

# CRS Tanzania - SASHA Marando Bora

## Marando Bora! Sustaining family livelihoods in Musoma Rural District

*Rehema Kuzega is a vulnerable widow. Because of Marando Bora, she is now able to work and earn for her family.*

### The Context

Rehema Kuzega, 33 years of age, lives in Musoma Rural district, Mara region of Tanzania. Her husband died in 2004 leaving her with a young daughter and two elderly relatives who were unable to work. In 2009 Rehema's family fell deeper into poverty as the family struggled to find food and as Rehema's health faltered.

### The Process

Marando Bora Project was introduced to Musoma Rural in 2009 and was introduced to poor rural households through trained multipliers called Decentralized Vines Multipliers (DVMs). Rehema learned about the importance of vine conservation and the production of OFSP as a rich nutrient source. She received 200 cuttings of planting materials for the first time in April 2011 and used these to multiply the vines in wet areas while also using the planting materials for root production in upland areas.

### Outcome

1. Rehema's family now has access to OFSP as food which is also a good source of vitamin A.
2. Rehema has improved hers and hers family's well-being and livelihood through the Marando Bora project by selling four surplus bags of Ejumula and Polista in November 2011. According to Rehema, customers came from the nearby local market to buy from her and her total earnings from the sale of the roots was TSH120,000 (~US\$80). Rehema used this money to buy two goats, one of which is producing milk for the family.



*Rehema and her daughter feeding their goats. The goats were bought from the sale of sweet potatoes grown from planting material obtained from Marando Bora project.*

### Lesson learned from Rehema

1. The Marando Bora Project has significantly improved the health of Rehema who was unable to walk because of poor health. Income from the sweet potatoes has enabled her to buy goats and milk from the goats has provided her with another income stream. Manure from the goats is improving the soil in her farm, which is allowing her to multiply the vines more quickly.
2. Indicators for sustainable family livelihood include diversifying income. It is well documented that poor families are better able to raise goats, in addition to maintaining sweet potato plots, because they require less grass and physical effort than cows. Research also shows that goat's milk has many nutritional benefits for children because it is easier on the digestive system than cow's milk. Goat milk is also important for persons with poor health.

Marando is the component of the Sweetpotato Action for Security and Health in Africa (SASHA) which improved the food security of over 100,000 families by providing farmers with quality seed of improved sweetpotato varieties in a timely fashion. CRS as a sub grantee to International Potato Centre (CIP) led the implementation of Marando Bora in partnership with seven local implementing organizations (IPs), National Agricultural Research Stations (NARS), and collaborators namely, Helen Keller International (HKI), and Mikocheni