, Lecturer Department of Sociology Makerere University

Angela Mutashobya, is not a crop scientist, but she understands first-hand the important connection between agriculture and AIDS prevention. She is a World Vision community development worker in Kagera, a rural area with one of the highest prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania. Her program directly assists 4,800 orphans and vulnerable children, 28,600 widows and 2,100 people living with HIV/AIDS. The project includes, among many practical interventions, vocational training, seeds, tools, and micro-enterprise loans for agriculture and livestock activities.

Mutashobya says there is a correlation between the high AIDS mortality rate and the low economic status of community members, especially women. People who do not have access to nutritious food and a sustainable income are more susceptible to AIDS. "Compassion doesn't feed people," says Angela. "I need to strengthen the capacity of rural women so they can feed themselves and their families."

Mutashobya believes that agricultural extension education is a key to addressing poverty. She is helping women learn how to increase crop yields and reduce the amount of time they spend in the fields—an important factor for farmers living with HIV/AIDS who fatigue easily.

Mutashobya says she has learned much from fellow women in the AWARD. With their encouragement, she negotiated more funds in her project for agricultural tools and fertilizer for AIDS-affected farming families, resulting in a bumper harvest of beans, maize, vegetables, and bananas.

Contacts within AWARD are also helping Mutashobya's career development. "Through networking with 2008 AWARD Fellows, I identified and successfully enrolled in a master's program in community change and conservation at Future Generations Graduate School in the USA," says Mutashobya. "I am attending a residential class in India for one month. These are the fruits of AWARD!"

Mutashobya is one of 180 African woman scientists who have won an AWARD Fellowship. AWARD is a professional development program that strengthens the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural science, empowering them to contribute more effectively to poverty alleviation and food security in sub-Saharan Africa. For more information, please visit www.awardfellowships.org